



A VOICE OF ONE
CALLING IN THE DESERT

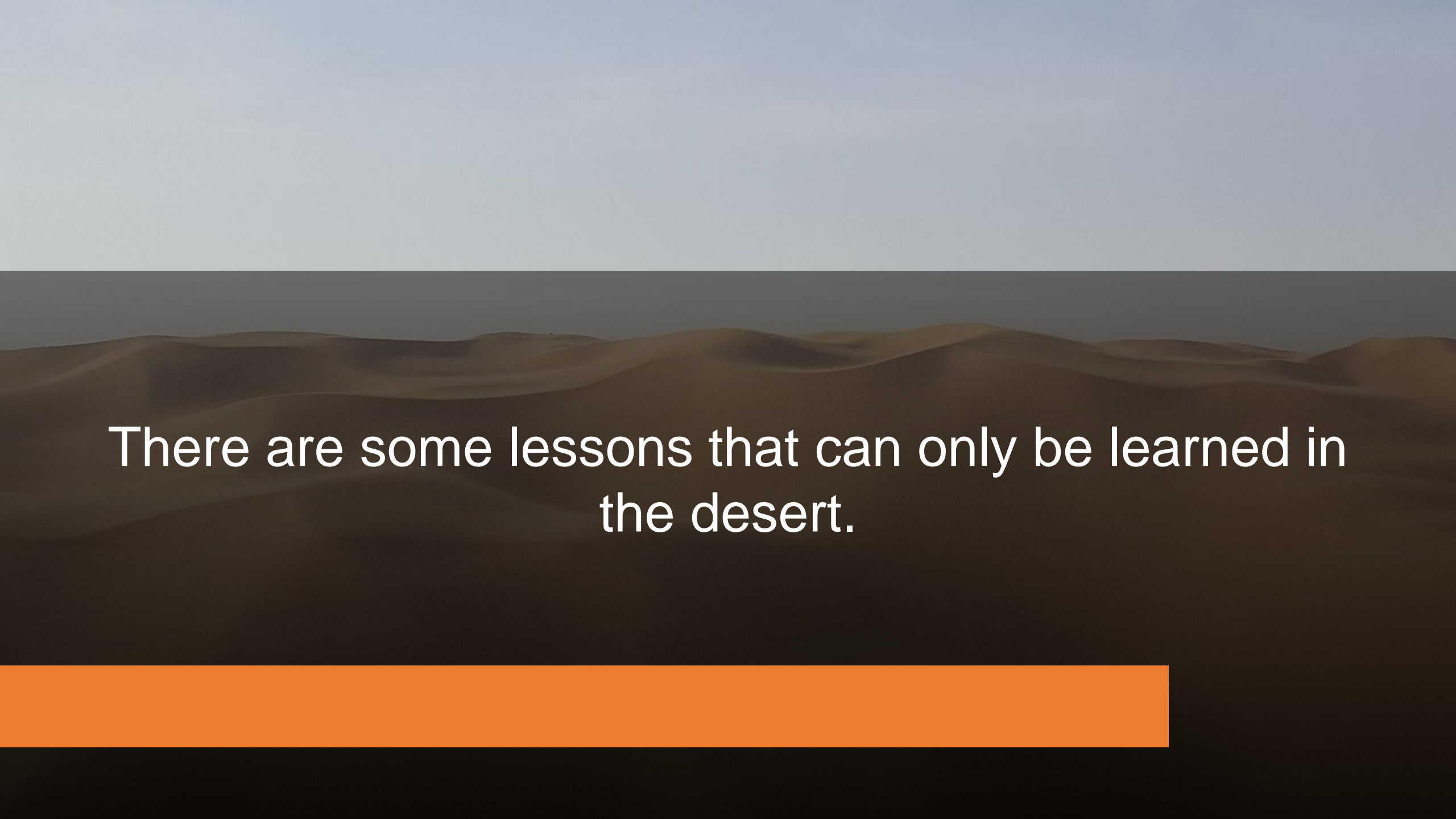
Mark 1: 1-8

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah the Son of God,
as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way”

3 “a voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’”

4 And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. 6 John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

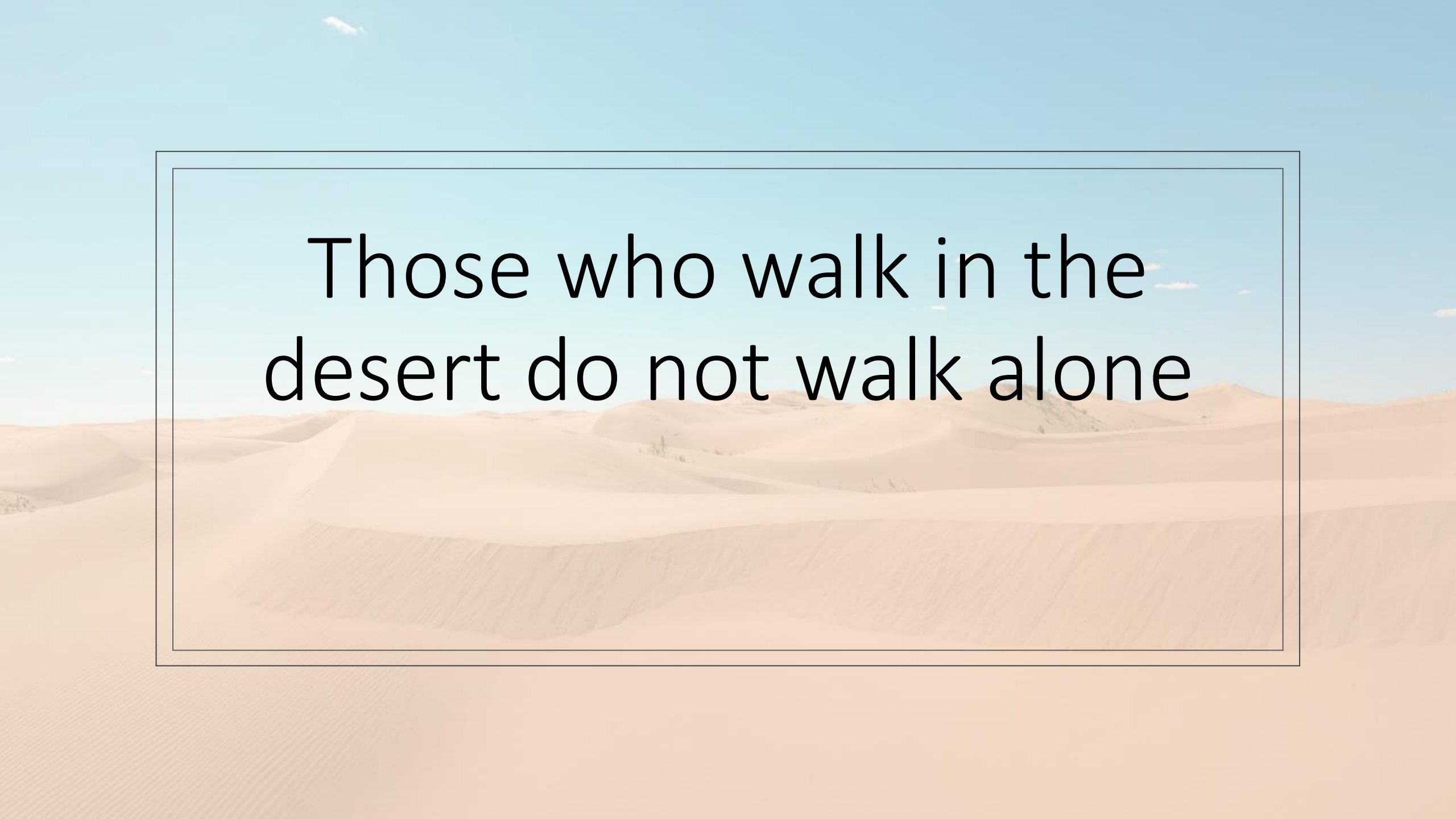
A photograph of a desert landscape featuring rolling sand dunes in the foreground and middle ground. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The overall scene is serene and minimalist.

There are some lessons that can only be learned in
the desert.



Deuteronomy 8: 1-5

Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land the Lord promised on oath to your ancestors. 2 Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. 3 He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. 4 Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years. 5 Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the Lord your God disciplines you.


A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape featuring rolling sand dunes. The dunes are a light tan color and are set against a clear, pale blue sky. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day. The overall scene is serene and expansive.

Those who walk in the
desert do not walk alone

Mark 1: 12, 13
and
Exodus 23: 20

** “At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.”

** “See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared.”



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Prepare the Way of the Lord

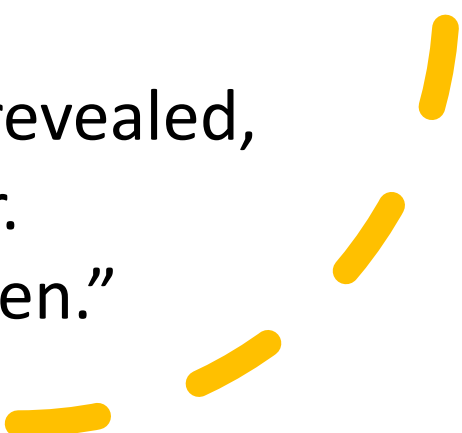
Isaiah 40: 3-5

A voice of one calling:

“In the wilderness prepare
the way for the Lord[a];
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.[b]

4 Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.

5 And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

A decorative graphic consisting of several short, curved yellow dashes arranged in a curved path in the bottom right corner of the slide.



Revelation 22: 12-17

“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

14 “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. 15 Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

16 “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you[a] this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”

17 The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHn1POJovZA>