

- Exodus to Promised Land, God led His people thru the wilderness ... Here they learned about Him as their God – the Only God, the Holy God, the Merciful and Faithful God ... In wilderness they learned what it meant to be His
 - This experience parallels our own journey to the Promised Land (1Co10:6,11) ... The **greater Exodus** has happened ... All who believe in Christ receive promise of eternal life – the **greater Promised Land** ... Between what's happened and what awaits, the church journeys in the wilderness ... We journey thru a world not our home ... The world as it is, is not the world we'll one day inherit
 - **PAYNE: the demanding trek takes us thru the thorny wilderness of this present evil age ... in which faith is fiercely tested by Satan, sin, and suffering. But we do not travel alone. Christ is our faithful companion and loyal friend** ... As Israel journeyed thru the wilderness, their every need was met by God ... His provision of bread and water points to Christ (1Co10:3-4) ... So, in our journey thru the wilderness, our every need is met by God thru Christ: **Jo6:35, 7:37; Ma11:28**
- Jesus encountered hundreds of people who heard His teachings and witnessed miraculous healings ... They saw first-hand God's supernatural power work thru Him in ways they hadn't seen before ... Few responded to Him; few believed in Him ... Few received Him as Messiah ... The masses remained unmotivated and unconvinced to take to heart what they heard and saw ... In hearing, they didn't want to hear ... In seeing, they didn't want to see ... These are the **wise and intelligent** the Father keeps in the dark ... They have it all figured out and have no interest in being changed or convinced of anything different than what they perceive as correct – particularly in matters of faith
- Instead, the Father seeks after **infants** – overlooked and undervalued; dependent not on themselves; eager to learn ... Those weary and burdened ... Those under the yoke of sin and addiction and the world ... Who have no rest in their souls ... Who feel beat down and without hope ... Who strive each day to carry the overwhelming weight of life ... To these people the Father and Son reveal themselves by the Spirit ... Unified will of Father and Son causes this
 - Understand what Jesus is revealing to anyone willing to see and hear and comprehend ... 1) the Lord of heaven and earth is His Father, 2) the Father has sole authority to reveal and conceal Himself, 3) He has entrusted to Jesus all things, 4) the Father reveals the Son, 5) the Son reveals the Father, 6) the Son has sole authority to reveal and conceal the Father and thus Himself too ... The Son is equal to the Father
- This is the One inviting you to come and receive His rest ... Rest from what? ... Not rest from working, but a **rest in working, a rest in living** ... Rest from a “try-harder-do-more” mentality ... Rest from weariness of anxiety and fear ... Rest from struggling with your addiction alone ... Rest from holding it all together for yourself and everyone else ... Rest from keeping up appearances ... Rest from bitterness and unforgiveness ... Rest from pursuit of perfection ... Your brokenness and baggage qualify you to come to Him
 - The ways of Jesus are not burdensome (1Jo5:3) ... He has already mastered life ... He has already obtained your righteousness ... He invites you to partner with Him in living your life ... He invites you to partner with Him in what He's already doing around you ... **CALVIN: hold fast bravely with both hands to that fellowship by which Christ has bound Himself to [you] ... certainty of [your] faith rests upon Christ's oneness with [you]**
 - You and Him live from a secured relationship ... You and Him live from a secured identity ... All who come to Him will be kept by Him ... Faith brings you in, and faith keeps you in ... Christ is our faithful companion and friend as we traverse thru the wilderness to the Promised Land