

40 Days in the Desert – April 27, 2022

Numbers can have a spiritual meaning in the Bible.

40 represents trial, testing, judgment or preparation:

1 - Noah's flood –Gen 7:12 - rain fell for 40 days & 40 nights. **Judgment.**

2 – Moses kills Egyptian, fled to Midian, spent 40 yrs in the desert tending flocks - Acts 7:30. **Preparation**

3 - Moses receives Tablets –Ex 24:18 – Moses went up Mount Sinai and stayed there 40 days & 40 nights.” **Preparation.**

4 - Moses receives new Tablets –Ex 34:28 - Moses was with the Lord 40 days & 40 nights w/o eating bread or drinking water. **Preparation.**

5 - 12 spies explore Canaan –Num 13:25 – 40 days they explored the land. **Preparation & Testing.**

6 - **Judgment** - Num 14:34 – God punished the people for 40 years—one year for each of the 40 days Canaan was explored.

7 - Goliath challenged Israel for 40 days –1 Sam 17:16. **Testing**

8 - Elijah prepared to meet God - 1 Kgs 19:8 – Angel brought him food, Strengthened by that food, he traveled 40 days & 40 nights to reach Horeb, the mountain of God. **Preparation.**

9 - Jesus temptation –Mt 4:2 – Fasted 40 days & 40 nights. **Preparation. Testing, too,** but afterwards.

10 – Post-resurrection. Jesus appeared to the disciples over a period of 40 days. **Acts 1:3. Preparation.**

You may be going thru a period of 40 days right now. It's a **season.**

Seasons come & go. It will pass... but – understand it's purpose.

Whether tested - or prepared- it's for what God's going to do!

Testing period. Will you have faith? Believe God? Moses missed PL.

The testing of our faith makes us mature and complete. **James 1:3-4**

Heb. 11:17 – “By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac on the altar.” What’s more important to you? Is God 1st place? Pushed aside?

Testing allows us to Know - God is bigger than our giant.

Giants taunt us; Inaction haunts us. Lord is my Shepherd; shall not **want**.

Rise up. Be Courageous. Strong. Get in the Word, let it get in you.

Preparation period.

When you’re being prepared, it’s b/c something great will happen.

Fasting 40 days & 40 nights (Moses, Elijah & Jesus) prepared the way for miracles, amazing moments, breakthrough.

Preparation period explains the **Target**. Enemy not happy.

Enemy knows God uses ordinary people...

When facing that test, know: you have a defender who gives you strength.

Zecariah 12:8 - “On that day the Lord will defend the people of Jerusalem; the weakest among them will be as mighty as King David!

There is no battle to great for you to face. You aren’t alone.

Sometimes our **40 Days** take us thru the fire. It’s a **Refiner’s Fire**.

Isaiah 48:10 – “Behold, I have refined you, but not with silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.” It has a **purpose**.

Malachi 3:3 – “He will purify the sons of Levi & refine them like gold & silver”

Refiner’s fire melts down metal (gold or silver) for purification purposes.

In melted state, **dross** in metal rises to top; then removed

Refiner’s fire doesn’t destroy the metal; allows junk to be removed.

Refiner’s fire makes the metal better & more valuable.

God draws out our dross – our broken ways, our anger, selfish, pride...

How we **handle** our time in the Desert is important. Complain/gain?

Our witness is also in the testing, the preparation. What does yours say?

[Song of the week](#) – “Refiner’s Fire”