

TABERNACLES

Day 2 - Remembering the Wilderness

Introduction (to be read aloud by the patriarch)

The Feast of Tabernacles does not only celebrate God's provision; it forces us to *remember*. Day two turns our hearts back to the wilderness journey where Israel lived in tents, with no city walls, no farmland, and no stability of their own. It was a place of testing, of training, and of total dependence upon the Lord.

For forty years God's people walked as pilgrims. They ate manna they could not store. They drank water that came from a rock. Their clothes did not wear out, and their feet did not swell. In the wilderness, every detail of life depended upon the God who led them by a pillar of cloud and fire.

Remembering the wilderness teaches us that the booths we sit in today are not about pretending to be ancient campers. They are about confessing the same truth Israel lived: we are fully dependent upon God. The wilderness strips away illusion. You cannot trust your walls, your crops, or your wealth when you are surrounded by barren desert. You can only trust the One who covers you, feeds you, and keeps you.

As you sit in your sukkah today, remember that the wilderness was not a punishment but a preparation. God humbles His people so that He might strengthen them. He removes false security so that He might become their true refuge. He takes them through barrenness so that He might prove Himself as the source of all life.

Scripture Reading (KJV)

Exodus 16:2–4

2. And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.

3. And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.

4. Then said the Lord unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.

Exodus 17:5–6

5. And the Lord said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go.

6. Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

Deuteronomy 8:2–4

2. And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.

3. And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live.

4. Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years.

Nehemiah 9:19–21

19. Yet thou in thy manifold mercies forsookest them not in the wilderness: the pillar of the cloud departed not from them by day, to lead them in the way; neither the pillar of fire by night, to shew them light, and the way wherein they should go.

20. Thou gavest also thy good spirit to instruct them, and withheldst not thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them water for their thirst.

21. Yea, forty years didst thou sustain them in the wilderness, so that they lacked nothing; their clothes waxed not old, and their feet swelled not.

Psalm 78:23–25

23. Though he had commanded the clouds from above, and opened the doors of heaven,

24. And had rained down manna upon them to eat, and had given them of the corn of heaven.

25. Man did eat angels' food: he sent them meat to the full.

Psalm 105:39–41

39. He spread a cloud for a covering; and fire to give light in the night.

40. The people asked, and he brought quails, and satisfied them with the bread of heaven.

41. He opened the rock, and the waters gushed out; they ran in the dry places like a river.

Isaiah 63:11–14

11. Then he remembered the days of old, Moses, and his people, saying, Where is he that brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of his flock? where is he that put his holy Spirit within him?

12. That led them by the right hand of Moses with his glorious arm, dividing the water before them, to make himself an everlasting name?

13. That led them through the deep, as an horse in the wilderness, that they should not stumble?

14. As a beast goeth down into the valley, the Spirit of the Lord caused him to rest: so didst thou lead thy people, to make thyself a glorious name.

Matthew 4:1–4

1. *Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.*
 2. *And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.*
 3. *And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.*
 4. *But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*
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Hebrews 3:7–9

7. *Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,*
 8. *Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:*
 9. *When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.*
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Reflection

The wilderness reveals the heart. It exposes pride, unbelief, and dependence on the flesh. But it also magnifies the mercy of God. He gave bread from heaven, water from the rock, and His Spirit to instruct His people. He did not forsake them.

The Feast of Tabernacles reminds us that our strength is not in what we build or keep, but in the God who sustains us day by day. Just as Israel was humbled and tested, so we too must be reminded that we live not by bread alone, but by every word that comes from God's mouth. The sukkah is our classroom. It declares: "God is enough."

Family Application / Activities

- Eat a simple meal in the sukkah today that reminds you of dependence (such as bread and water).

- Share a story of a time when God provided for your family in a “wilderness season.”
 - Memorize *Deuteronomy 8:3* together.
 - Before bed, look at the night sky from the sukkah and thank God for being your covering.
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Discussion / Family Questions

For Young Children (Ages 5–8):

1. What food did God give Israel in the wilderness?
2. What did God give them to drink when there was no water?
3. Did their clothes and shoes wear out during the forty years?

For Older Children / Teens (Ages 9–15):

1. Why do you think God made Israel live in the wilderness for so long?
2. What lesson does manna teach us about trusting God every day?
3. How does Jesus in the wilderness show us the importance of God’s Word?

For Adults:

1. In what ways has God used “wilderness seasons” in your life to humble and strengthen you?
 2. How does the wilderness prepare God’s people for entering the Promised Land?
 3. What parallels do you see between Israel’s wilderness journey and the church today?
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Closing Prayer

Father of Mercy,

We remember the wilderness where You led Your people. We confess that without You we have nothing, but with You we lack nothing. Teach us to depend upon Your Word daily, as Israel depended on manna from heaven. Guard us from complaining hearts, and give us thankful spirits. May our families learn to trust You in times of lack, and to rejoice in Your faithful provision. As we dwell in our booths, may we never forget that You are the Rock who gives living water, and the Bread who comes down from heaven. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.