

## **Out of *Bamidbar* (In the Desert)**

Are there benefits from problems that were encountered in the desert experience? Absolutely! There must be benefits if the Believer's Life is filled with conflicts and problems otherwise God would not allow them. Most of us want quick solutions to our problems, but God wants to make sure that all His disciplines for character development in us, and those around us, are accomplished *before* He removes the problems He allows in our lives. He is also more concerned that the right procedure be followed in solving the problems than the problems are actually resolved. It is the process of solving our problems that constitutes the most meaningful chapters of our life message and becomes the greatest help to other people. We should also remember that God writes last chapters. We want to get out from under the pressure of our problems, but God wants to use that pressure to motivate us to a greater level of spiritual maturity than we would otherwise have achieved. Often our present problems are the results of past disobedience to the initial promptings of the Holy Spirit. Now God is using these problems to apply pressure for *complete* obedience. If we fail to gain these benefits from our present problems we force God to raise-up a whole new set of problems with *greater* pressure than the present set.

### ***The Benefit of More Grace from God***

The success in our life is entirely related to how much grace (which is the desire and power to do God's Will) God gives us (see Phil. 2:13). Paul prayed asked for grace to be multiplied in every Believer. How do we receive this grace? There is only one way – by humbling ourselves (Jas. 4:6). Nothing is more humbling than experiencing conflicts we cannot solve, especially when these are displayed in the presence of our neighbors, friends and family. But this is precisely the very experience that God uses to break our pride and arrogance by giving us His grace, which is more than *sufficient* for us.

### ***The Benefit of Self-Examination***

God requires that we maintain a periodic program of self-examination since *“<sup>31</sup> For if we were judging ourselves thoroughly, we wouldn't be coming under judgment”* (1 Cor. 11:31). When things are going well for us we are not easily motivated to do any self-judging. But when a major conflict arises and our spirit is grieved, we have the most effective motivation available to search out the inner motives, actions, words and attitude of the heart since all of those will be judged by *Yeshua*, so *“corrective discipline is the way of life”* (Pro. 6:23).

### ***The Benefit of New Insights in Scripture***

Vast areas of Scripture will never be meaningful to us unless we go through the experiences for which they were designed to give insight. For this reason God allowed *all* of His servants in Scripture to experience problems (e.g., Job), and it is for this very reason that we must go through them also. *“You are repulsed at my rebuke. Behold, I pour out my heart to you. I will make my words known to you”* (Prov. 1:23). Is there a better reason why Psalms and Proverbs ought to be part of our daily disciplines (e.g., five Psalms and one Proverb for every day)?

### ***The Benefit of Unifying Our Families***

The foundation of our nation is the family. When a family begins pulling apart, God often allows a family member to experience problems they cannot resolve. God intends for this problem to motivate the family to pull together. Together the family should *commit* these kinds of problems to the Lord and *ask* for His blessing on the particular family member with the problem and on the *entire* family.

### ***The Benefit of Unifying the Congregation***

When a problem is bigger than one family can solve, it is God's intention that it be shared (without unnecessary details) with the leaders of the congregation and then its members. As the congregation becomes concerned about a problem that threatens one of its families, the other families will be drawn together by prayer and the Spirit of God. In this way a family's problems can be used as a means of cleansing and purifying (e.g., *removing spots and wrinkles by the washing of the Word*, see Eph. 5:26-27) and raising the level of spiritual maturity in every other family in *Yeshua's* congregation.

**Having come out of the desert it is time to enjoy the benefits of such an experience. *Shabbat Shalom!***