

Psalm 55:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Lo, then would I wander far off, and remain in the wilderness.
Selah.

Analysis

The wilderness represented both refuge and divine testing in Israel's theology. David's desire echoes Elijah's flight (1 Kings 19) yet God's providence often keeps His servants in the furnace of affliction for sanctification. The 'Selah' pause invites meditation on God's purposes in allowing prolonged trials.

Historical Context

David had extensive wilderness experience during Saul's persecution, living in the caves of En Gedi and the strongholds of Judah. The wilderness was both a place of divine provision and testing in Israel's collective memory.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What might God be accomplishing through your current 'wilderness' that escape would prevent?
2. How does Christ's wilderness temptation inform your understanding of spiritual testing?

Interlinear Text

סָלהּ: בְּמִדְבָּר וְאֶלְעָזָר הַבָּנָה
Selah: in the wilderness and remain Lo then would I wander far off

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Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 9:2 (Parallel theme): Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring men; that I might leave my people, and go from them! for they be all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men.

Jeremiah 37:12 (Parallel theme): Then Jeremiah went forth out of Jerusalem to go into the land of Benjamin, to separate himself thence in the midst of the people.

2 Samuel 15:14 (Parallel theme): And David said unto all his servants that were with him at Jerusalem, Arise, and let us flee; for we shall not else escape from Absalom: make speed to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly, and bring evil upon us, and smite the city with the edge of the sword.

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