

...the main points again

Beginning by taking a wrong turn...

God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea.

When is a wrong turn not a wrong turn?

...the Israelites were in the wilderness because the Lord had led them there....Let us learn this lesson: it is the will of God that gives purpose to life. There is always the bigger picture of which he is aware and we are not.
- Alec Motyer

Progress with God

Liberation → wilderness → land

Two way testing

Testing of God

Grumbling stomachs

"If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death."

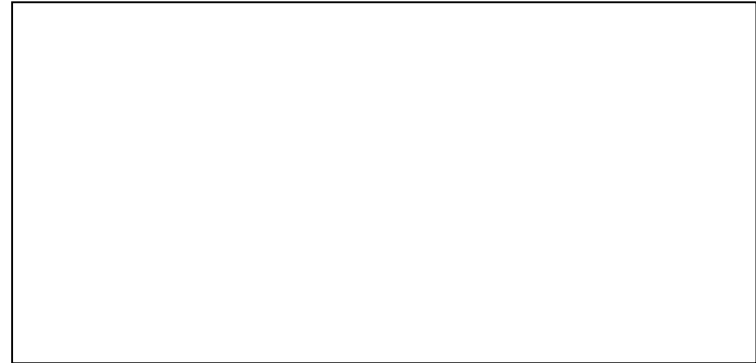
See also Luke 4.1-3; Philippians 2.19

The God who provides just enough

See also 2 Corinthians 8.13-15

True blessing is found not in an abundance of things but a richness of relationship

God does provide enough for those of us who grumble in the wilderness



Testing by God

Provision with a point:

I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions.

Provision undermined by:

1. selfishness- one person collecting too much means another has too little
2. Lack of faith leading to the failure to collect as God instructs

Maggots, crowded freezers and overbought vegetables

Why we should all have a jar of manna on our shelves...

A second provision and a second test- the gift of Godspace

**...give me neither poverty nor riches;
feed me with the food that is needful for me,
lest I be full and deny you
and say, "Who is the LORD?"
or lest I be poor and steal
(P) and profane the name of my God.**
- Proverbs 30.8-9

...so what...

God leads his people to the Land through the wilderness on an extended scenic route...

Was this a mistake or part of God's plan?

What is the point of the wilderness, see also Luke 4.1

In what way is Jesus' experience similar and different to that of the Israelites?

Is it helpful for those of us who have been set free from sin and are yet to arrive in the land, to see our faith in terms of wilderness wandering?

Look carefully at the way that God chose to provide bread for the people in the desert...

Why do you think God provides bread daily and not for the week?

Is just enough, enough for us?

In what ways is God's provision dependent upon the people living as a community.

Read 2 Corinthians 8.13-15 and consider the prayer to 'Give us today our daily bread' in the light of Exodus 16...

How does this challenge you?

How should we read John 6.32-40 in the light of these thoughts?

Does the image of maggoty manna make you think at all about your shopping habits, especially if you are prone to hoarding in the freezer?

Sabbath appears for the first time in the Bible in these verses.

Reading here in what ways was the observance of Sabbath a test of faith?

Does it remain so? Does it remain an important discipline?

Read together Deuteronomy 8.3, 16-18 and Proverbs 30.8-9

Use these words to conclude your reflections and to lead you into prayer

Sunday February 1st 2009



Travels with my Father

CATERED FOR?

Exodus 16

see also Exodus 17; Numbers 11

Devoted to Christ, his people, his mission