

In the Wilderness

2 Kings 3

The Heavenly Doctrine gives us many spiritual meanings for the word “wilderness”. Each meaning has to do with the story in which “wilderness” is mentioned. Each meaning tells us about the spiritual condition of the church.

There are many kinds of wildernesses, but they all have some things in common. It is hard for vegetation to grow there. Few animals can live there. There is little water or food. Few, if any people live there. Travel is very difficult.

The wildernesses in the Word were probably very rocky or sandy, with little water or vegetation, and only a few towns where people could obtain supplies.

Do you remember other stories from the Word in which a wilderness played a key part? List some of these below.

In the chart below, read some meanings of wildernesses then write a reason why you think wildernesses might have that meaning in the Word. Think of what you know about the spiritual meanings for water, food, trees, life, etc. What is the one word that all the meanings have within them? Why do you think that is?

Meaning in the Doctrine	Reason for that meaning?
The truths of the Word have been twisted and used for evil purposes— made false.	
There are no truths because the Word is not present with the people.	
Temptations—the strong desire to do something wrong because of a lack of the truth.	
No goodness—therefore no truth.	
Obscurity—inability to see the truth very well.	