

Sermon Outline: Rest in the Savior

Series: The Formation Code (Part 1) **Scripture Focus:** Exodus 17:1–7; Hosea 2:14–20; 1 Corinthians 10:1–4

I. The Vision: Resurrecting the City

- The ultimate goal of "The Formation Code" series is to see God **resurrect cities** across the Dallas metroplex.
- Resurrection looks like marriages reconciled, the healing of the sick, the return of prodigals, and the church stepping into the gap for the fatherless and single mothers.
- While full restoration happens in eternity, God gives us **glimpses of the resurrected kingdom** now through His grace.

II. The Purpose of the Wilderness

- **The Sea of Salvation:** Just as Israel crossed the Red Sea, believers are delivered out of the "slavery of sin" and into the light of Christ.
- **The In-Between:** God takes us into the wilderness to be **alone with Him** before entering the "Promised Land" of resurrected cities.
- **The Goal of the Wilderness Season:**
 - To eliminate the "desires and patterns of Egypt" (the old life) still lingering in our hearts.
 - To produce **holiness, righteousness, and victory** through faith.
 - To move from **unbelief and fear** (the report of the first spies) to **faith** (the report of Joshua).

III. Rephidim: Finding Rest in Dry Places

- In Exodus 17:1, the congregation camped at **Rephidim**, which means "**resting places**".
- **A Place Without Noise:** The wilderness is a desolate place without "trees or birds" to entertain us; it is a season to **say no to worldly entertainment** and yes to the voice of God.
- **The Temptation of Withdrawal:** Thirst in the wilderness is a natural response to withdrawal from the "onions and leeks" of Egypt; however, it often leads to **unbelief and pride-filled accusations** against God.

IV. The Lawsuit Against God

- **The Quarrel (Reeb):** The Israelites didn't just complain; the Hebrew word *reeb* suggests they were conducting a **legal lawsuit** against Moses and God.
- **The Test (Naka):** They put God "on trial," questioning, "**Is the Lord among us or not?**".
- **The Source of Rebellion:** Fear of death and a lack of faith lead us to accuse God of bringing us into the light only to let us suffer.

V. The Struck Rock: Grace Flowing from Judgment

- **The Instrument of Death:** Moses' staff, which struck the Nile for judgment, was used to strike the Rock.
- **The Substitute:** God stood on the Rock at Horeb and commanded Moses to strike it.
- **Christ our Rock:** 1 Corinthians 10:4 confirms that **the Rock was Christ**. Christ was "struck and punished" so that **living water**—the Holy Spirit—could flow into our hearts.
- **The Response:** Like the Samaritan woman, when the Holy Spirit reveals our sin, our response should be to **confess, drop our "jugs," and testify** to His goodness.

Conclusion: Entering the 2026 Wilderness

- God is **alluring us into the wilderness** to speak tenderly to us and restore our intimacy with Him.
 - The invitation for 2026 is to **rest one-on-one with Jesus**, believing that He is near even in the dry seasons.
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Congregational Worksheet: Rest in the Savior

1. Personal Reflection: The "Egypt" in Me The Israelites often craved the "onions and leeks" of Egypt, forgetting the slavery they were delivered from.

- *What worldly comforts or "entertainments" have become a distraction from your relationship with God?*
- _____

2. Word Study: Rephidim and Reeb

- **Rephidim** means _____.
- **Reeb** (quarrel) actually refers to bringing a _____ against someone.
- *Are you currently "on trial" with God? What is the primary accusation you find yourself making against Him during difficult times?*
- _____

3. The Allure of the Wilderness (Hosea 2:14-20) According to the sermon, God "allures" us into the wilderness not to punish us, but to speak _____ to us.

- *How does viewing the wilderness as a "tender conversation" change your perspective on your current struggles?*
- _____

4. The Rock and the Water The sermon notes that the same staff used for judgment (the Nile) was used to strike the Rock (Christ) so that we could receive _____.

- **Bible Study:** Look up one of these "Rock" verses mentioned: *Psalm 85:15-16, Psalm 95:8, Psalm 105:41, or Psalm 114:7-8.*
 - *What does this verse tell you about God's provision?*
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5. Commitment for 2026 The goal for 2026 is to "rest with the Savior" and experience **Emmanuel (God with us)**.

- *What is one specific "Sabbath" practice (resting to recall God's character) you can implement this week?*
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Key Memory Verse: *"Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink."* — **Exodus 17:6**