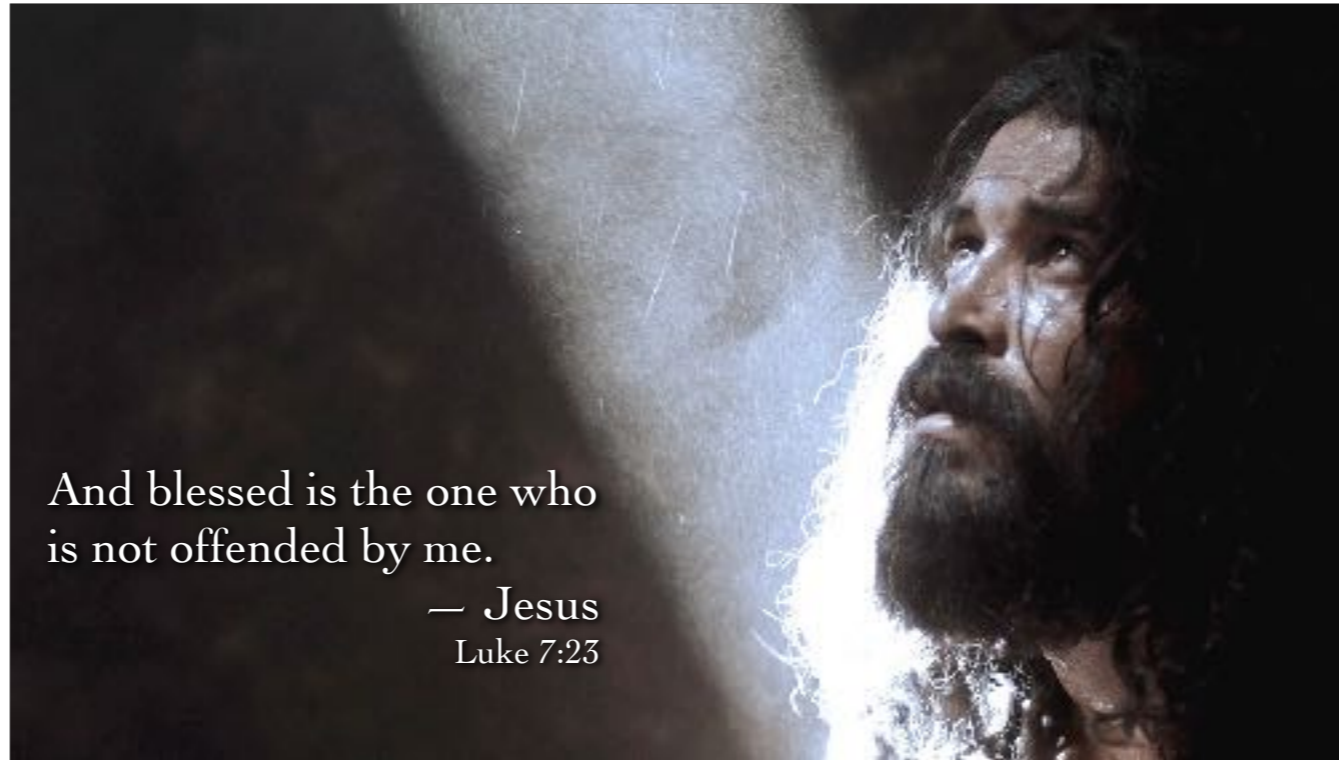




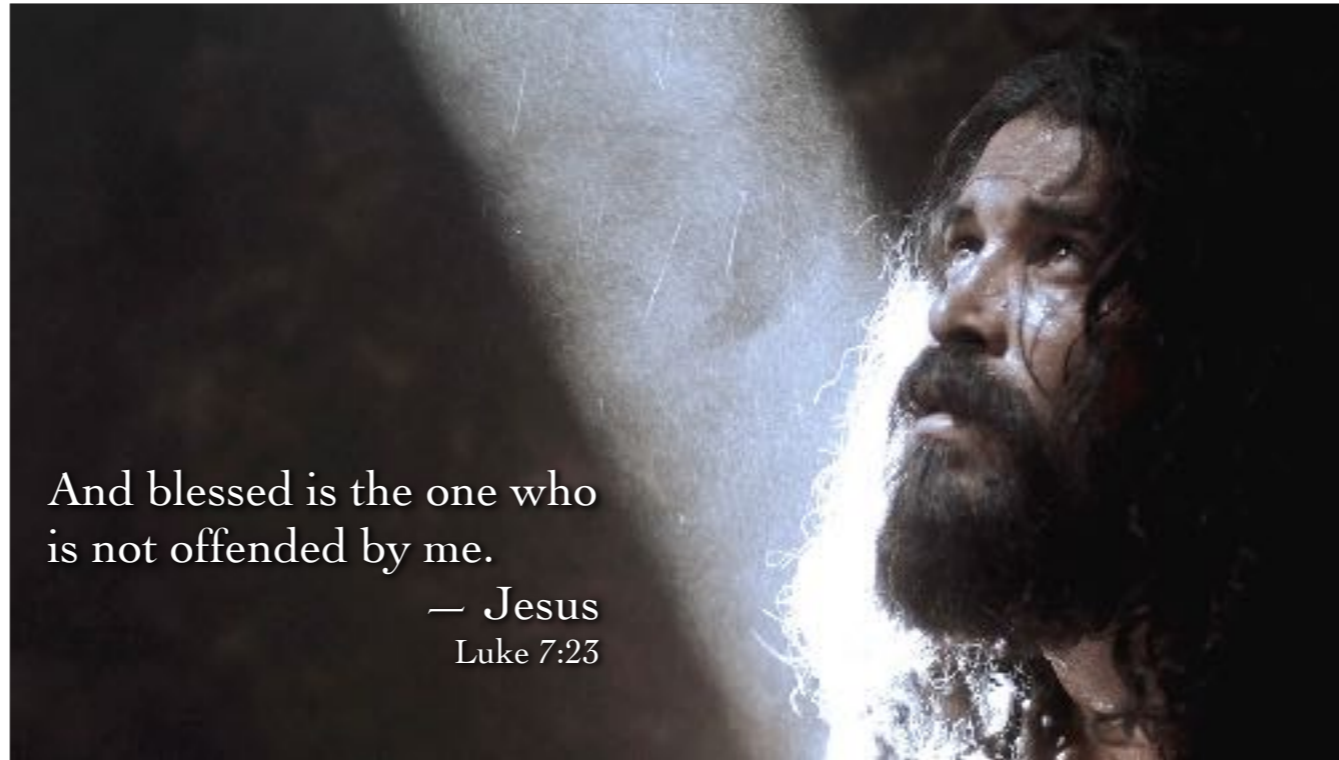
## The Testing and Triumph of Trust

Numbers 10:29-32

- I'm not sure what John the Baptizer expected of his future.
  - Chosen by God to prepare the way for the Messiah
  - Proclaimed in wilderness, many heard, baptized
  - Even Jesus baptized
    - John 3:30 He must increase, but I must decrease.
- Did he expect that he'd end up in Herod the tetrarch's prison?
  - Waiting to die because of the whims of a wicked queen and her daughter?



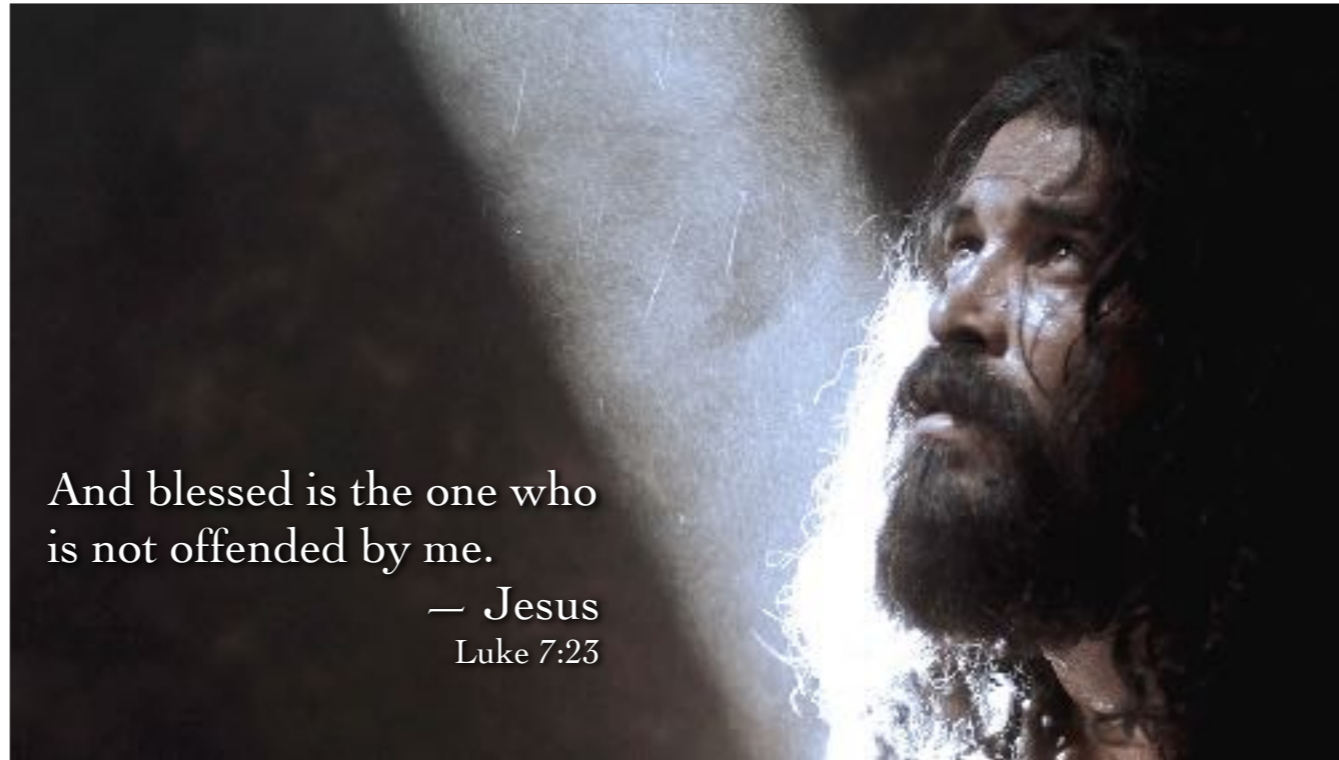
- Words of Jesus, said to John the Baptizer.
- Luke 7:23 And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.
- Why?
  - John asked through disciples about the identity of Jesus?
    - Did he know? Yes! Baptism of Jesus.



And blessed is the one who  
is not offended by me.

— Jesus  
Luke 7:23

- Do you wonder why anyone would be offended by Jesus?
  - Sometimes we are so full of faith and love for Jesus we wonder how anyone could be offended by Jesus.
  - But plenty of people were at time of Jesus (Pharisees, e.g.) and are now.



And blessed is the one who  
is not offended by me.

— Jesus  
Luke 7:23

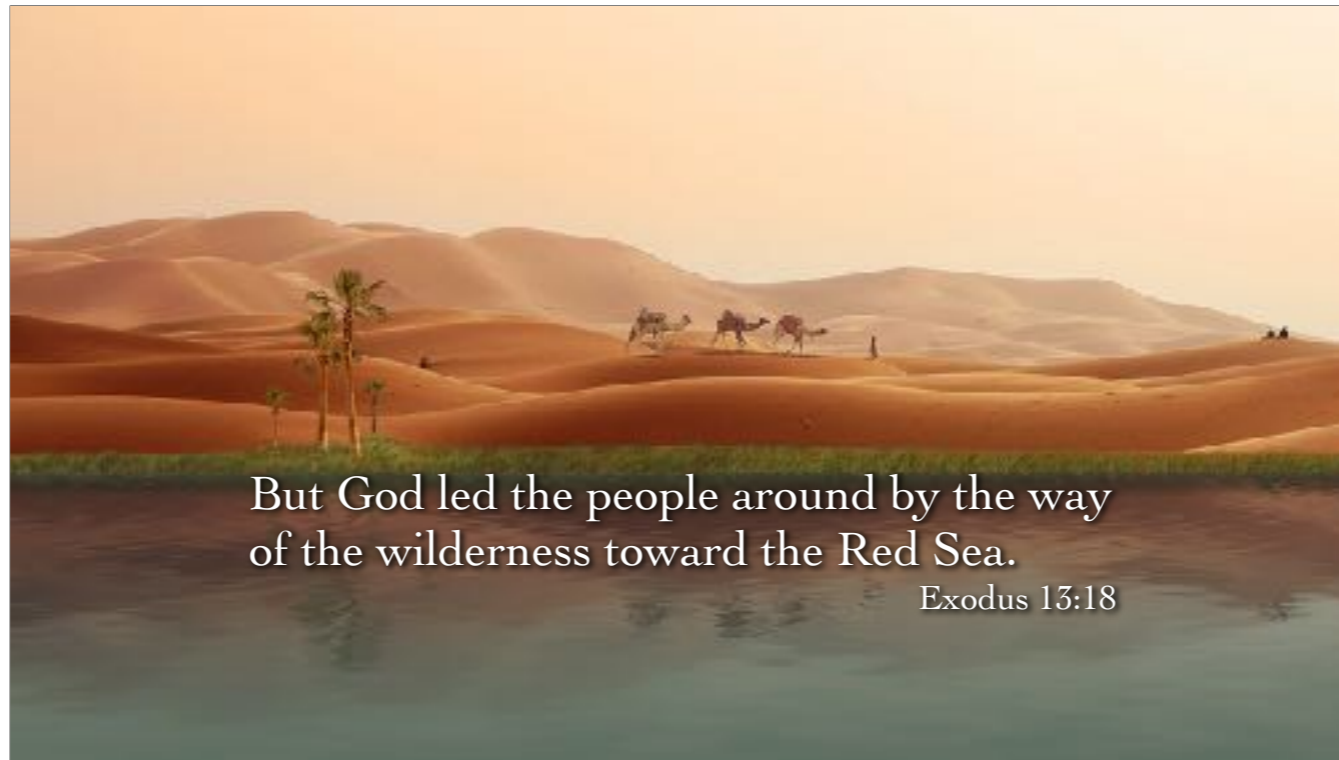
- But John knew ... yet Jesus sent a warning? to him? to his disciples?
- People struggle in their faith and trust of God.
  - We've seen it when Israel is in the wilderness on their way home to the land of promise.



But God led the people around by the way  
of the wilderness toward the Red Sea.

Exodus 13:18

- Exodus 13:17-18 (ESV) 17 When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near. For God said, “Lest the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt.” 18 But God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. And the people of Israel went up out of the land of Egypt equipped for battle.



- Deuteronomy 8:2-3 (ESV) 2 And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness,
- that he might humble you,
- testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.
- 3 And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know,
- that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone,
- but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.



- Psalms 78:9-20
- 9 The Ephraimites, armed with the bow, turned back on the day of battle.
- 10 They did not keep God's covenant, but refused to walk according to his law.
- 11 They **forgot** his works and the wonders that he had shown them.



- 12 In the sight of their fathers he performed wonders in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.
- 13 He divided the sea and let them pass through it, and made the waters stand like a heap.
- 14 In the daytime he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a fiery light.
- 15 He split rocks in the wilderness and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.
- 16 He made streams come out of the rock and caused waters to flow down like rivers.





- 17 Yet they **sinned** still more against him, **rebell**ing against the Most High in the desert.
- 18 **They tested God** in their heart by demanding the food they craved.
- 19 **They spoke against God**, saying, “Can God spread a table in the wilderness?”
- 20 He struck the rock so that water gushed out and streams overflowed.
- Can he also give bread or provide meat for his people?”



- When they arrive at Sinai, receive the law, build tabernacle, ready to depart for the promised land, Moses makes an astonishing offer to his brother in law.



- Numbers 10:29-32 (ESV) 29 And Moses said to Hobab the son of Reuel the Midianite, Moses' father-in-law, "We are setting out for the place of which the LORD said, 'I will give it to you.' Come with us, and we will do good to you, for the LORD has promised good to Israel." 30 But he said to him, "I will not go. I will depart to my own land and to my kindred." 31 And he said, "Please do not leave us, for you know where we should camp in the wilderness, and you will serve as eyes for us. 32 And if you do go with us, whatever good the LORD will do to us, the same will we do to you."



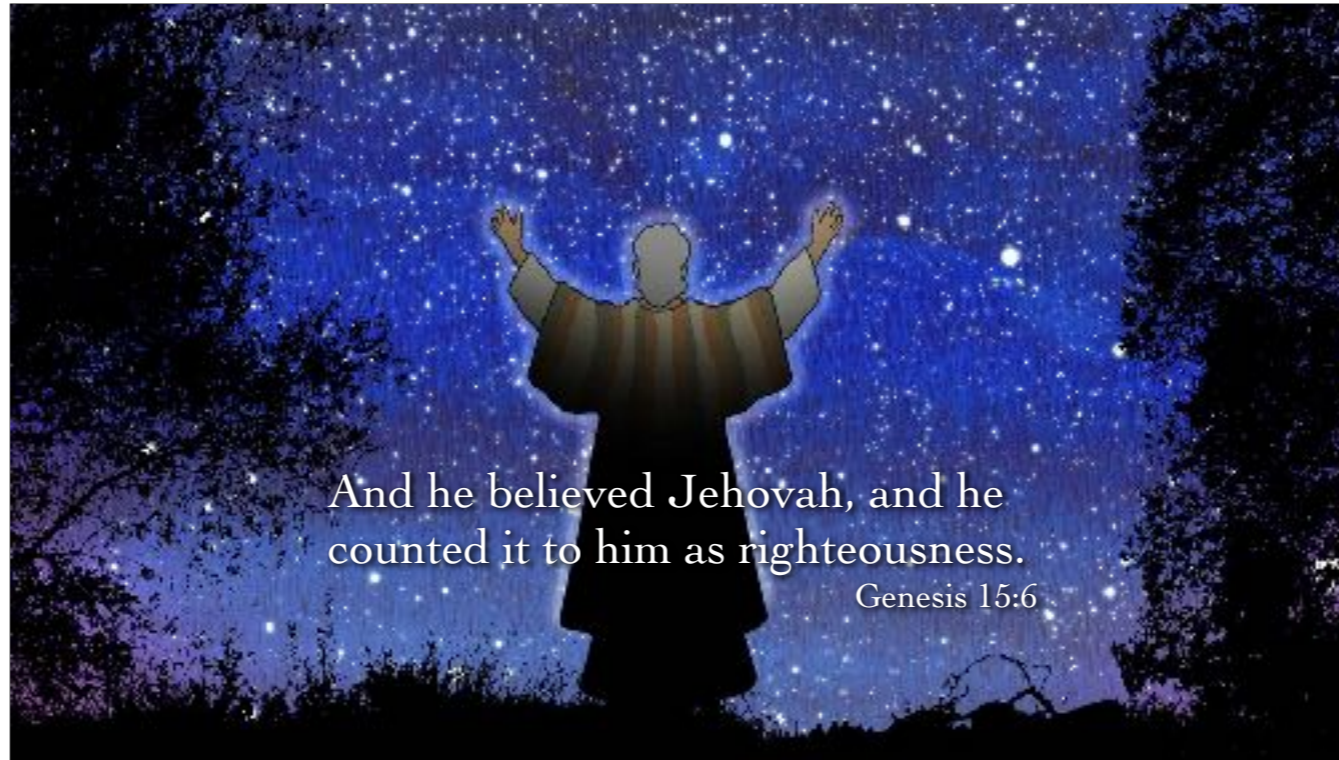
And if you do go with us, whatever good Jehovah will do to us, the same we will do to you.

Numbers 10:32

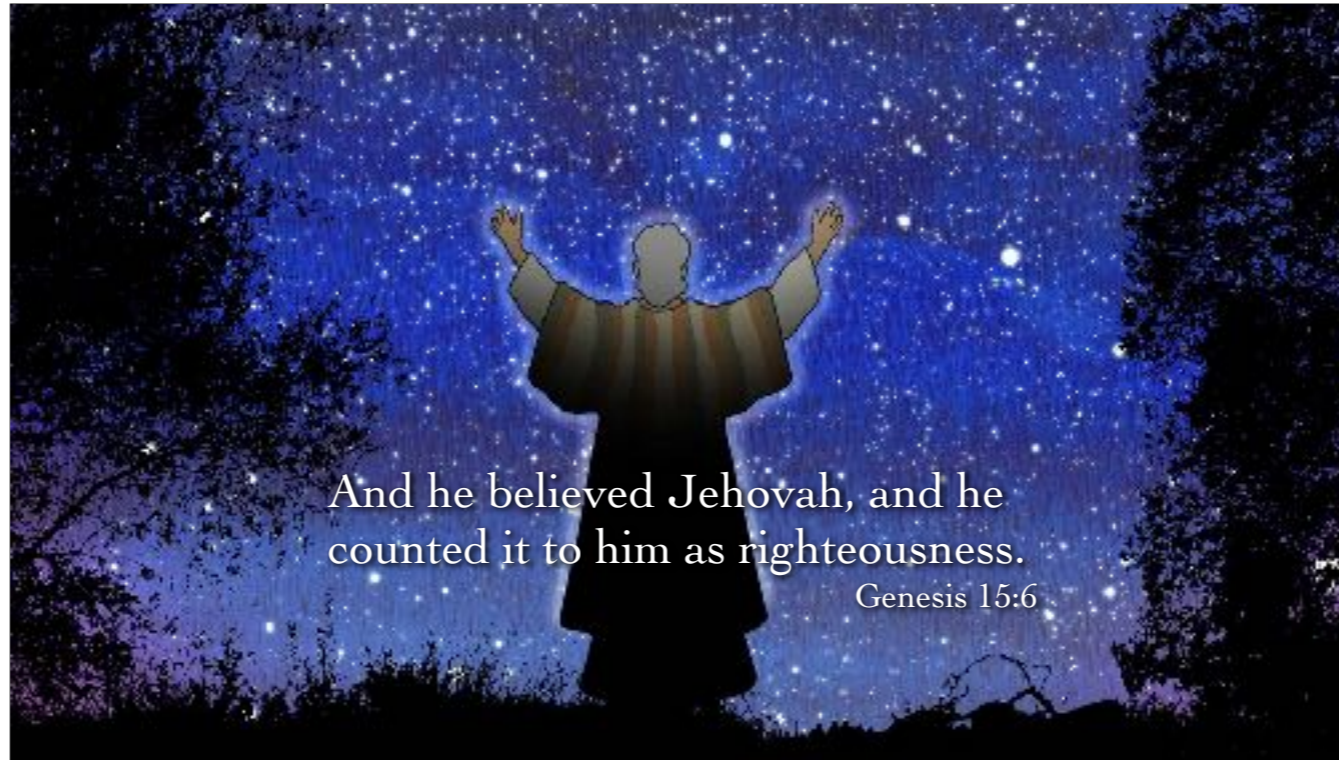
- Would you have invited someone to join you in the wilderness?
  - It's been hard ... and it's going to stay hard.
  - It's been dangerous and difficult.
  - Thirst, hunger
  - It's going to take a long time.



- Moses trusts in Jehovah
  - through the wilderness
  - to the promised land
  - “whatever good Jehovah will do to us”
- But trust like that is amazing
  - and is clearly very hard ...

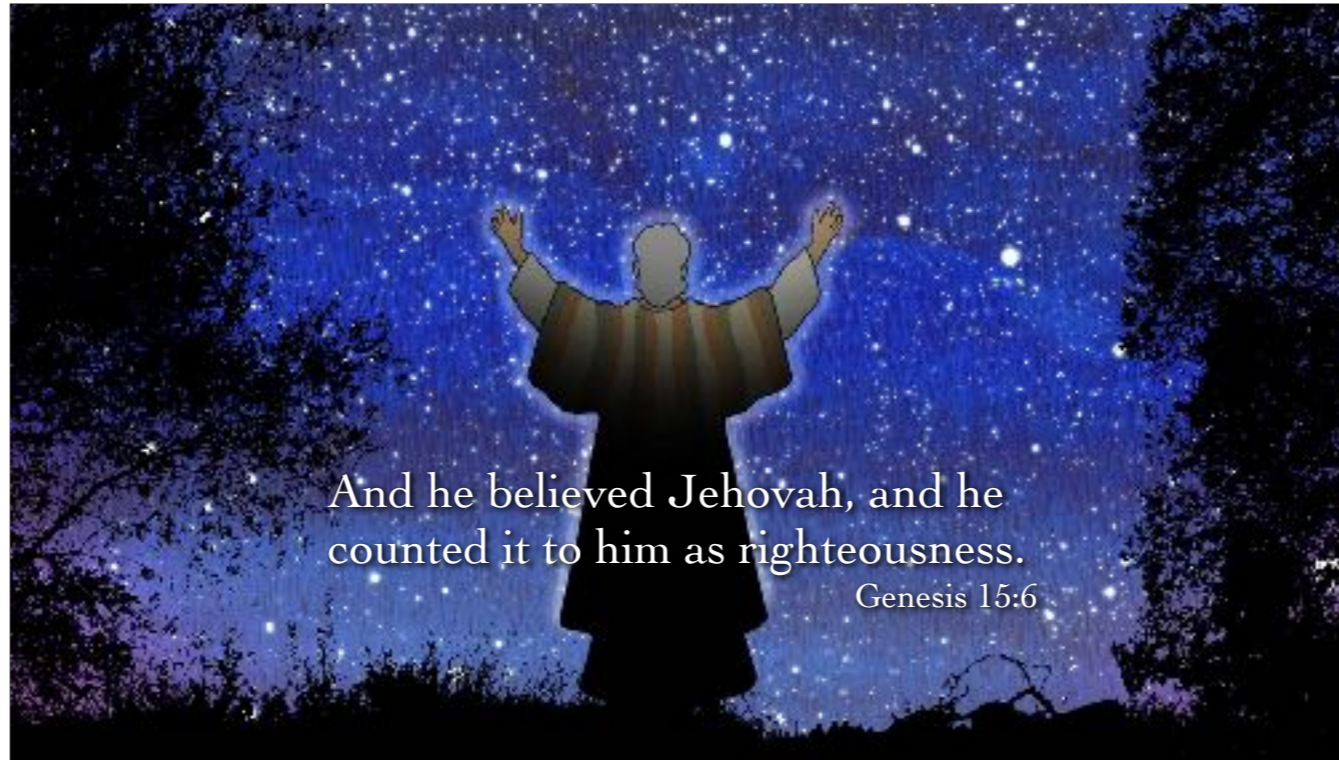


- Faith is a very hard thing. Trusting in God requires a lot from us.
  - And yet he's provided the help we need.
- Genesis 12:1-4 (ESV) 1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." 4 So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.



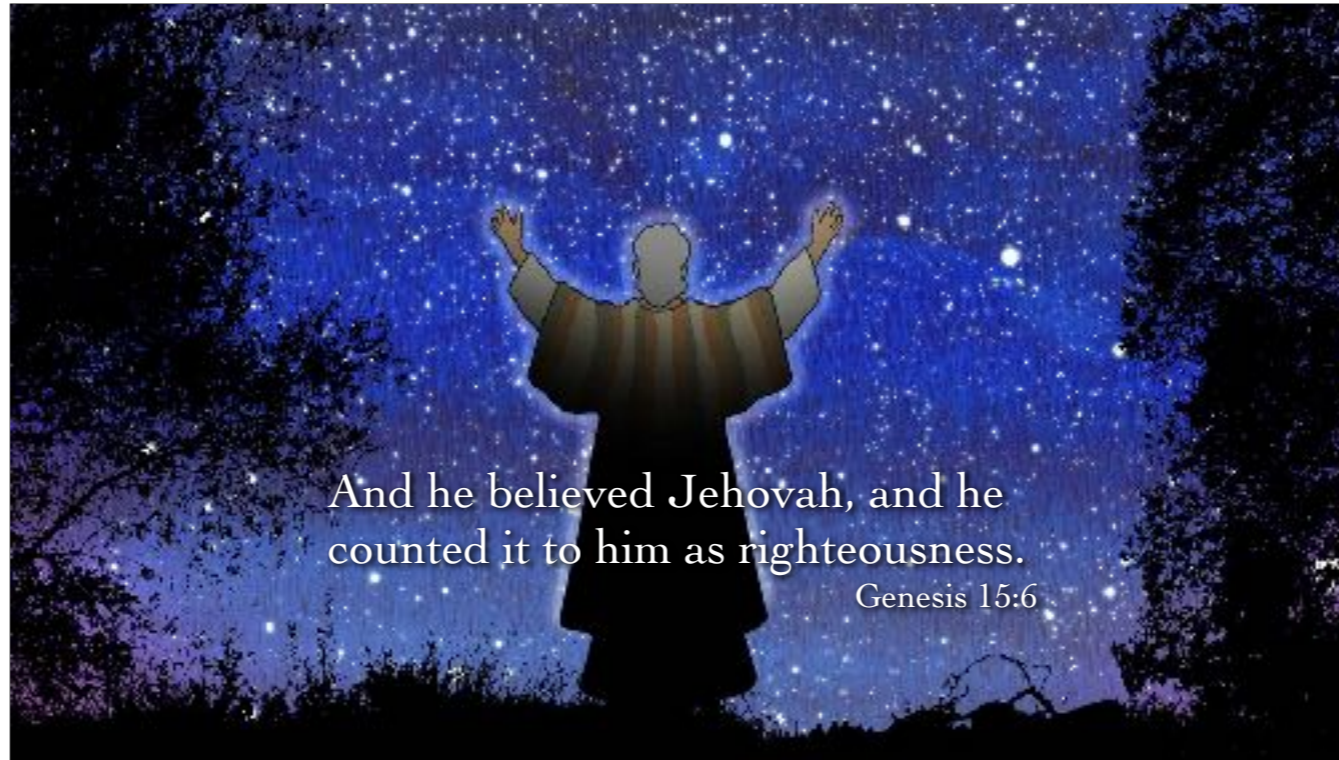
And he believed Jehovah, and he  
counted it to him as righteousness.  
Genesis 15:6

- Genesis 15:5-6 (ESV) 5 And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” 6 And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

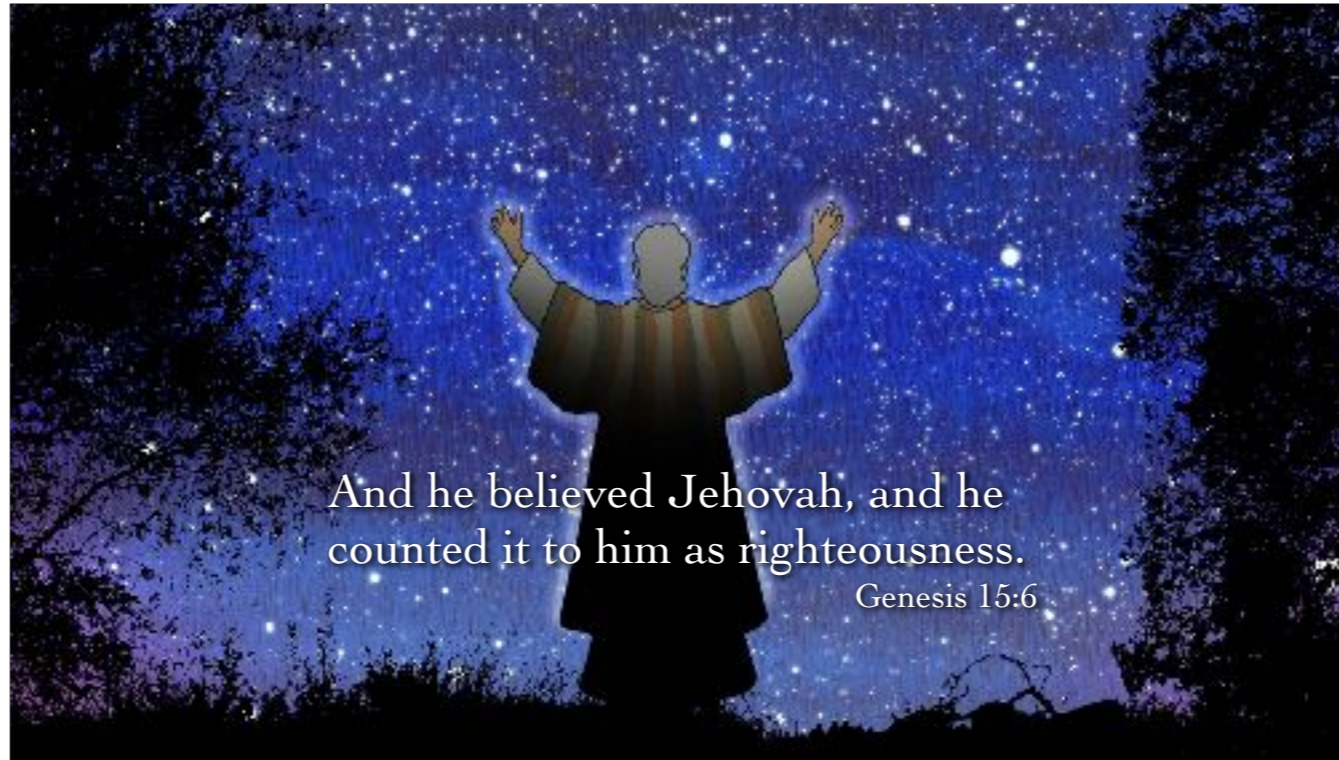


- Genesis 22:1-2 (ESV) 1 After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 2 He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."



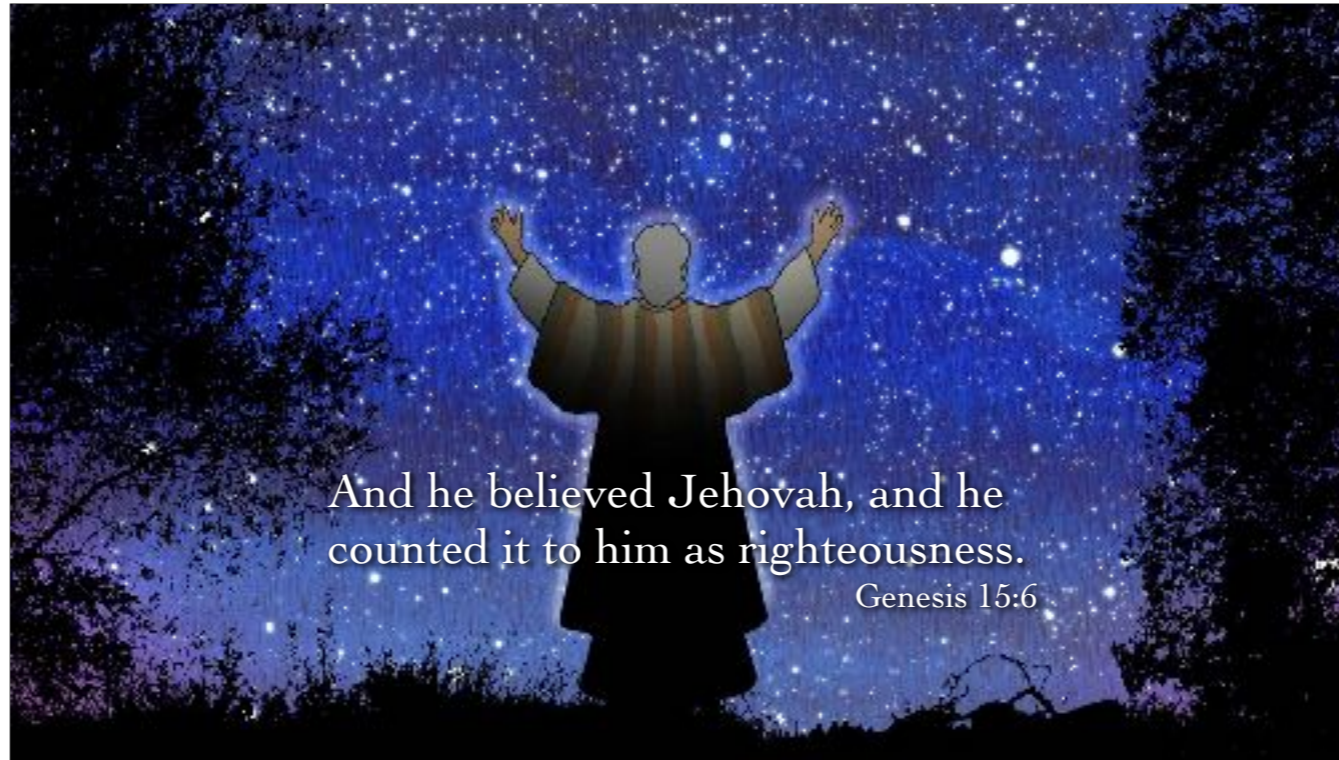


- Romans 4:1-4 (ESV) 1 What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." 4 Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due.



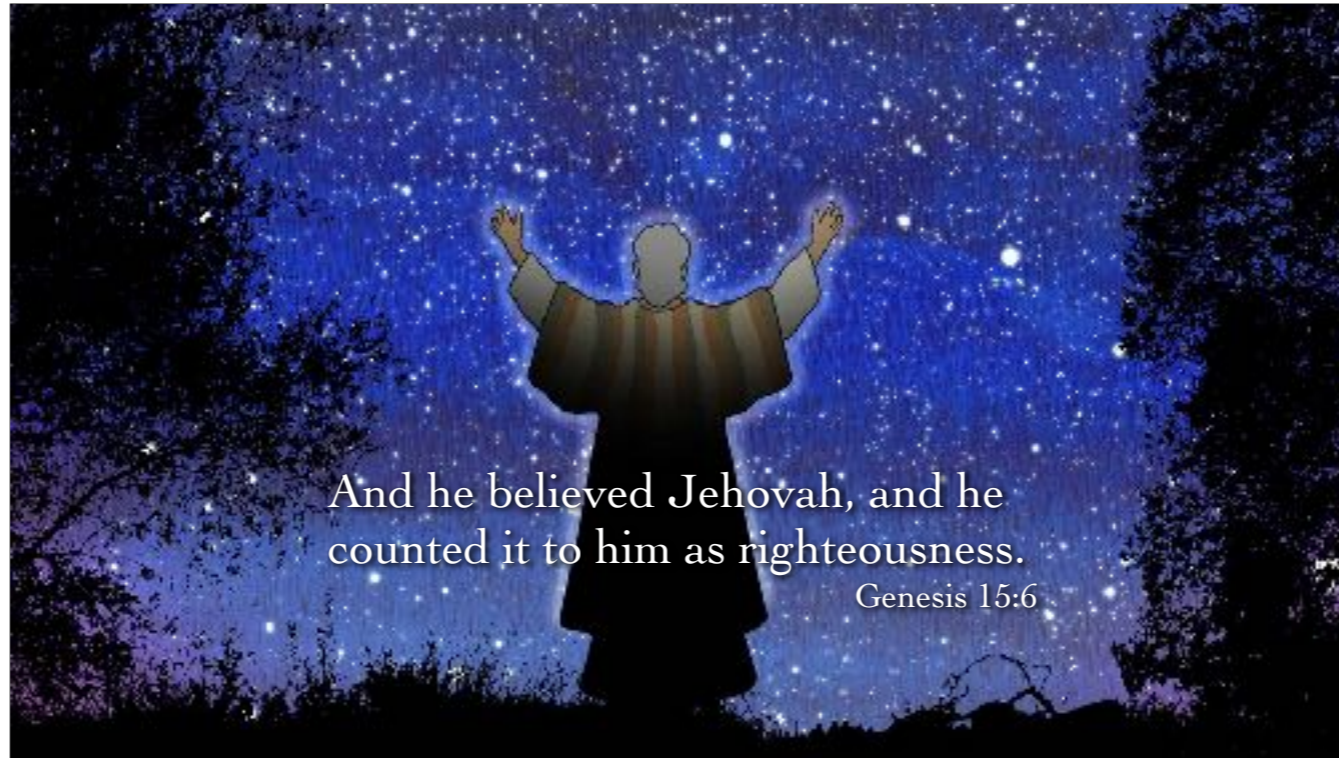
And he believed Jehovah, and he  
counted it to him as righteousness.  
Genesis 15:6

- Romans 4:16-25
- 16 That is why it depends on faith, in order that the **promise** may rest on **grace** and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who **shares the faith of Abraham**, who is the father of us all,

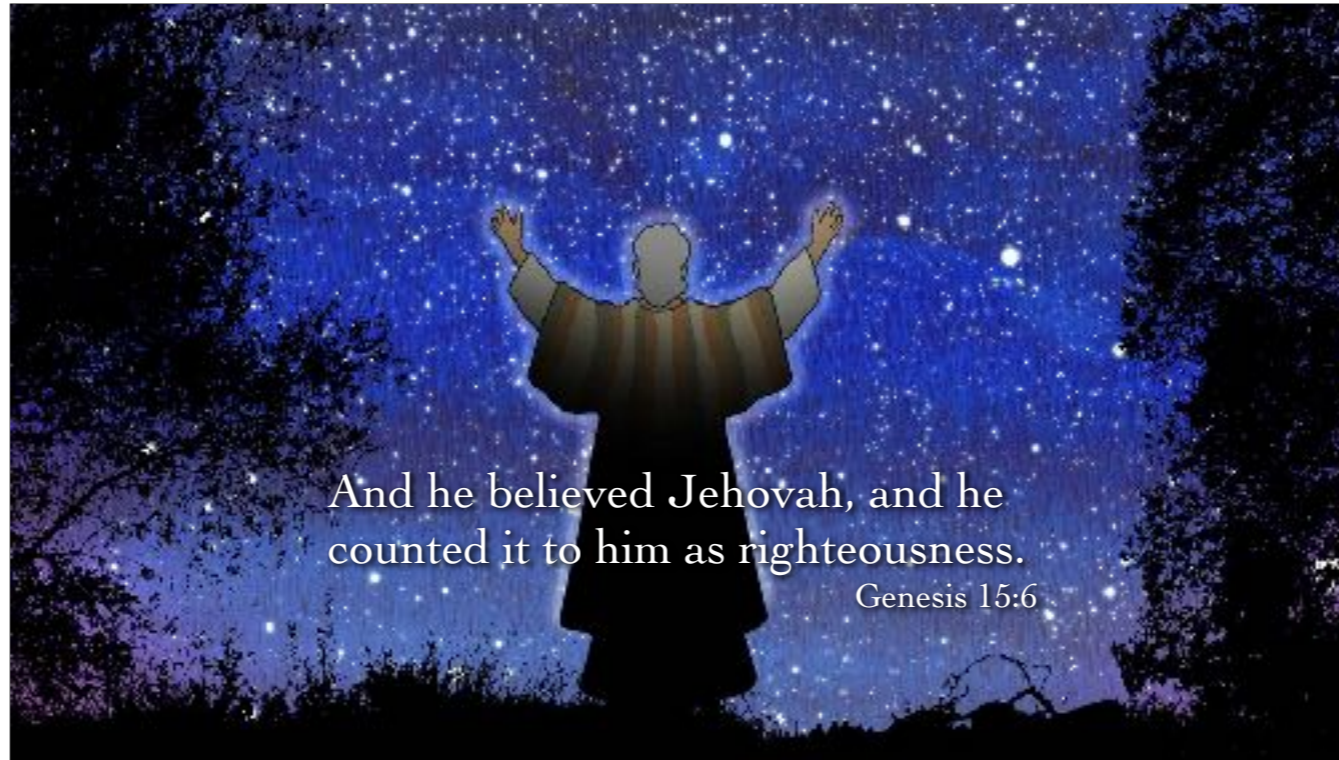


And he believed Jehovah, and he  
counted it to him as righteousness.  
Genesis 15:6

- 17 as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations” (birth of Isaac, IMO)
  - —in the presence of the God in whom he believed,
  - who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.
- 18 In hope he believed against hope,
  - that he should become the father of many nations,
  - as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.”

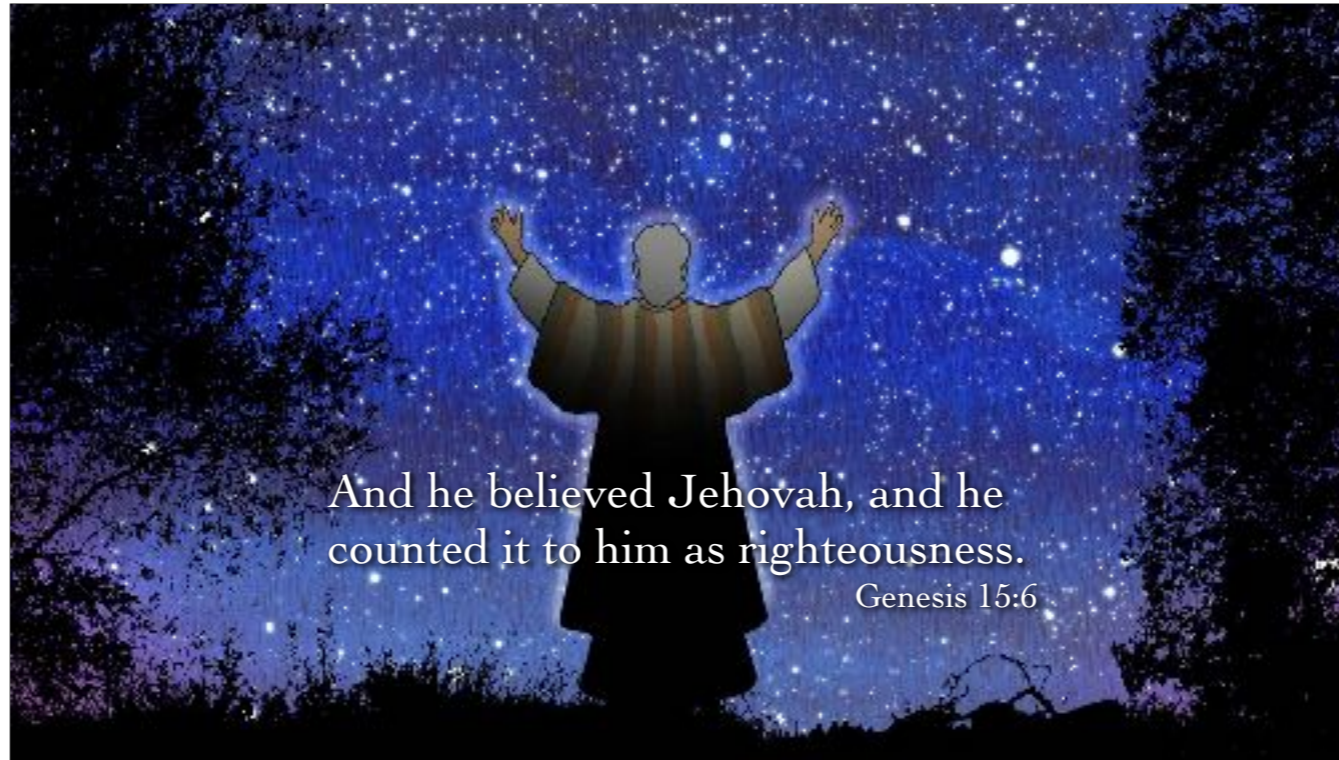


- 19 He did not weaken in faith
  - when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old),
  - or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.
- 20 No unbelief made him waver concerning the **promise** of God,
  - but he **grew strong in his faith**
  - as he **gave glory to God,**
  - 21 **fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.**
- 22 That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.”

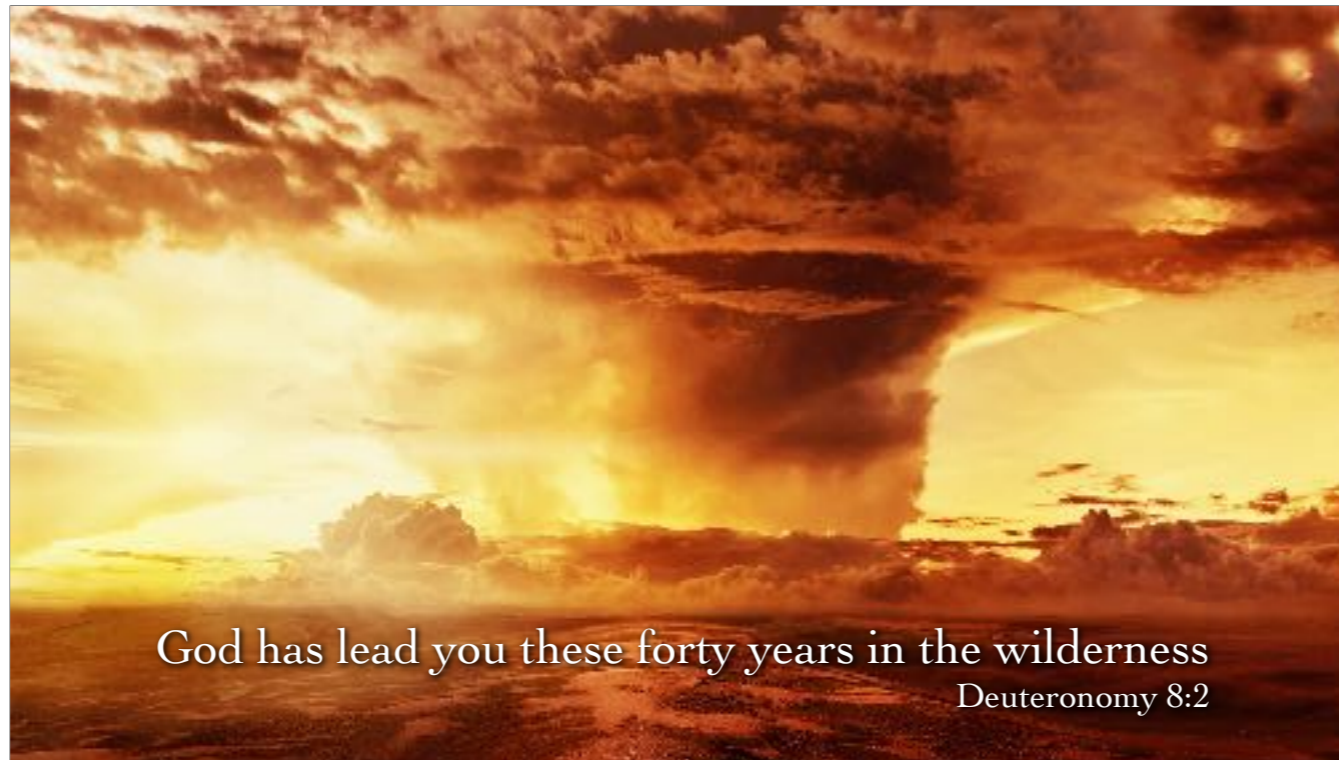


And he believed Jehovah, and he  
counted it to him as righteousness.  
Genesis 15:6

- But...
  - It took 25 years for Jehovah to keep his promise
  - 3X Abraham tried to help God keep his promise (was his heart anxious?)
  - Why was God taking so long to keep his promise?

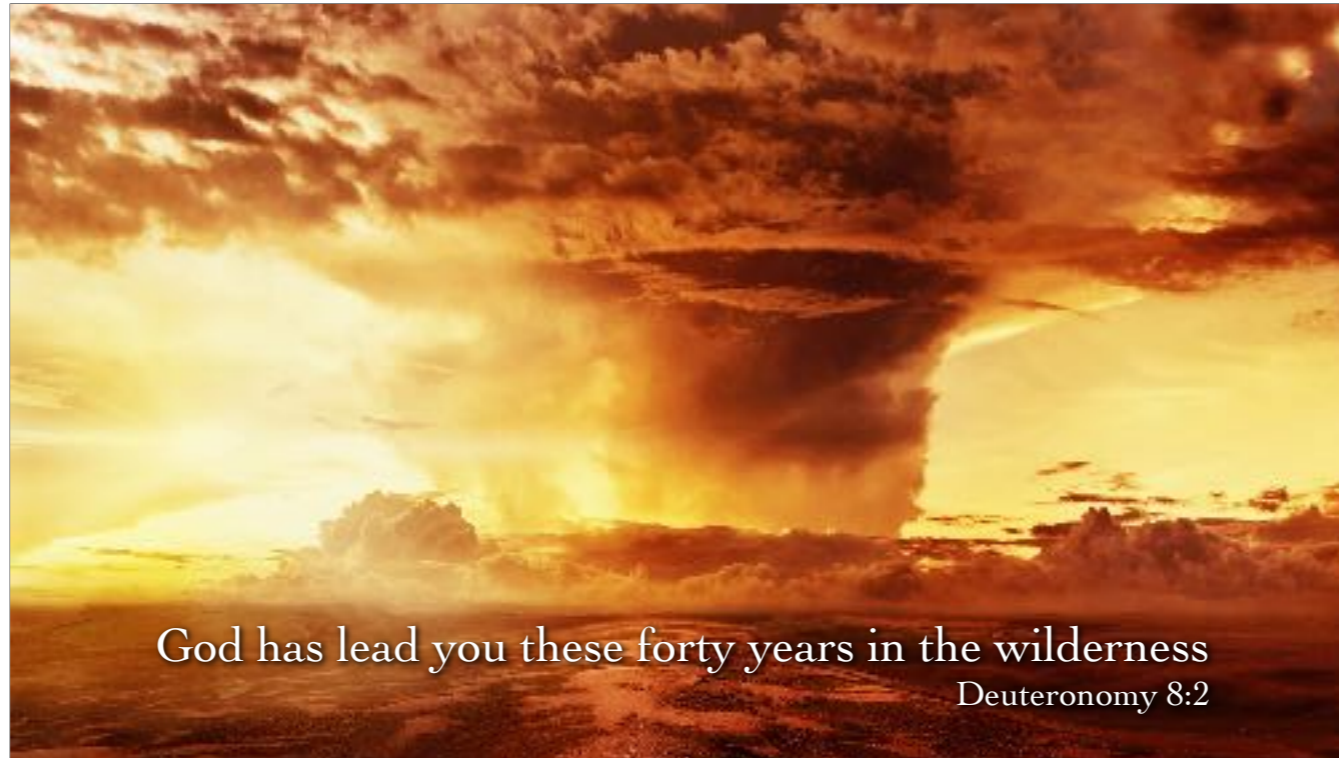


- 23 But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also.
  - It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord,
  - 25 who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.



God has lead you these forty years in the wilderness  
Deuteronomy 8:2

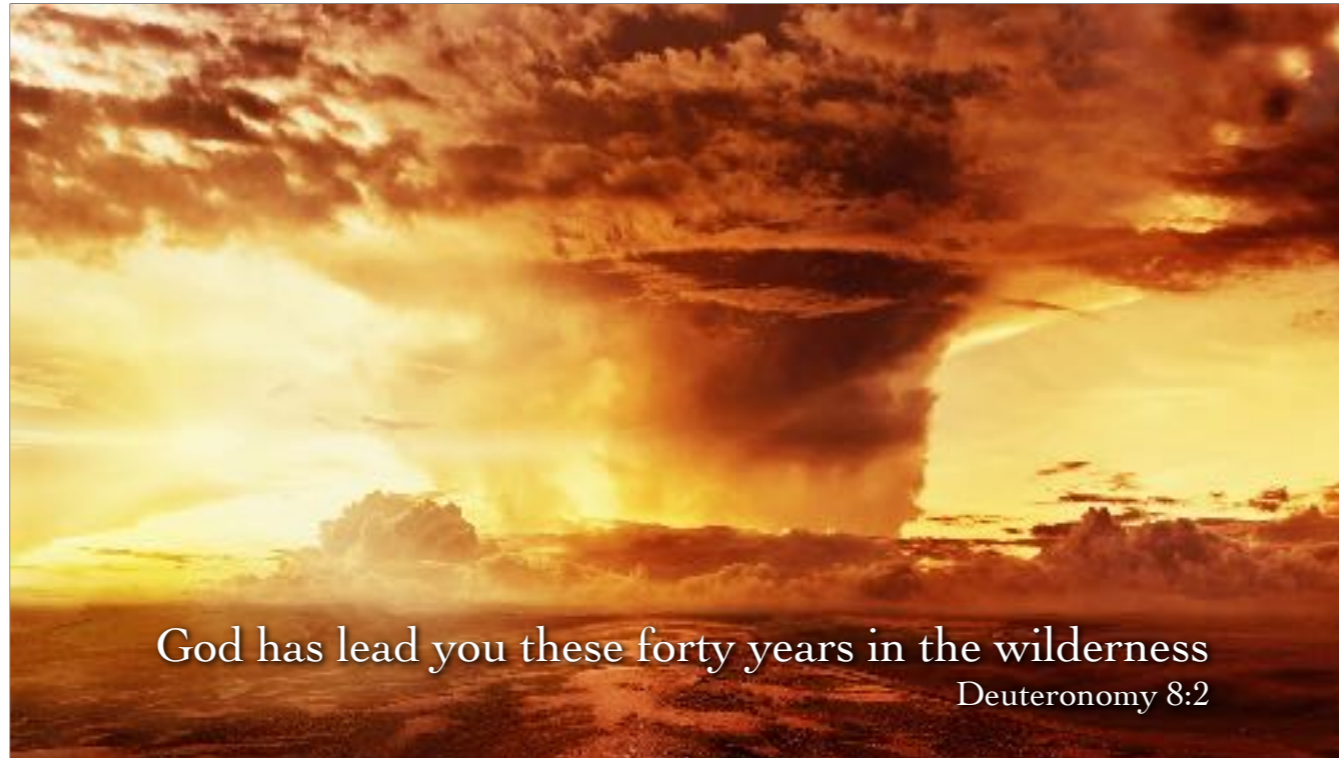
- The Wilderness is Hard
- Deuteronomy 8:2 And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.



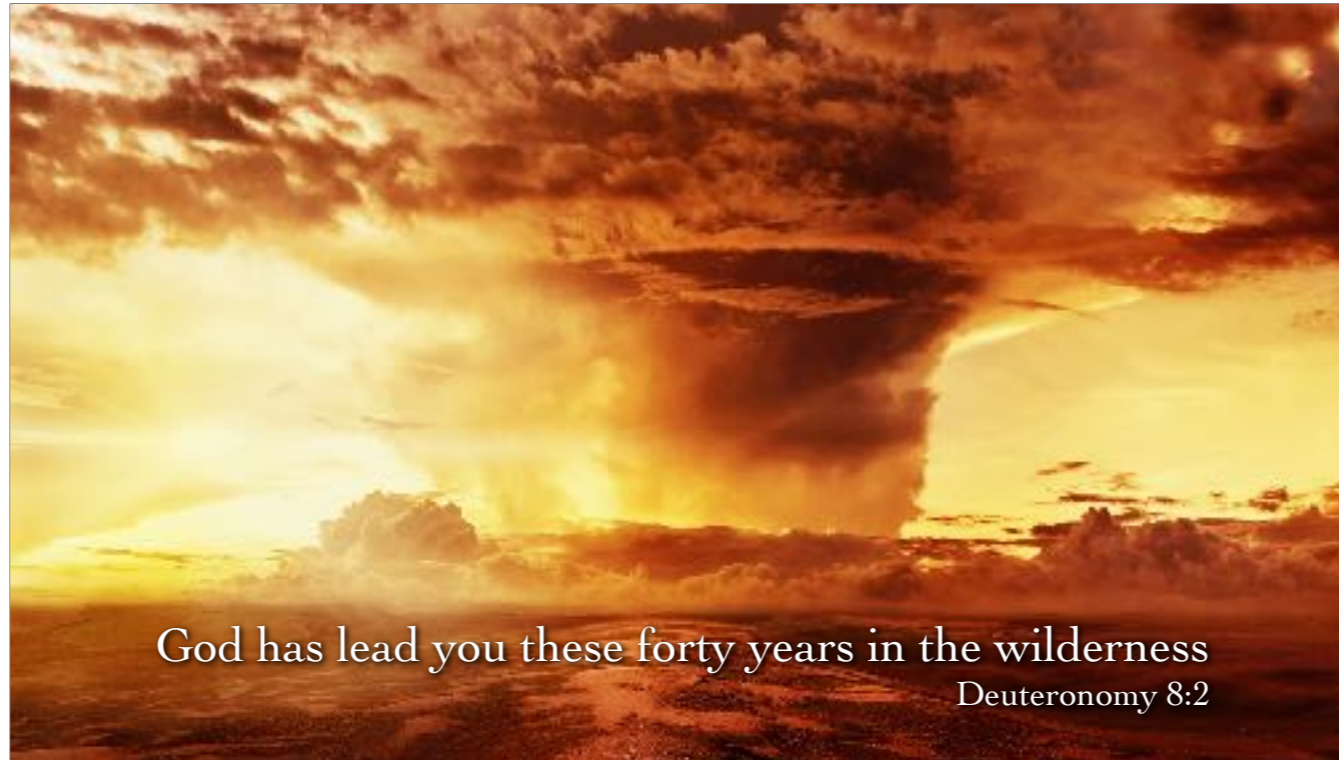
God has lead you these forty years in the wilderness  
Deuteronomy 8:2

- How does the wilderness humble?
  - I can't do it on my own
  - Who do I turn to for help? Other gods? Other nations?
  - Who do I blame?

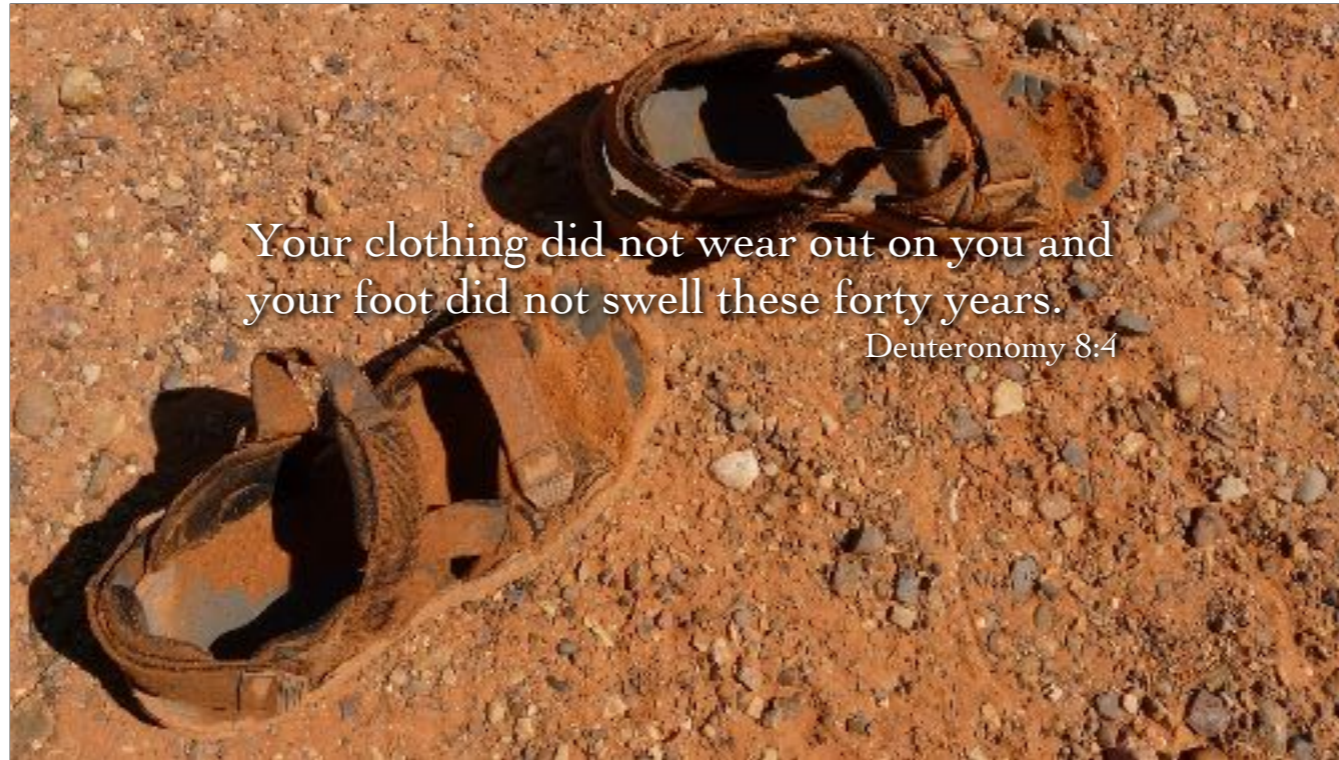




- How does this test us?
  - Do I trust God to provide?
  - Will I continue to obey him when it's difficult?
    - Deuteronomy 10:13 and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today **for your good?**



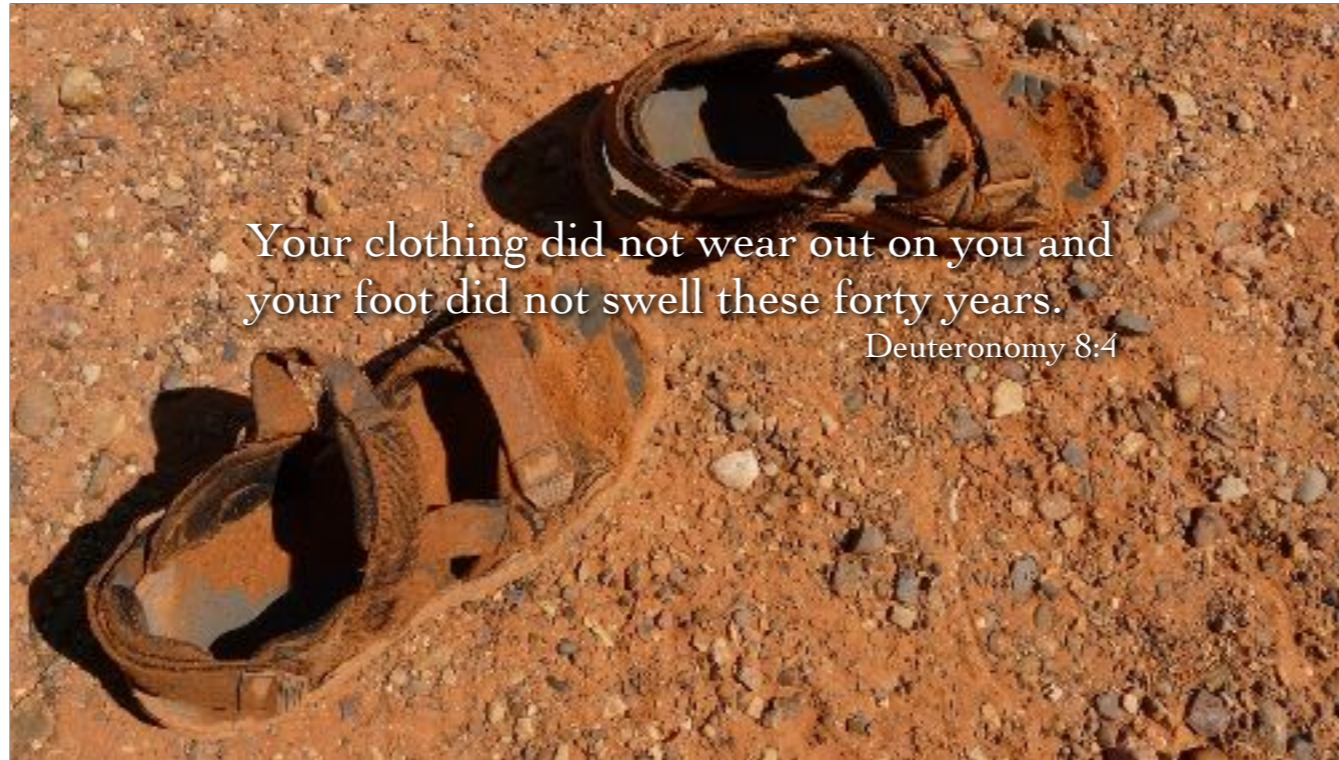
- Deuteronomy 8:16 who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, **to do you good in the end.**



Your clothing did not wear out on you and  
your foot did not swell these forty years.

Deuteronomy 8:4

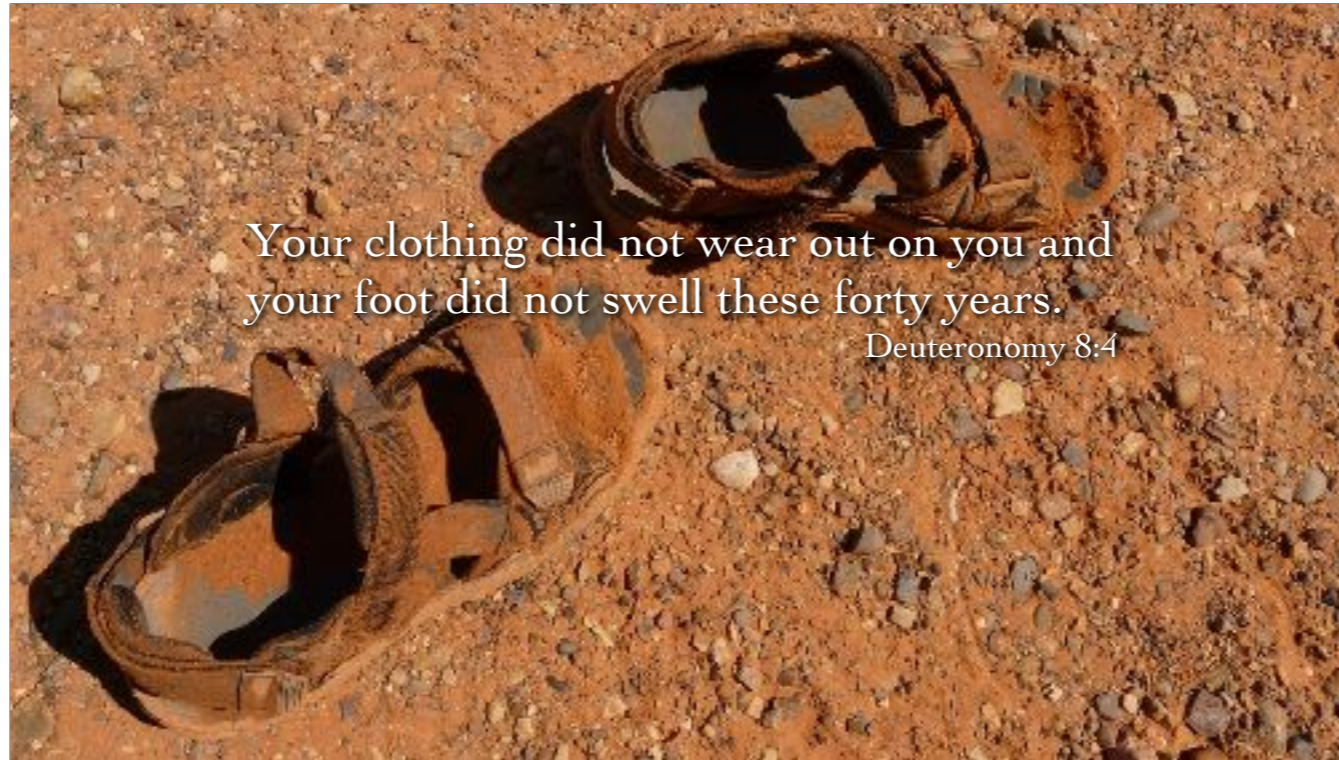
- Only way home is through the wilderness.
- It wasn't simply that God was with Israel when they "found themselves in the desert."
  - Moses knew that God had deliberately and with purpose brought them into the wilderness,
  - and that's why he was with them in it.



Your clothing did not wear out on you and  
your foot did not swell these forty years.

Deuteronomy 8:4

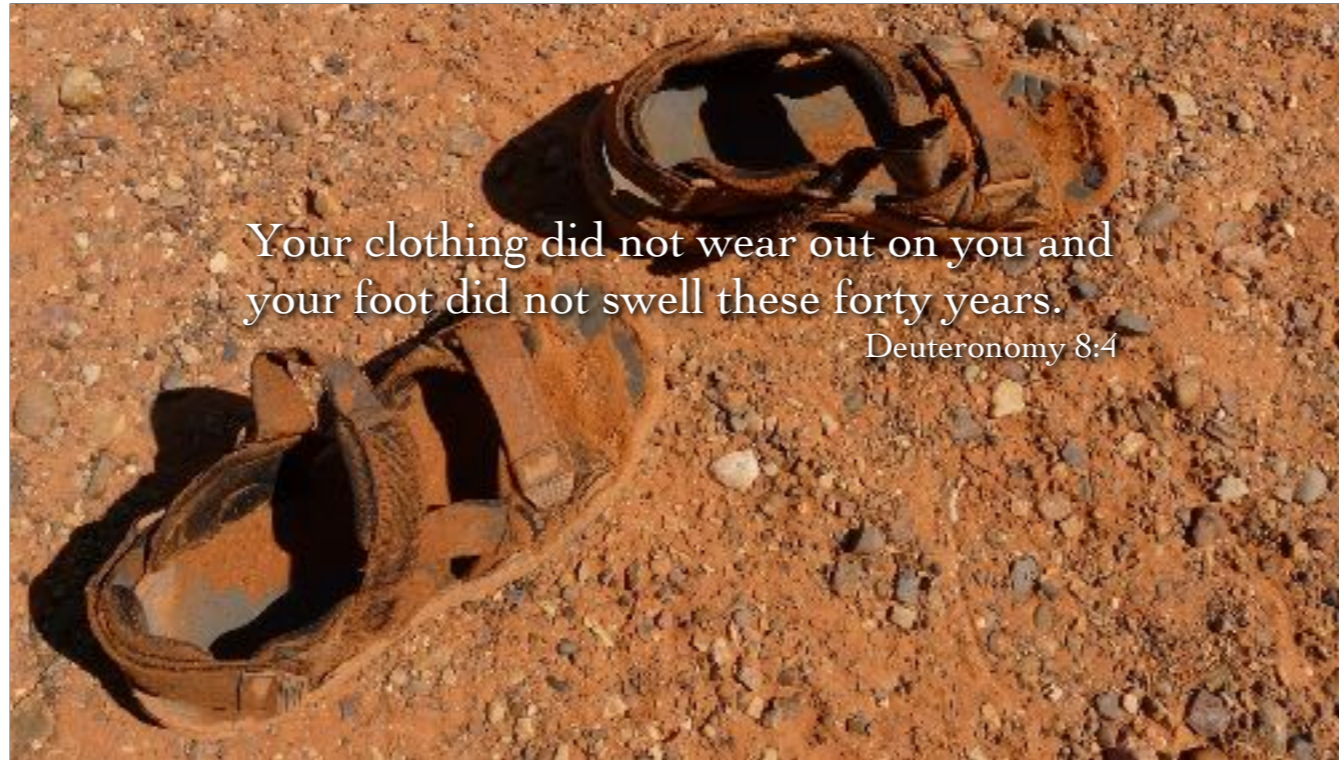
- Doesn't this mean that we need to see the good in the wilderness, not just the hardship?
  - But seeing the good is very hard.
    - Deuteronomy 8:4 Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years.
    - True ... but a lot of people suffered and a lot of people died.



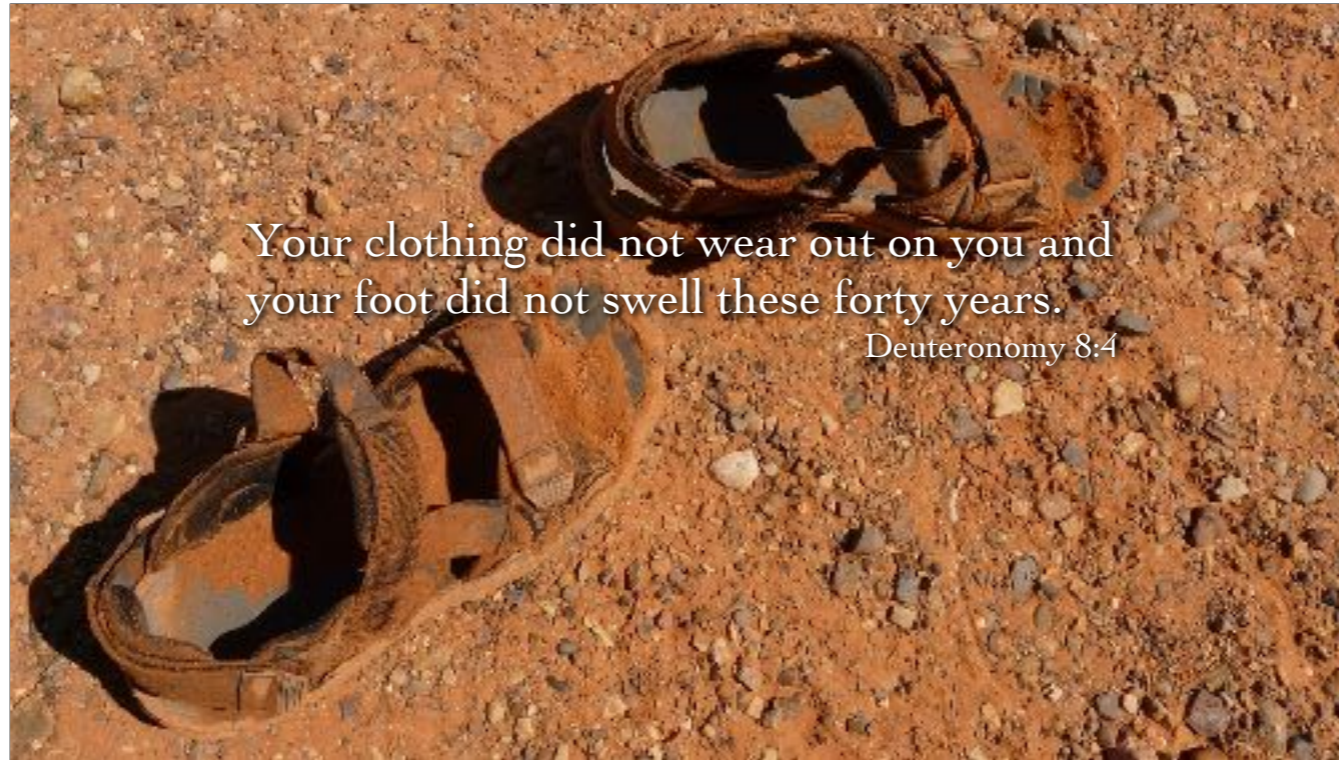
Your clothing did not wear out on you and  
your foot did not swell these forty years.

Deuteronomy 8:4

- So many people dislike the desert because it isn't green.
- But a single bloom in the desert speaks of the triumph of life and beauty over the deprivations faced.
- Even White Sands has a nature trail, to help us see the life in the desert.



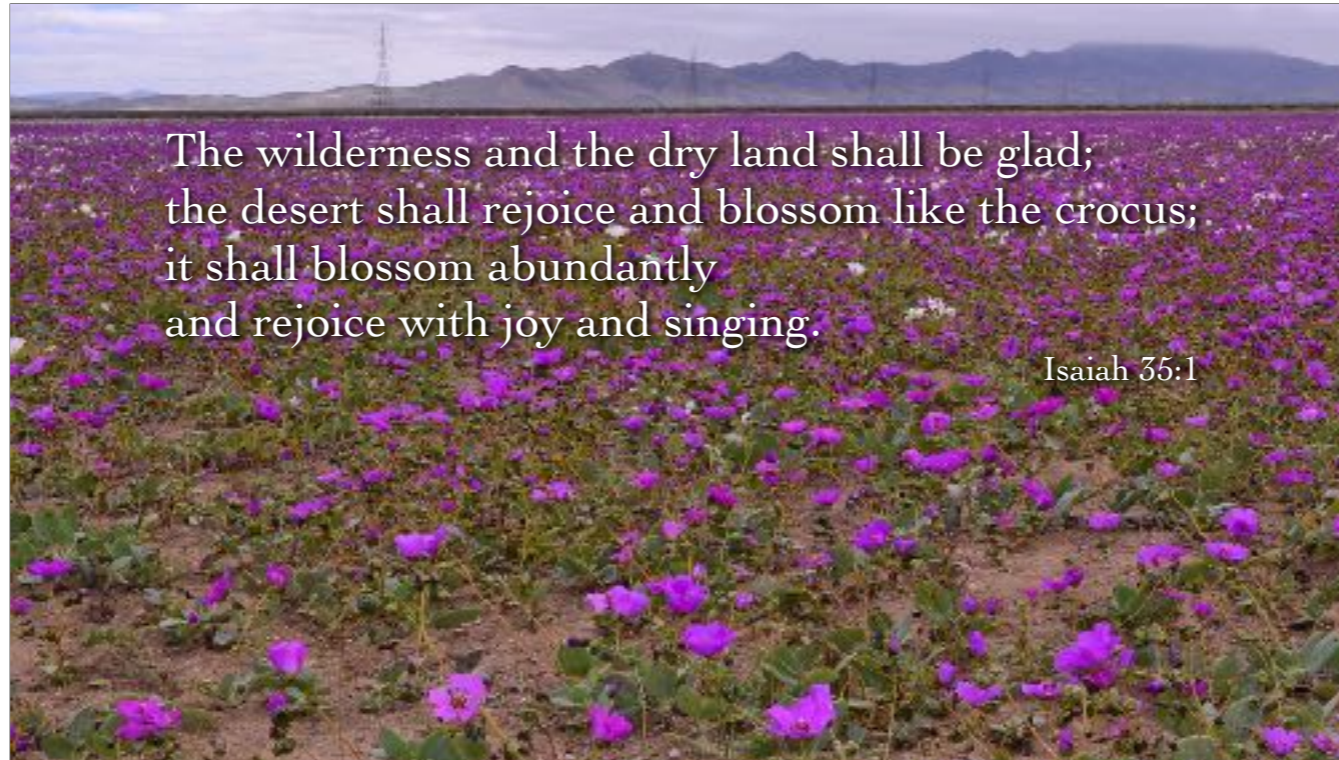
- So when Paul in 1 Cor. Speaks of the lessons learned in the wilderness (all negative),
  - idolaters, sexual immorality, test Christ, grumble
- Are there lessons we can learn from the good that happened there? Yes.
  - passed under the cloud
  - through the sea
  - baptized into Moses
  - spiritual food
  - spiritual drink
  - spiritual rock: Christ



Your clothing did not wear out on you and  
your foot did not swell these forty years.

Deuteronomy 8:4

- Those passing through wilderness must never forget that they are in a wilderness.
  - It's dangerous.
  - But it's not home either.
  - Don't get too comfortable with the wilderness .
- Study the journey through the wilderness seeking the blooms!

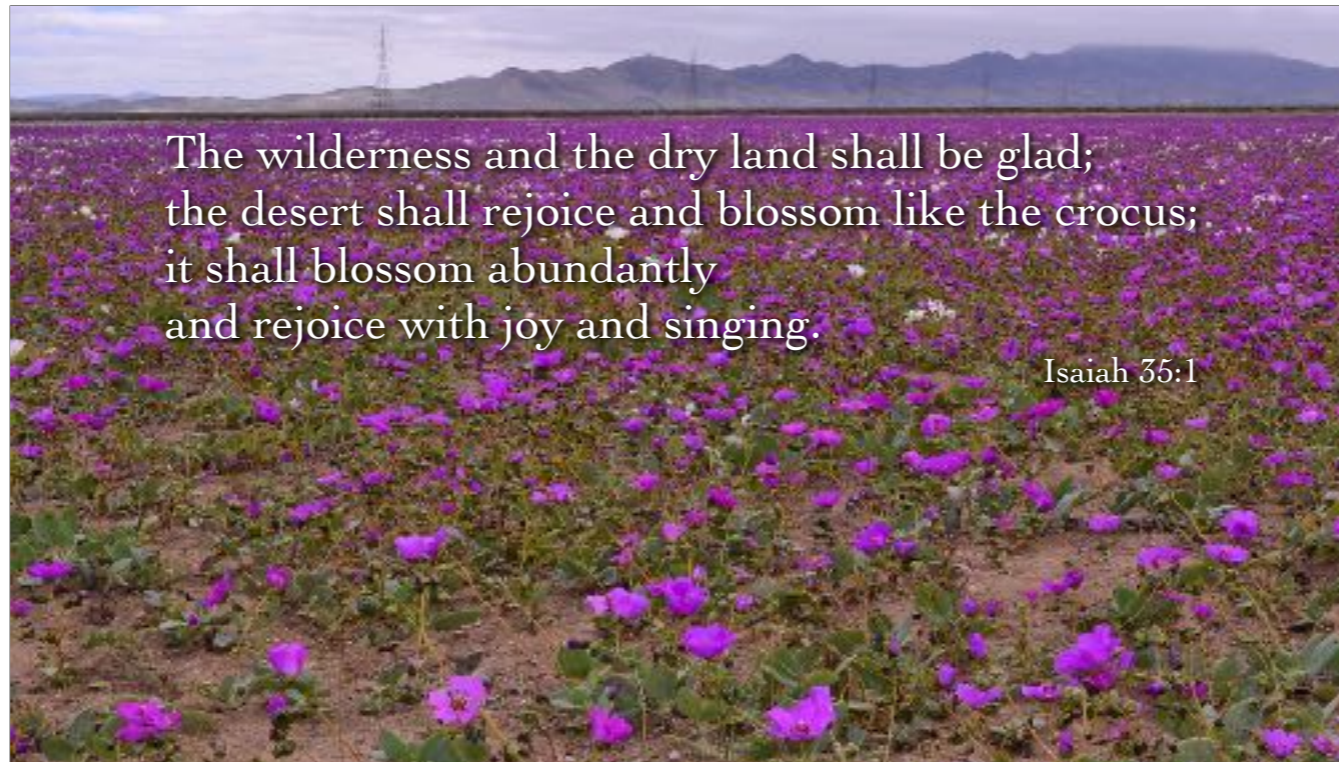


The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;  
it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

Isaiah 35:1

- Isaiah 35:1-2 (ESV) 1 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; 2 it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.
- Healing: 5-6a
- Water: 6b-7
- Highway: Way of Holiness (8-10)
  - Safe
  - Singing, joy

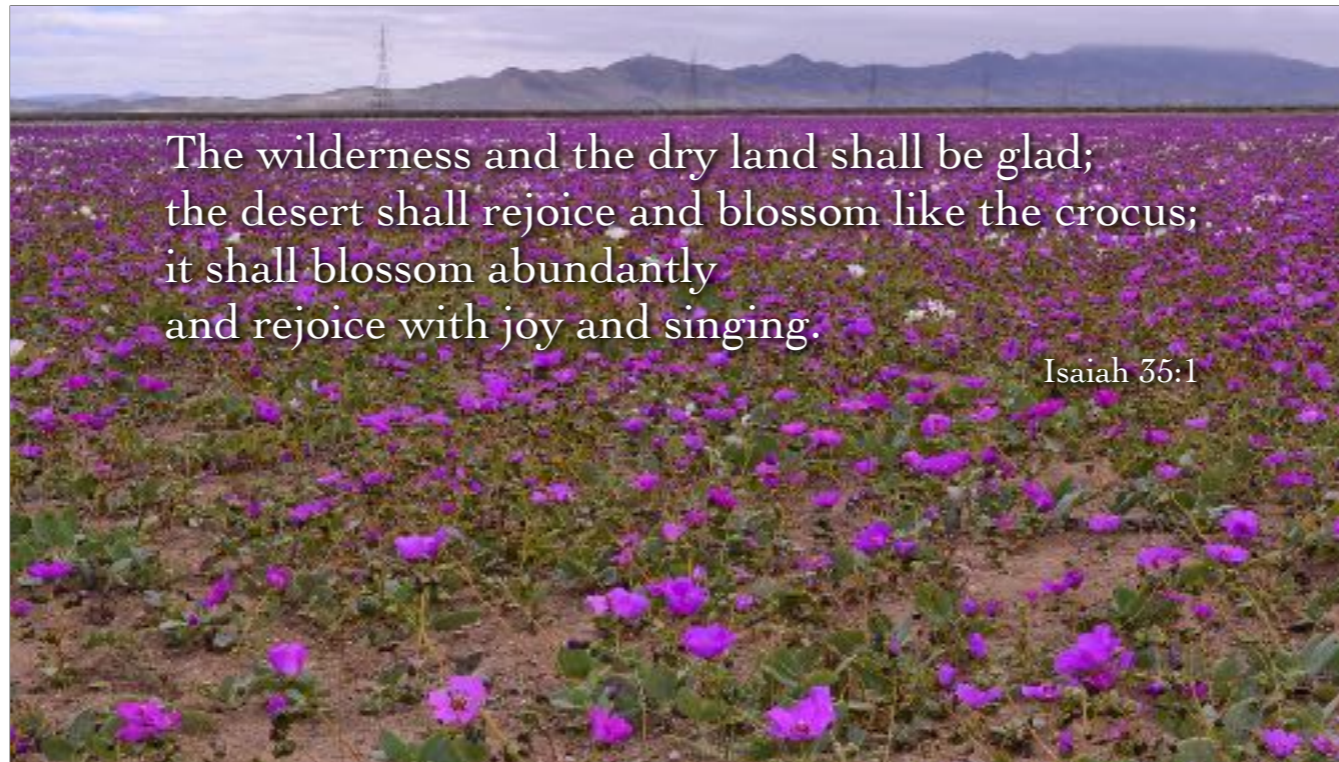




The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;  
it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

Isaiah 35:1

- Helping Others in the Wilderness (3-4)
  - I think I've missed "anxious hearts" in the past. Easier to understand weak hands and feeble knees.
  - Why are they anxious?
    - no water, no food, dangerous
    - children, livestock, future
    - Where is God?
    - Why isn't God doing something? doing better?
    - Waiting .... waiting ... How long?



The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;  
it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

Isaiah 35:1

- We have sometimes disparage the struggles of the Israelites in the wilderness
  - It's justified ... God tells us of their stubborn hearts, rebellion, and unbelief
  - But ... here:
    - He actually encourages us to help those who are struggling in the wilderness
      - weak hands need strengthening
      - feeble knees need supported (make firm)
      - anxious hearts (!) need really encouragement.
        - say: He's coming to save you!
  - Are you helping?



For Jehovah your God is bringing you into a good land  
Deuteronomy 8:7

- Deuteronomy 8:7 For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills,
- But can he take sinful people out of the wilderness, all the way home?
- Can he take the wilderness out of people and make them holy, through and through?
- Can he take us with all our weaknesses, all our entrenched sins and character flaws, with all our ignorance, and bring us to Canaan?



For Jehovah your God is bringing you into a good land  
Deuteronomy 8:7

- Can he see weak people like us safely home?
- Can he complete his overarching purpose through us?"
  - Israel's wilderness experience is written to tell us, "Yes! Ten thousand times, yes!"
- I'm one of those who thinks people can say no to God's offer of life and friendship.
  - If we simply will not have it, we can "beat" God, but the eternal loss is ours.
- I don't have people like that in mind here.



For Jehovah your God is bringing you into a good land  
Deuteronomy 8:7

- I have in mind those of us who long for better but can't seem to "get it right."
- I'm thinking of those of us who aren't even sure that we long for fullness of life with God but who long to long for it.
- We're in a fevered state because we don't want to miss it, and yet we see nothing in us but one form of God-denial or another.
- I'm thinking of those of us who don't believe we have to earn life with God but are always anxious in case there isn't in us a recognizable response of faith.



For Jehovah your God is bringing you into a good land  
Deuteronomy 8:7

- To these people I'm wanting to say:
  - Our assurance that we'll make it home,
    - that on the way we'll be blessed and strengthened even by the wilderness
    - —our assurance if there is to be any, doesn't come from within ourselves.
  - It doesn't come from our positive goodness or avoidance of evil;



For Jehovah your God is bringing you into a good land  
Deuteronomy 8:7

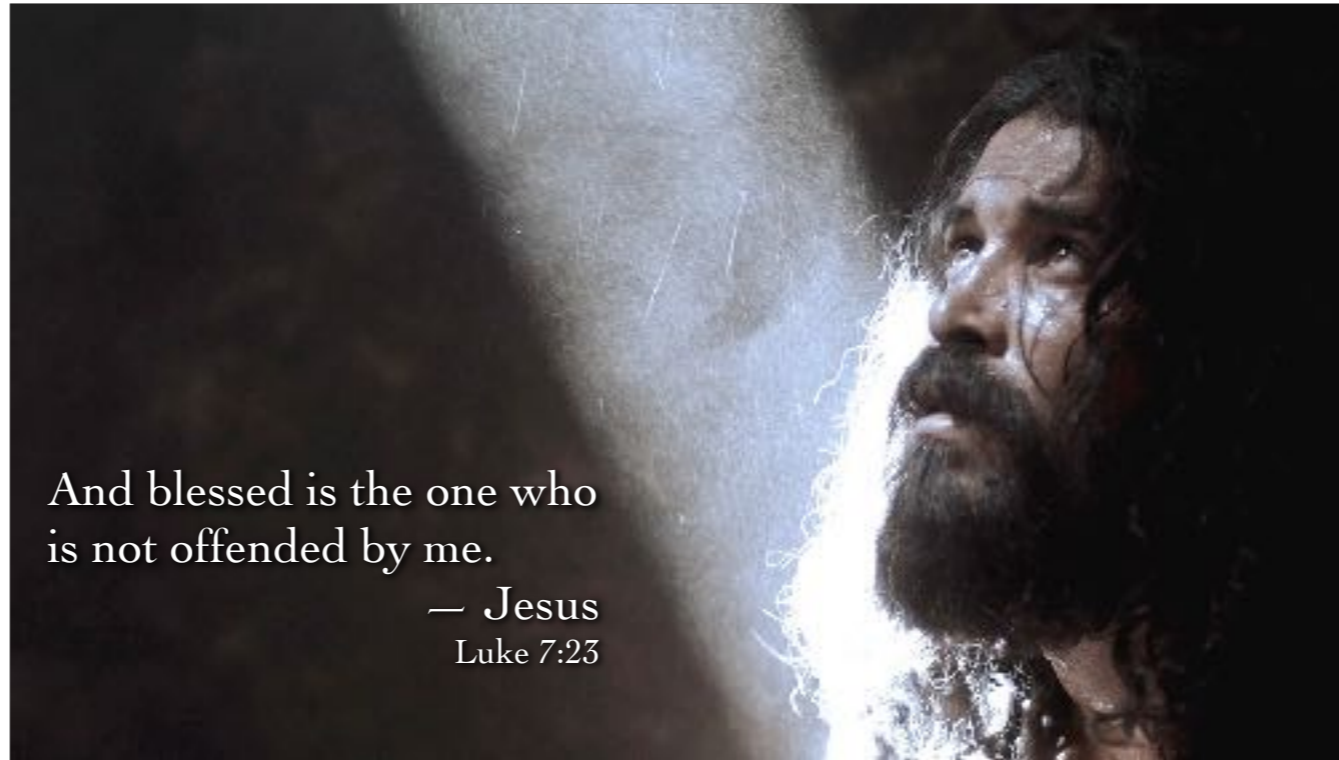
- it comes because our God knows us completely and still works to bless us.
  - We don't have to impress him, bribe him, grovel and crawl before him.
  - He blesses us in spite of our sinfulness.
  - If our assurance depended on performance rather than trust, if it depended on our virtue rather than on him, not only would we not have been called to his side, we'd never make it home



For Jehovah your God is bringing you into a good land  
Deuteronomy 8:7

- He desires that we trust him, though
  - This is the story of Abraham ... it wasn't his performance (work), his offers to help, it was that he believed God's promise ... and the result was a son, a nation, a land.
  - And he's given us reason to understand and see his majesty, his power, his care and his love
  - He longs to do good to us in the end.
  - Much of our struggle comes in the moments when we don't see him and we don't understand why he's not doing what we expect.

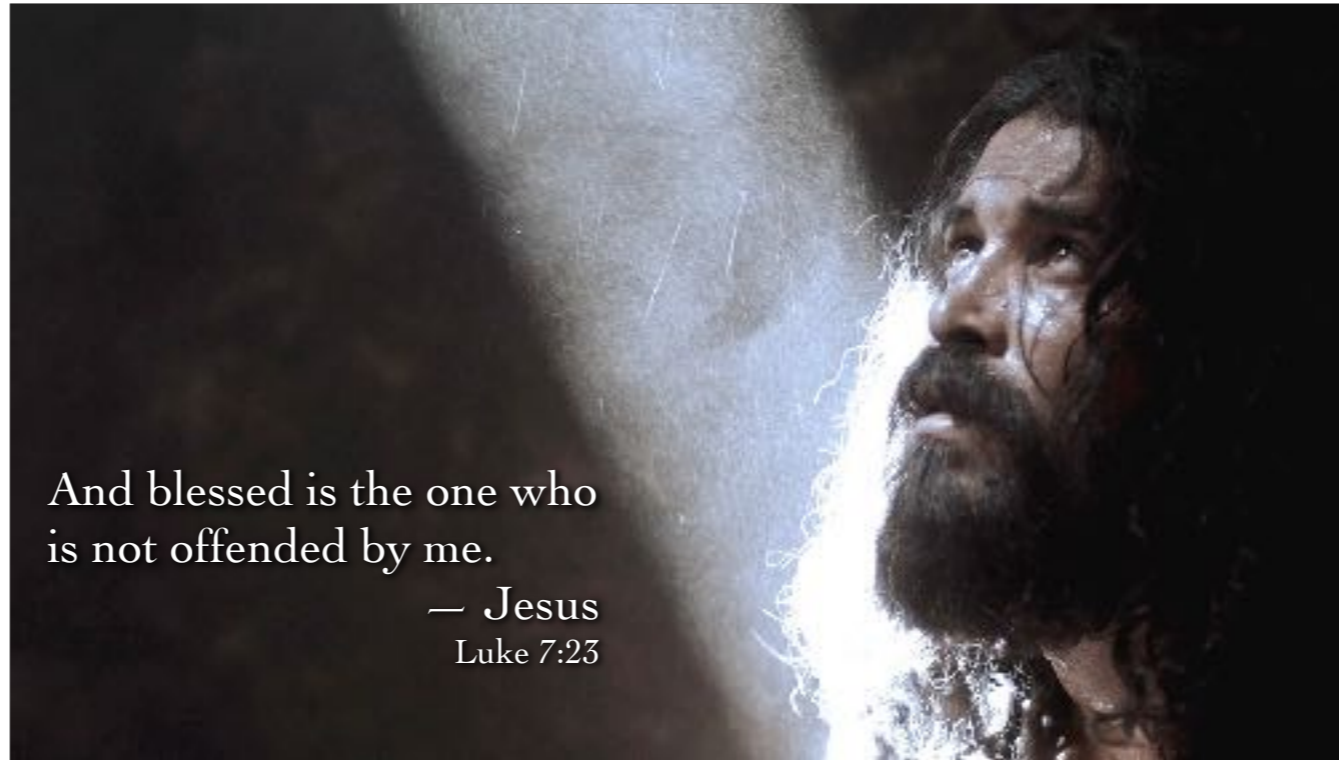




And blessed is the one who  
is not offended by me.

— Jesus  
Luke 7:23

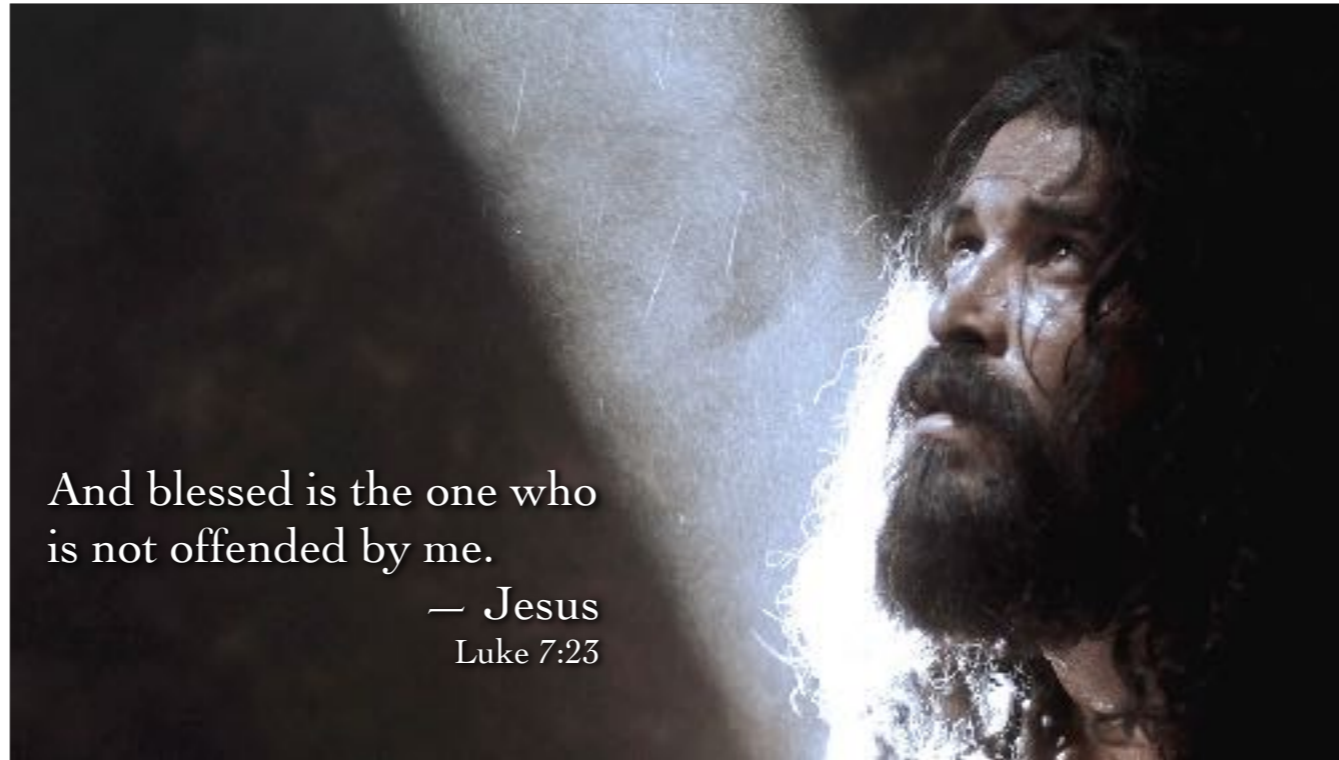
- Why must we go home through the wilderness?
- After we've said all we can say, there's no completely satisfying answer,
  - but there's still God's insistent call for us to trust him to do all things well.
- Jesus called for this trust in his dealings with loyal John the Baptist.



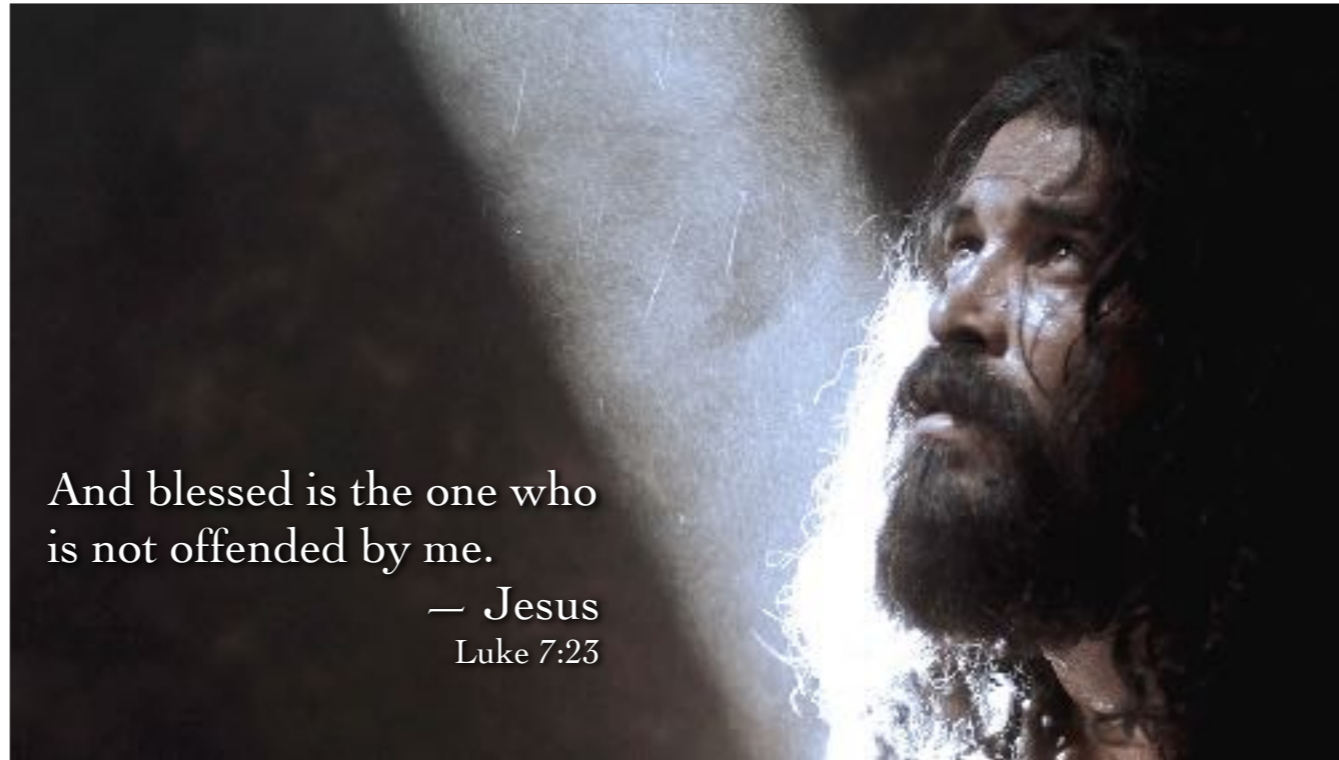
And blessed is the one who  
is not offended by me.

— Jesus  
Luke 7:23

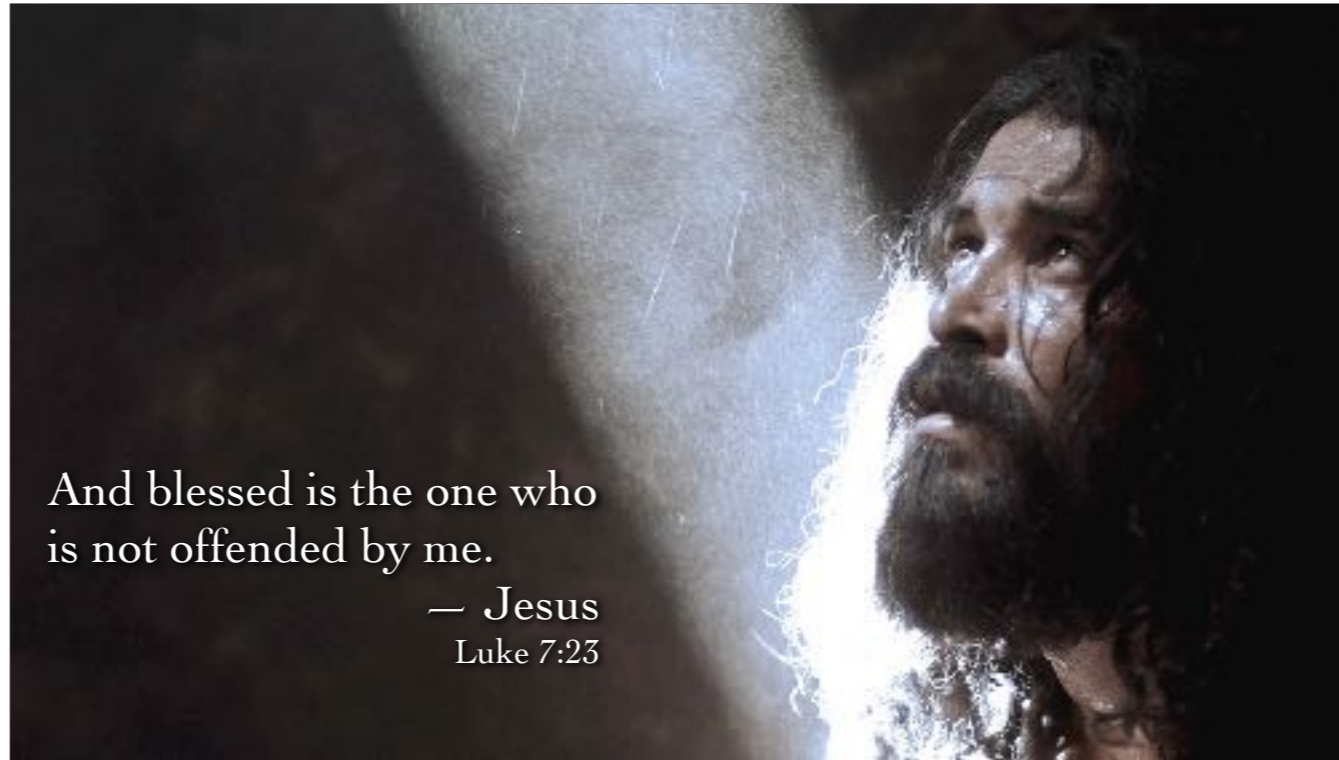
- Not many things test our faith more than God's doing all kinds of marvelous things for everyone around us while leaving us unblessed.
- Our cancer remains while others ...
- Our babies die while others ...
- Our marriages ...
- Our children, our business, our parents, our health, our savings ... while others ...



- When John the Baptist heard of the miracles worked by the Messiah, he may have felt neglected and a bit depressed.
- He sent two of his disciples to say to Christ, “Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?” (Luke 7:18).
- I don’t think John doubts Jesus’ identity (it was the miracles that provoked the visit)
- Maybe it’s what Jesus isn’t doing that troubles John.



- When they told him what Christ said, John, bitterly disappointed, might have asked,
  - “Yes, yes, but did he say anything about my getting out of here?”
    - Luke 4:18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, (from Isaiah 61)



And blessed is the one who  
is not offended by me.

— Jesus  
Luke 7:23

- And they, assuring him that Jesus said nothing about it would add,
  - “But he did say, ‘Tell John, blessed is the person who isn’t offended by me.’”
- Trust can triumph through the wilderness.
  - This is why Moses invited Hobab to join them.
  - He trusted in God’s majesty and power.
  - He hoped for the fulfillment of God’s promise
  - He knew where they were going.

**We implore you on  
behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.**

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

## Photo Credits:

All photos from istockphoto.com, crestock.com, bigstock.com, dreamtime.com, thinkstock.com, and shutterstock.com are copyright protected. They are used by permission. Please do not reuse without permission.)

<https://pixabay.com/photos/desert-morocco-sand-sand-dune-1101123/>

<https://pixabay.com/photos/oasis-desert-caravan-palm-trees-3281084/>

<https://pixabay.com/photos/men-camel-riding-desert-ride-sand-5542228/>

<https://pixabay.com/photos/image-manipulation-landscape-clouds-3650671/>

<https://pixabay.com/photos/sandals-shoes-dirt-sand-foot-feet-4563/>

<https://pixabay.com/photos/desert-blossom-flower-colorful-2734359/>

<https://pixabay.com/photos/background-beach-pretty-blue-cloud-3062024/>

# LUMO

PROJECT

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW  
THE GOSPEL OF MARK  
THE GOSPEL OF LUKE  
THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Due to the Lumo Project producing its own publishing material we regret to inform you that we cannot license our photos to other clients outside of [freebibleimages.org](http://freebibleimages.org)

These images are not licensed for reuse in video, advertising or other media. Downloaded pictures and files cannot be redistributed through any other website than [freebibleimages.org](http://freebibleimages.org) or used in any context where the accompanying message is undermining of the Christian faith and gospel.

Photos can only be used in educational presentations, blogs and social media; all of which should be accompanied with reference to [www.lumoproject.com](http://www.lumoproject.com)

Picture courtesy of BSM  
© All Rights Reserved  
[www.bibleandmedia.com](http://www.bibleandmedia.com)







CONTRIBUTED BY



**YoPlace.com**

These images are the copyright of John Paul Stanley.  
They are made available for personal and teaching use under a  
Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International license.  
A free video of this story can be found at <https://www.yoplace.com/video.php>



[www.freebibleimages.org](http://www.freebibleimages.org)

## The Testing and Triumph of Trust

Numbers 10:29-32

Synopsis: On their journey through the wilderness Moses invites Hobab to join them knowing the good Jehovah is doing for them. The wilderness is hard, belief and trust are hard, and yet God has given us reason to trust him, not ourselves. The wilderness helps us to know God, and trust his power and promises. (This lesson is borrowed from Jim McGuiggan's book "Celebrating the Wrath of God", chapter 8: The Triumph of Trust.)

\*Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

**"Let all that you do be done with love."**