

Questions About Biblical Warning to Flee to Wilderness During End Times

By Pastor Ed Anderson

I am watching your revelation seminar, you said that we are in the end times. So where does it say in Revelation that we need to move to the country or out in the country before the end of the world?

Answer:

Absolutely. Here is a fully rewritten and expanded version of your request, incorporating **biblical examples, historical context, and prophetic themes**—showing how God consistently calls His people to **flee into the wilderness** for preservation, preparation, and spiritual protection.

Fleeing Into the Wilderness: God’s Pattern for His People

Throughout Scripture and history, we see a consistent theme: when **persecution arises**, God calls His people to **flee** from danger — often into the **wilderness, mountains, or remote places** — to preserve their faith and prepare for a greater purpose.

Biblical Examples of Fleeing into the Wilderness

1. Lot Fled from Sodom

Genesis 19:17 – *“Escape for thy life; look not behind thee... escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.”*

God sent angels to rescue Lot and his family from the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah before destruction fell. Lot was urged to flee to the mountains — a **literal escape from urban destruction**.

2. Moses Fled to the Wilderness of Midian

Exodus 2:15 – *“But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian.”*

Before becoming a deliverer, Moses spent **40 years in the wilderness**. God used this time to **humble him, train him, and prepare him** for leadership. The wilderness became his **classroom of faith**.

3. Elijah Fled to the Brook Cherith and Mount Horeb

1 Kings 17:3 – *“Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith.”*

1 Kings 19:4, 8 – Elijah also fled into the wilderness and Mount Horeb during persecution from Jezebel.

Elijah’s time in the wilderness brought him **miraculous provision**, deepened his relationship with God, and positioned him to **stand boldly** before kings.

4. David Hid in Caves and the Wilderness from Saul

1 Samuel 23:14 – *“And David abode in the wilderness... and Saul sought him every day, but God delivered him not into his hand.”*

David, though anointed king, had to **flee to the wilderness** repeatedly to escape unjust persecution.

5. Jesus in the Wilderness

Matthew 4:1 – *“Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.”*

Before launching His public ministry, even Jesus withdrew into the wilderness for **spiritual victory and preparation**.

6. Early Christians Fled Jerusalem in 66 A.D.

Matthew 24:15-16 – *“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation... then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains.”*

When Roman armies surrounded Jerusalem, Christians **heeded Christ’s warning** and fled to **Pella**, a city in the hills. Not one Christian reportedly perished in the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

The Woman (Church) Fled into the Wilderness — Revelation’s Great Prophecy

Revelation 12:6 – “*And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God...*”

Revelation 12:14 – “*...that she might fly into the wilderness... where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.*”

- The “**woman**” in Bible prophecy represents God’s **faithful church** (see Jeremiah 6:2; 2 Corinthians 11:2).
- During the 1,260 years of papal persecution (538–1798 A.D.), the true church fled to **remote places**: the **Alps, wildernesses, and hidden valleys** (e.g., the **Waldensians, Huguenots, Anabaptists**).
- These faithful believers preserved **Bible truth** while hiding from persecution. Revelation shows this is part of God’s divine plan for survival.

Why Flee the Cities in the Last Days?

While the Bible doesn’t say “*Thou shalt move to the country,*” the **principle** is deeply woven through God’s word:

- **Cities become centers of compromise, false worship, and eventual enforcement of unjust laws** (Revelation 13).
- **Country living** allows for:
 - Clearer minds, healthier living, and spiritual reflection.
 - Freedom to teach children godly values.
 - Greater self-sufficiency when **economic restrictions** (Rev. 13:17) are imposed.

Spirit of Prophecy Confirms the Call

“As the siege of Jerusalem by the Roman armies was the signal for flight to the Judean Christians, so the assumption of power... enforcing the papal sabbath will be a warning to us. It will then be time to leave the large cities.”

— *Ellen White, Testimonies, Vol. 5, p. 464*

“The cities are filled with temptation. We should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise.”

— *Country Living, p. 31*

Final Takeaway: God Calls His People to Safety — and Mission

- The **wilderness is not a place of retreat from mission**, but a place of **preparation for greater service**.

- In the final conflict, God will again call His remnant to flee from danger—not to hide in fear, but to **stand in faith**, **live simply**, and **shine brightly** when others are looking for truth.