



Hope in a Cave

August 17-18, 2019

Hope is having the confidence that God is in control of life and my life, and no matter what happens, good or bad, He's in charge and I will be OK.

When the victorious Israelite army was returning home after David had killed the Philistine, women from all the towns of Israel came out to meet King Saul. They sang and danced for joy with tambourines and cymbals. This made Saul very angry. "What's this?" he said. "They credit David with ten thousands and me with only thousands. Next they'll be making him their king!" So from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David. 1 Samuel 18:6-9

Everybody who has anything to do with God will spend time in the 'wilderness'.

You are my hiding place... Psalm 32

Guard my life and rescue me; let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you. Psalm 25:20

In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame. Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue; be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me. Psalm 31:1-2

Not only was David running FOR his life, he was also running TO his life.

Saul was told, "David is in the Desert of En Gedi." So Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Crags of the Wild Goats. "Now's your opportunity!" David's men whispered to him. "Today the LORD is telling you, 'I will certainly put your enemy into your power, to do with as you wish.'" 1 Samuel 24:4a

So David crept forward and cut off a piece of the hem of Saul's robe. 1 Samuel 24:4



Circumstances, good or bad, rarely determine God's will and direction for me.

Revenge is never God's will.

Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the LORD. Instead, "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads." Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good. Romans 12:19-21

Saul called back, "Is that really you, my son David?" Then he began to cry. And he said to David, "You are a better man than I am, for you have repaid me good for evil. Who else would let his enemy get away when he had him in his power? May the LORD reward you well for the kindness you have shown me today. 1 Samuel 24:16-19

Talk it Over! Questions to bounce around with your life group and accountability partner...'

What is a 'wilderness time'? Let each person share their 'wilderness experience' with God. What did you learn through this and how did you grow?

Do circumstances ever reveal God's will for a life? What are the upsides and downsides of that? What is a surer way to figuring out what God wants you to do?

Why get God involved in revenge? Is there a time when you "gave it to God?"

Even though Jesus died for me, I am holding against ____ the treatment he or she has given to me. God, please forgive me and help me to forgive _____. I ask you to free me to do this.