

# Deuteronomy 8:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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Moses commands Israel to 'remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness.' The Hebrew *zakar* (remember) means active, purposeful recollection that shapes present conduct. The wilderness experience served multiple purposes: humbling ('to humble thee'), testing ('to prove thee'), and revealing heart motives ('to know what was in thine heart'). The forty years weren't punishment alone but divine pedagogy—God training Israel for covenant faithfulness. The wilderness revealed whether Israel would 'keep his commandments, or no.'

## Historical Context

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The forty years fulfilled God's judgment on the unbelieving exodus generation (Numbers 14:26-35) but also prepared the second generation for Canaan's challenges. The wilderness tested Israel's faith through lack of water (Exodus 17; Numbers 20), complaints about food (Exodus 16; Numbers 11), and military threats (Exodus 17:8-16; Numbers 21). These trials revealed Israel's persistent rebellion but also God's persistent faithfulness. New Testament writers see the wilderness as typological—a pattern for Christian experience (1 Corinthians 10:1-13).

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How have your 'wilderness' experiences revealed your heart and tested your faith?
2. What has God been teaching you through seasons of difficulty and dependence?

## Interlinear Text

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וְזָכַרְתָּ	אֶת	כָּל	הַדָּרֶךְ	אֲשֶׁר	הוֹלִיכְךָ
And thou shalt remember	H853	H3605	all the way	H834	H1980
H2142			H1870		
בַּמִּדְבָּר	שָׁנָה	אַרְבָּעִים	זֶה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	יְהוָה
in the wilderness	years	thee these forty	thy God	which the LORD	
H4057	H8141	H705	H430	H3068	
אֲשֶׁר	אֶת	לְדַעַת	לְנִסּוֹתְךָ	עֲנִיבְךָ	לִפְנֵי
H834	H853	H3045	thee and to prove	to humble	H4616
			H5254	H6031	
לֹא:	אִם	מִצְוֹתָיו	הֲתִשָּׁמְרָה	בְּלִבְךָ	
H3808	H518	his commandments	whether thou wouldst keep	what was in thine heart	
		H4687	H8104	H3824	

## Additional Cross-References

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**James 1:3** (Parallel theme): Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

**1 Peter 1:7** (Parallel theme): That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

**Deuteronomy 8:16** (Parallel theme): Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;

**Exodus 16:4** (Word): 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.

**Deuteronomy 2:7** (References God): For the LORD thy God hath blessed thee in all the works of thy hand: he knoweth thy walking through this great wilderness: these forty years the LORD thy God hath been with thee; thou hast lacked nothing.

**Exodus 15:25** (References Lord): And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them,

**John 2:25** (Parallel theme): And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.

**2 Chronicles 32:31** (References God): Howbeit in the business of the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon, who sent unto him to enquire of the wonder that was done in the land, God left him, to try him, that he might know all that was in his heart.

**James 4:10** (References Lord): Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

**Deuteronomy 29:5** (Parallel theme): And I have led you forty years in the wilderness: your clothes are not waxen old upon you, and thy shoe is not waxen old upon thy foot.