

# 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

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'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

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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

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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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

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וְהֵבֵאתִי י	אֶל אֶתְּךָ מ	מִדְּבַר ר	הָעַמִּי ים
And I will bring	H853	H413	you into the wilderness of the people
H935		H4057	H5971
וְנִשְׁפָּטְתִּי י	אֶתְּכֶם	שׁ מ	פָּנִים: אֶל פָּנִים:
and there will I plead	H854	H8033	to face H413 to face
H8199		H6440	H6440

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.