

## Meeting God in the Deserts of Life

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*O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.*

**Psalm 63:1-8 (NIV)**

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*

**Galatians 6:9 (NIV)**

*"Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her. There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. There she will sing as in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up out of Egypt. In that day," declares the Lord, "you will call me 'my husband'; you will no longer call me 'my master.' I will remove the names of the Baals from her lips; no longer will their names be invoked. In that day I will respond," declares the Lord—"I will respond to the skies, and they will respond to the earth; and the earth will respond to the grain, the new wine and oil, and they will respond to [my people]."*

**Hosea 2:14-23 (NIV)**

*A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."*

**Isaiah 40:3-5 (NIV)**

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*Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs.*

**Jonah 2:8 (NIV)**

*They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves.*

**2 Kings 17:15 (NIV)**

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*In the desert prepare the way for the Lord . . . And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.*

**Isaiah 40:3,5 (NIV)**