



On The Move

**Timing, Patience
and *Wilderness Spaces***

EXODUS 2:11-15 (NIV)

One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labour. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. Looking this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, “Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?”

The man said, “Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?” Then Moses was afraid and thought, “What I did must have become known.”

When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well.

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Image from: God's Big Picture Bible Storybook,
N T Wright (author), Helena Pêrez Garcia
(illustrator), (Tommy Nelson, 2024)



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ACTS 7:23 (J. B. PHILLIPS)

“Now when he was turned forty the thought came into his mind that he should go and visit his own brothers, the sons of Israel.”

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“He knew God’s will. But the problem was, he did not bother to seek God’s way and God’s timing. Instead Moses began to carry out that plan according to Moses’ way and Moses’ schedule.”

CHARLES SWINDOLL

‘Moses: A Man of Selfless Dedication’ (1999)

EXODUS 2:12 (NIV)

“Looking this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand....”

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GALATIANS 4:4 (NLT)

But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman,
subject to the law.

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- Patience reflects who God is.
- Jesus shows us what patience looks like.
- Patience means letting go of control.
- Patience doesn't rush.
- Patience turns things upside down.
- Patience rejects violence.
- Patience leaves space for freedom.
- Patience is full of hope.

(Adapted from: '*The Patient Ferment of the Early Church*' Alan Kreider, 2016)

midbār (desert or wilderness)

(מִדְבָּר)

dābar (to speak)

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- Does God know?
- Does God see?
- Does God care?

GENESIS 16:7-8 (NLT)

The angel of the Lord found Hagar beside a spring of water in the wilderness, along the road to Shur. The angel said to her, “Hagar, Sarai’s servant, where have you come from, and where are you going?”

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MATTHEW 4:1 (ESV)

“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.”

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“The main thing God gets out of our life is the person we become”
DALLAS WILLARD

“Streams in the Desert and Wells of Living Water” (2004 speech at Baylor University).

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The lesson of obscurity.

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“From God’s perspective, anonymous seasons are sacred spaces. They are quite literally formative; to be rested in, not rushed through – and most definitely not regretted. Unapplauded, but not unproductive: hidden years are the surprising birthplace of true spiritual greatness.”

ALICIA BRITT CHOLE

‘Anonymous’ (2006, p. 13)

The lesson of solitude.

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The lesson of discomfort.

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JAMES 1:2-4 (MSG)

Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colours. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.

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“If we do not deal with our issues in this season, they will deal with
and to us, in another season.”

DON BARRY

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