2 CORINTHIANS

Trusting in a God who raises the dead

Our Passage

- **2 Corinthians 1:8-11** For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came *to us* in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; 9 indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves in order that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; 10 who delivered us from so great a *peril of* death, and will deliver *us*, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us, 11 you also joining in helping us through your prayers, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed upon us through
the prayers of many.



Pay Attention



2 Corinthians 1:8
For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction…

Affliction

1) a pressing, pressing together, pressure

2) metaph. oppression, affliction, tribulation, distress, straits

Paul's life – His Afflictions

Are they servants of Christ?-- I speak as if insane-- I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death. 24 Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine *lashes*. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. 26 *I have been* on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from *my* countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; 27 *I have been* in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. 28 Apart from *such* external things, there is the daily pressure on me *of* concern for all the churches.

2 Corinthians 11:23-28

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Extent of His Afflictions
Paul's own description

1. Burdened excessively - "weighed down/down"
2. Beyond our strength – "exceeding his power or ability"
3. Despaired of life – "utterly at a loss"
4. Sentence of death – " no answer"

Beyond our ability

- “And I'm telling you, folks, that's one of His great purposes in our trials is to take us to the limit and beyond the limit where we have no power to fix it. We can't do anything. …

John MacArthur

2 CORINTHIANS

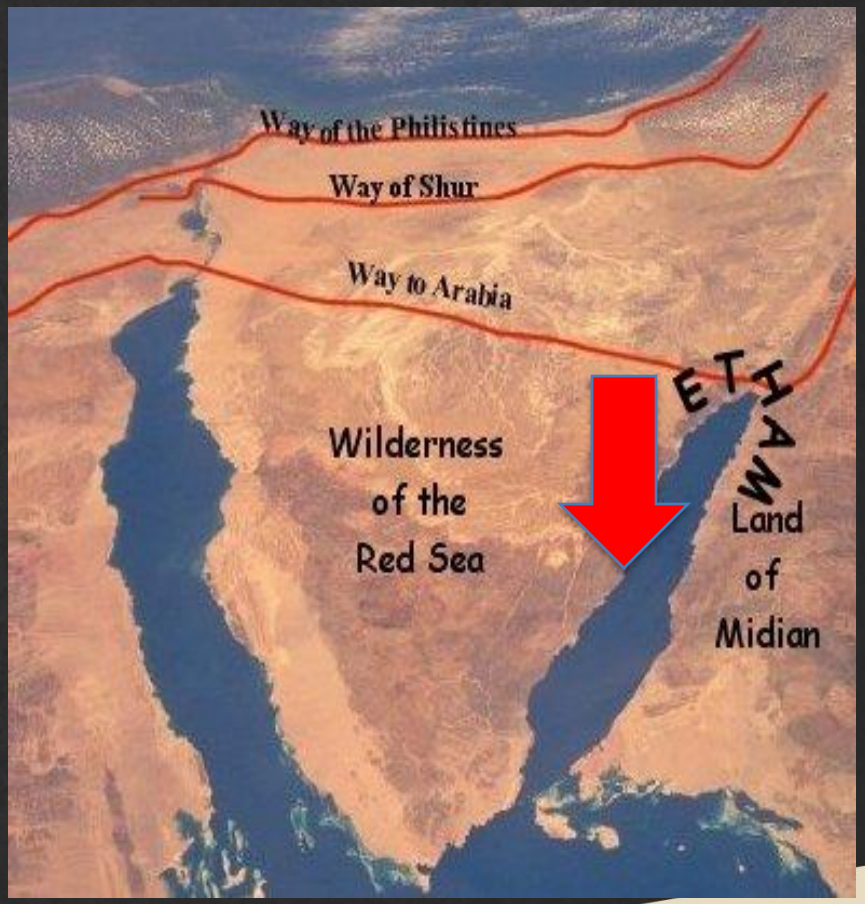


Mrs. S escaped the tsunami in her car. Her husband was in the hospital in Sendai. He got out a month after the tsunami and returned to a ruined house, but is too weak to do any work on it. Mrs. S said she wishes she had been swept away with the tsunami

2 CORINTHIANS

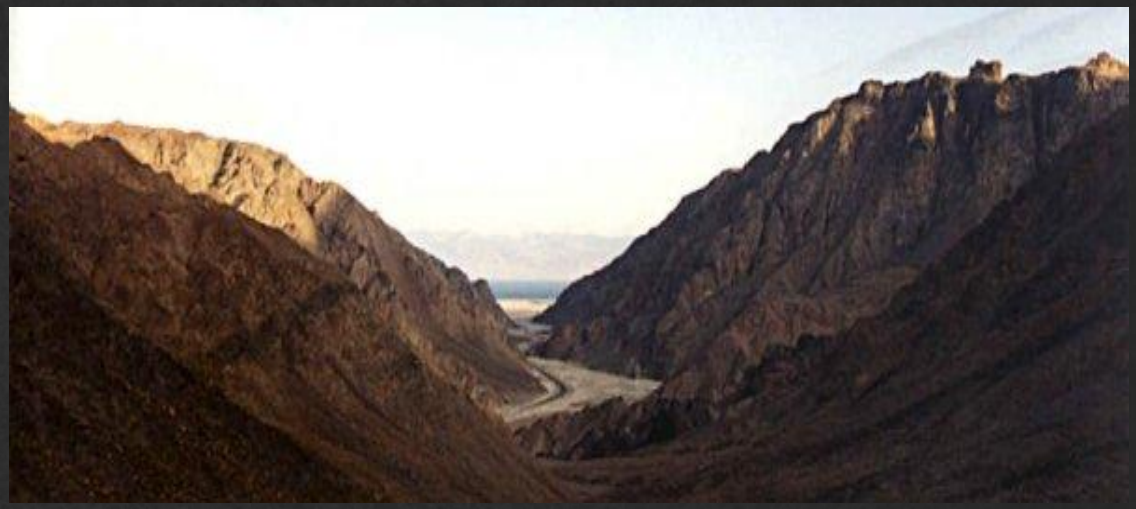
Led into …

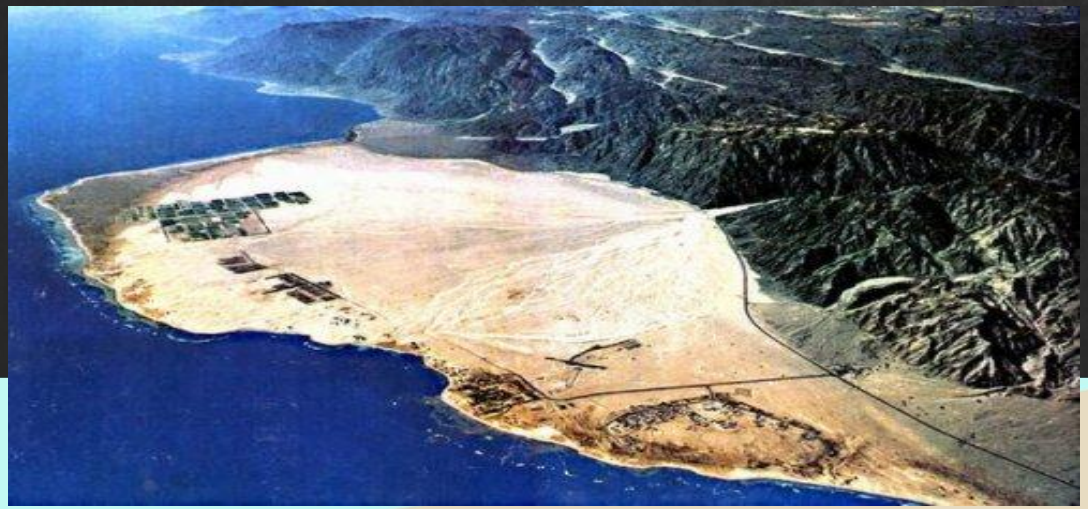
- **Exodus 14:1-2** Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Tell the sons of Israel to turn back and camp before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea; you shall camp in front of Baal-zephon, opposite it, by the sea.



…A Trap

Through the pass





To a place with no exit

2 CORINTHIANS

Trusting a God who raises the Dead

- **Hebrews 11:17-19** By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten *son*; [18] *it was he* to whom it was said, "IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED." [19] He considered that God is able to raise *people* even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.

Trusting a God who raises the Dead

- 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?“

John 11:25-26

2 CORINTHIANS

"….All we can do, and I love this, is trust not in ourselves, verse 9, but in God who…what?…raises the dead. I mean, it was to that degree. The only way out was going to be in the hands of God because He's the only one who could raise the dead. It was that far gone."

John MacArthur

2 CORINTHIANS

So, do not fear the struggle; rather embrace it. Embrace it in the knowledge that the Grand Weaver will take all of your struggles, questions, disappointments, and fears and use them to build your faith and increasingly make you into a man or woman who looks like Jesus Christ

~ Ravi Zacharias

Grand Weaver, p.181

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