

# THE SWORD & SHIELD LETTER

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## May 2026

- Mother's Day recognition on behalf of men's ministry May 9th
- Men's Ministry meeting May 17th @ 8 AM. **Session 5, "LOVING GOD'S WOMAN BY PRACTICING HOPE AND HEALING"**
- Men's Ministry meeting May 31st @ 8 AM. **EVERY MAN A WARRIOR, BOOK 1 – "WALKING WITH GOD" (CHAPTER 1)**

### "What is the one thing keeping you in the wilderness?"

The Israelites stood at the edge of promise—close enough to see it, yet unwilling to step into it. God had already delivered them from Egypt. He had parted the Red Sea, provided manna from heaven, and led them by His presence. The destination wasn't uncertain, it was promised. But when the moment came to move forward, they hesitated.

**Numbers 13:31** "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." Fear seemed to be the theme here. Doubt overpowered obedience.

And what should have been a short journey turned into 40 years in the wilderness. It wasn't the giants that stopped them. It was what was still inside them. **Hebrews 3:19** "So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief."

The Israelites didn't lose the promise, they gave up their own participation in it. And the same question confronts us today: What is the one thing holding you back? Is it fear of failure? Comfort in the familiar? A habit you won't surrender? A step of obedience you keep delaying? Like the Israelites, many men are free, but not fully committed. We are often times delivered, but not taking action. God is still calling men from the shadows. God is not asking us to play it safe. But be **all in**. The wilderness was never meant to be the Israelites home, and it's not meant to be ours as men either. The difference between wandering and walking in promise often comes down to one thing: *Will you trust God enough to let it go?*

### Name Your Giant

- What is the one thing you haven't surrendered?
- What are you protecting that God is asking you to release?
- What excuse keeps showing up when it's time to step up?

**"The greatest enemy of devotion to Christ is not sin, but distraction."**

— Francis Chan

**"When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die."**

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

**"The surrender of all our powers to God greatly simplifies the problem of life."**

— Ellen G. White



## The Takeaway for us as Men: From the Wilderness to Promise

The story of Israel in the wilderness is not only history, but it's a leadership case study for us as men. They weren't stuck because God failed, but because of how they responded. Here's the key takeaway for us:

### 1. Deliverance Doesn't Equal Discipline

"Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands." - Deuteronomy 8:2 (NIV)

### 2. Fear Will Keep You from What God Promised

"We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them." - Numbers 13:33 (NIV)

### 3. Complaining Kills Progress

"How long will this wicked community grumble against me? I have heard the complaints of these grumbling Israelites." - Numbers 14:27 (NIV)

"The moment everything changed."



Behind them was the wilderness.  
In front of them was the promise.

## Recognizing Mothers: A Mans Call to Honor Mothers

Recognition is more than appreciation. It is noted to be intentional acknowledgment of value. Many mothers carry an unseen weight: early mornings, late nights, emotional support, spiritual influence, and constant sacrifice. When that effort goes unrecognized, it can often become discouraging. Scripture commands us as men to show her honor. Proverbs 31:31 "Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate." Our lives as men of God should be one where honor is normal, visible and consistent.



In Christ,

## A Mother's Impact: Jochebed and the Courage to Let Go

In a time of fear and oppression, when Hebrew baby boys were ordered to be killed, one mother chose faith over fear. Jochebed, the mother of Moses, refused to let the circumstances dictate her obedience to God. For three months she hid her son, protecting him at great risk. But there came a moment when she could no longer keep him safe. And that's where her faith was tested the most, she let go. Exodus 2:3 "But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile." Imagine the weight of that decision. Placing your child in a river known for danger and trusting that God would do what you no longer could. Jochebed didn't know how the story would unfold, but she trusted the One who did. And God honored her faith. The child she released we came to know as Moses, the man who would one day lead Israel out of Egypt. A nation's deliverance was tied to Jochebed's obedience.

