

## International House of Prayer of Greater Fort Wayne

...a day and night , city-wide, multi-church prayer and worship ministry

### In the Desert with Angels and Beasts

In 2007 I was surprised to receive an invitation to travel to Arizona to conduct a wedding for the daughter of friends that Denise and I had not seen in years. Following the wedding we arranged to stay in the state a few more days so I could take Denise for her first visit to the Grand Canyon. I grew up in Colorado so I had visited the Canyon when I was much younger but seeing it again did not disappoint! What was different than the last time I had visited the Canyon as an 18 year old was the National Park tram system. It was put in place to reduce vehicle congestion and pollution in the park. While on this system we noticed warnings to tourist who would attempt to hike the canyon unprepared, plastered in every car. Here is the placard that we saw over and over. "Over 250 people are rescued from the depths of the Canyon every year...most of them look like him." 'He' was a strapping young man. While we did not have the time or the plans to hike into the Canyon this placard gave us reason to pause....even if I was still in my 40's at the time.

As amazing as the natural beauty of the Grand Canyon is, it remains a desert filled with hazards like dehydration, hypothermia, rock falls, flash flooding, hike falls and watch this -one of the largest causes of injuries in the park, squirrel bites! Beauty and the Beast....sorry I could not resist.

In Mark 1 Jesus is baptized and hears His Fathers voice saying, "That is my beloved Son. I am delighted in Him." Then look at vs 12-13: He is '**compelled**', driven by the Spirit into the desert. Driven to the place most of us rightly associate with danger, disappointment, despair, and even death. The desert is the place we warn one another about - the place we naturally avoid. **In the desert Jesus reveals life that is not found in human ability, achievement, or empire. Jesus goes into the desert to be tempted and tested in His humanity to reveal life in the Promise of the Father! A promise that He has given us.**

Exodus 15-16 begins the story of God's people in the desert. Two things occur. Here are these former slaves delivered from Pharaoh's army carrying the wealth of Egypt in their arms into the desert and 3 days pass with no water ( just about the length of time a human can last without water) and God provides water. Then about 40 days later they have a new problem....no food! Who is did the planning here? All the gold of Egypt could not help them in the desert and then God provides again with manna from heaven.

The desert was the place of reorientation for God's people. The place that God revealed an economy that is different. He proves that He is able to provide security, significance, and belonging as they learn to live in this place of connection with His Promise. He provides water, food, rest, and then proclaims Ex 19:5-6 'You will be my own possession among all the peoples of the earth...a Kingdom of priests and a Holy Nation.' God's people did not know who they were - all they had ever known was a system of Power ruled by Empire. Then God begins to reveal a different Government. He is inviting His people to begin to understand their relationship to God and one another in the manner He always intended - like in the Garden where God positions man in a place where He says you are cared for, you can rest, you are significant, you are my image bearers.

Jesus descends into the wilderness with Wild Beasts and Angels...Jesus enters the space that man was forced to exist because of sin - wild beasts exist where there is no security, no belonging, no significance - the place where many have been overcome by the wild beasts of the desert. Interesting in the Revelation John sees a Beast that represents the Anti Christ, a perversion of the Savior, that rises up in demonic power against the Church.

(To hear this entire message visit our website)

5907 W. Wallen Rd. Fort Wayne, IN 46818  
Phone: 260-403-4948 Email: ben@bouwersfam.com

And the secret is simply this: **Christ in you!**

Yes, Christ in you bringing with him the hope of all glorious things to come. Col 1:27b, JB Phillips

He was in the desert with wild beasts - I believe this is a picture of all that wars against the human heart and the destiny of man to live in relationship and representation of the heart of God. Jesus comes out of the desert temptations with His heart anchored in the Promises of God. The three basic needs that God provides in the Garden - Security, Significance, and Belonging are the same three things Satan directly temps Jesus with in the desert - Appetite, Ambition, and Affirmation. Jesus keeps His heart settled in the Promise of the Father. He is with beasts of temptation but angels minister to Him as well. Jesus reveals Power that has nothing to do with dominance and strength over others. He reveals Power as a result of living connected to the Promises of the Father. Power that gives life away. Power that is revealed in un-controlling and empowering Love. Power that overcomes sin, hell, death, and the grave -on a Cross.

Here are a few observations I would offer:

- **The Desert is a real place.** It's a place all of us will encounter as we face temptation in looking to find security, significance, and belonging outside of the Promises of the Father's heart.
- **Wild Beasts still exist.** What I am talking about are all the perversions and caricatures of Truth. In John's epistles you will hear him declare the existence of plural Antichrists that have gone out into the world. Systems of thought and living that are not aligned to the Truth of Jesus Christ. **I submit that the Beasts Mark is referring to not just wild animals but the same systems of thought ( rulers and principalities) that are warring against Jesus in the Desert.** Both Matthew and Luke clarify that these temptations begin with 'Truth' and end in a 'Lie'. So when I say Wild Beasts still exist I am not just talking about a temptation to do something bad. I am talking about the way that hell wars against the sons and daughters of God by **taking something that begins in Truth and ends in a Lie.** Perverted agendas that attach the idea of freedom to works, striving, and man's accomplishments! **How does it behave - watch this- by 'using truth' to intimidate, manipulate, and control! When truth is being used to coerce, force, and control - you are likely facing a beast.**
- **Finally we do NOT have to be ruled by Beasts!** Beloved a life of worship and rest can exist *in* the desert! Father in a world gone mad - You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies!

**In the desert Jesus reveals life that is not found in human ability, achievement, or empire. Jesus goes into the desert to be tempted and tested in His humanity to reveal life in the Promises of the Father!**



**Join Us As we Pray for our City, Nation, World**

- Thursday 6—7 am—phone call meeting. Contact Ben @ 260-403-4948 to join.
- Friday—7pm
- On Zoom—833 669 278

With gratitude and integrity we steward your gifts. Thank you for partnering with the mission the Lord has given us in this hour as we partner with Him in His kingdom purposes.

Please make your **tax deductible** contribution to:

**IHOP Fort Wayne  
5907 West Wallen Road,  
Fort Wayne, IN 46818**

Ben and Denise, Please agree with us over these prayer needs for the next month...

---



---



---



---



---

5907 W. Wallen Rd. Fort Wayne, IN 46818  
Phone: 260-403-4948 Email: ben@bouwersfam.com

And the secret is simply this: **Christ in you!**

Yes, Christ in you bringing with him the hope of all glorious things to come. Col 1:27b, JB Phillips