

GOD SPEAKS IN THE DESERT EXPERIENCE

Deuteronomy 2:7

by Dr. Abri Brancken, 29 Oct 2017

INTRODUCTION

The authors of the Bible were desert people. They felt comfortable in the desert. For them, the desert was a comfortable place. They were used to it and therefore they use many illustrations from the desert to communicate truth to us. It is no coincidence that more than half of the pictures used in the Bible are desert pictures.

DESERT PLACE EXPERIENCE

Christians often refer to having a “desert experience”. We use the term to describe a difficult season or period in our lives, in which the blessings of God seem absent. We even pray that God would keep us out of a spiritual “desert place”. We all want to be on the mountaintop where we have more than enough and where we can relax. A desert experience for most Christians are negative. But, this does not have to be that way. There are many blessings to being in a desert place. Let me share something about the desert that you might not have known.

THE DESERT / “MIDBAR”

Hebrew is a root language. The word for desert in Hebrew is **מדבר** midbār (mid-bawr).

The word for ‘word’ (speech) in Hebrew is **דָּבָר** davar (daw-baw’). Davar (word, speech) is the root word for desert (Midbar). The implication is that the desert is also a place of speaking. Because of this, the Hebrews believed that if you want to hear God’s voice, you go to the desert.

Here is an example of a Scripture verse where you find the word ‘word’ and ‘desert’ in.

Numbers 1:1

Num 1:1 “And Jehovah spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai”

וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה בְּמִדְבַּר סִינַי

way-dab-bêr Yah-weh 'el-mō-šeh be-mid-bar sî-nay

The ‘desert’ is a place of ‘speaking’. You can expect to hear God’s Word speaking to you in the desert because the two are connected at the root.

JESUS IS THE LIVING WORD

Davar (Word) directly correlates to Jesus (Yeshua) for it is the Hebrew equivalent to the Greek word “Logos” found in John chapter 1.

John 1: 1

“In the beginning was the Word (Logos in Greek). The Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

("Bereishit hayah hadavar. V'davar haya et haElohim, vElohim hayah hadavar.")

Jesus (Yeshua) is "Hadavar Elohim", the Word of God.

THE FIRST FIVE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

The fourth book of the Bible is Numbers, called B'midbar in Hebrew. The fifth book of the Bible, Deuteronomy is called "Davarium" (Words) in Hebrew.

Genesis - B'reshet (In the beginning)

Exodus - Shemot (Names)

Leviticus - V'yakra (And He Called)

Numbers - B'midbar (In the Desert)

Deuteronomy - Devarim (Words)

In the desert God gave the Israelites His instructions (10 commandments).

JESUS TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL

In the Gospel of Luke we read in chapter 4 how Jesus fasted for 40 days in the desert (midbar). Three times Satan tries to tempt Jesus. He responds only one way. He uses "Hadavar Elohim" (the Word of God).

QUESTION:

Which book does Jesus quote from all three times?

ANSWER:

Deuteronomy - Devarim (Words)

THINK ABOUT THIS

Just think about this for a moment:

Jesus, the LIVING WORD (Davar HaChaim)...

is in the DESERT (Midbar)...

He uses the WORD OF GOD (Hadavar Elohim)...

Quoting specifically from the book of Deuteronomy (Davarium)...
to defeat the Devil!!

1. If you are in a wilderness or desert place, remember that it is in the MIDBAR that God DABAR.

2. If you are in a wilderness or desert place and the enemy comes against you, use God's Word (Hadavar Elohim) just like Jesus did.

If you are finding yourself in a "desert" time of your life, take heart. God often speaks in the desert. He will lead you to calm and peaceful waters where you can drink without fearing sudden destruction from dangerous water.

CONCLUSION

The only means that we have of resisting the Devil is the Word of God. It therefore goes without saying I suppose that one must be renewing their mind in God's Word on a daily basis so that when the enemy does come against them they know what part of Scripture to use against the Devil.