

Ezekiel 20:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face.

Analysis

'And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face.' God promises new wilderness experience—not geographic wilderness but spiritual testing and purification. 'Plead with you face to face' recalls Sinai's covenant-making. This new wilderness will refine and restore, repeating the exodus pattern but accomplishing what the first wilderness failed to do: heart transformation.

Historical Context

The return from exile involved spiritual renewal under Ezra and Nehemiah—covenant renewal, Torah instruction, separation from mixed marriages. However, full transformation required the New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34, Ezekiel 36:26-27) inaugurated by Christ. The church's wilderness testing prepares for eschatological consummation.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What purpose do 'wilderness' seasons of testing serve in spiritual formation?
2. How does the New Covenant accomplish what the Old Covenant anticipated?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|-------|-------------------------|---------------|
| וְיִבְאֶת | יְמִינְךָ | אֶל | מִדְבָּר | בְּעֵמָה |
| And I will bring | H853 | H413 | you into the wilderness | of the people |
| | H935 | | H4057 | H5971 |
| וְיִשְׁפְּטֶת | פָּנִים | אֶל | פָּנִים | פָּנִים |
| and there will I plead | H854 | H8033 | to face | to face |
| H8199 | | H6440 | H413 | H6440 |

Additional Cross-References

Hosea 2:14 (Parallel theme): Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her.

Jeremiah 2:35 (Parallel theme): Yet thou sayest, Because I am innocent, surely his anger shall turn from me. Behold, I will plead with thee, because thou sayest, I have not sinned.

Ezekiel 19:13 (Parallel theme): And now she is planted in the wilderness, in a dry and thirsty ground.

Ezekiel 20:36 (Parallel theme): Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD.

Ezekiel 17:20 (Parallel theme): And I will spread my net upon him, and he shall be taken in my snare, and I will bring him to Babylon, and will plead with him there for his trespass that he hath trespassed against me.