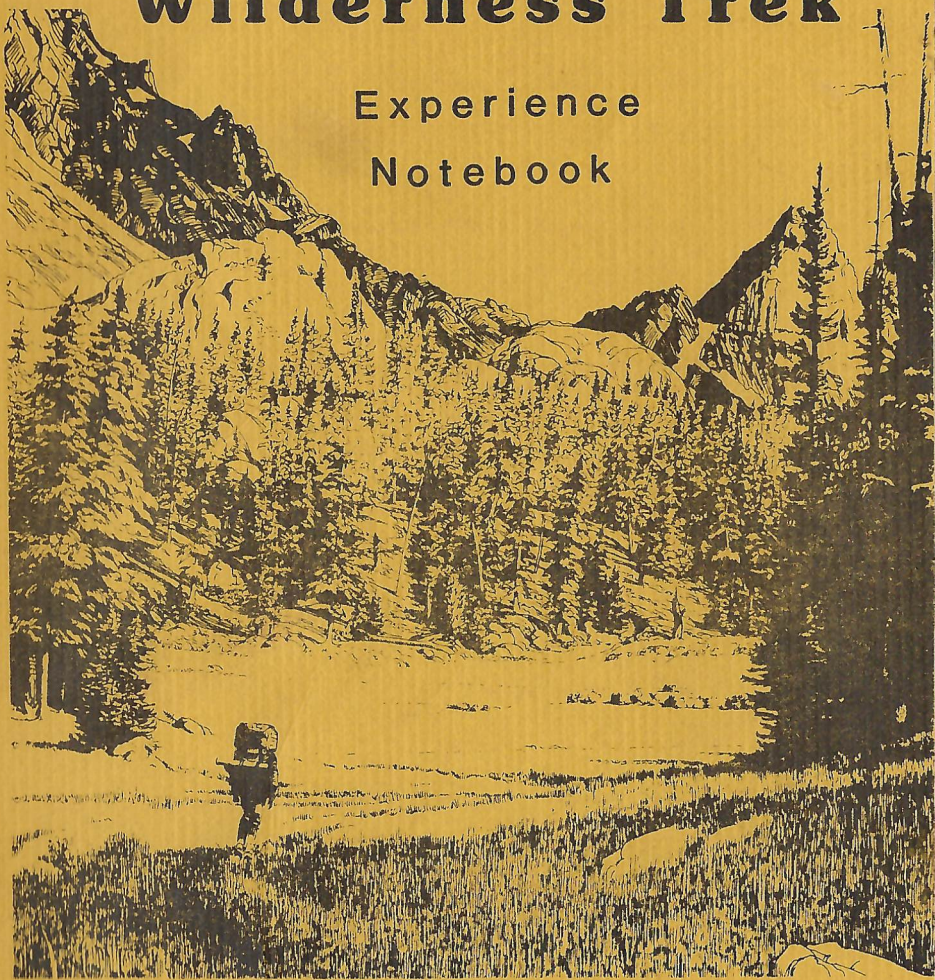
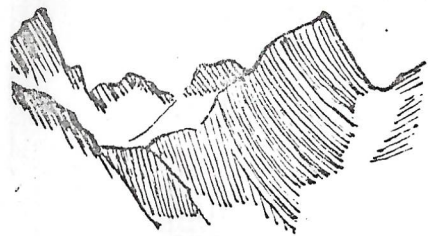


Name: _____

Wilderness Trek

Experience
Notebook





*“Be Still and Know
that I Am God”*

Psalms 46:10

by Rick Bingham

God's word just pounds out a message of his power! The Lord is very dramatic in how he gets his point across. Remember how God sent Moses to speak with Pharoah? Exodus, chapters 7-11, tells of the ten plagues on Egypt. What a dramatic way of motivating Pharoah and inspiring the Israelites! But, why didn't God simply use one devastating plague, one knock-out punch, or one loud cry from Micheal's angelic horn to kill off the Egyptians? That sure would have made matters easier on Moses. One reason might be that God didn't want to kill off the Egyptians or make matters easier for Moses. Or because the plagues, all ten of them, were good motivation in the minds of the Israel-

ites for helping inspire them through their wilderness experience. The point is, our God is very sensational, as well as wise.

God encourages us as he speaks in his word and confronts his messengers in dramatic ways, some times in very loud ways. For instance, in Job 38:1 and Job 40:6 God speaks to Job "out of the whirlwind" and "out of the storm". God thunders his message and his judgements to Job.

For me, I sometimes become jealous of those prophets who confronted God in very dramatic ways. I sometimes think my fatih would me much stronger if only I could have been with Moses on thundering quaking mount Sinai (Ex. 19:16-25) or been with Elisha to see Elijah taken up in the whirlwind into heaven (2 Kings 2:1). The image of God being the orchestrator of crescendos in his creation to prove a point or teach a lesson is an appealing one to many people.

Along this line of thought, striking to me are the references to Christ's death and return (Matt. 27:46; 24:31). Both events are described as being loud. God wants and demands our attention. But is God loud only, or can he whisper too?

Luke tells us the results of Jesus' childhood (Luke 2:52). He "grew in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and man". It's puzzling that the scriptures are not loud, but almost silent about one of the most important parts of the earthly life of our Lord, his childhood? Maybe God is whispering?

BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I
AM GOD
Psalms 46:10

Mark tells us about an occasion when Jesus calmed a storm on the sea while traveling with his disciples (Mark 4:35-39). The message is not to be found in giv-

ing credit or glory for the storm, but in Jesus' power, through God, to quiet the tempest. The evidence of the Lord's power was not in loudness, but in quietness and stillness. That was dramatic too. But, sometimes it can be very easy to get caught up in the sensational and miss a lot of the Lord's leading in our lives.

For instance, Elijah seems to have gotten caught up in the great victory on mount Carmel (I Kings 18:20-46). That particular confrontation with Jezebel's priests was sensational, and very dramatic to say the least. However, Jezebel was not in the least bit impressed with Elijah's zeal for God. Elijah runs from Jezebel in chapter nineteen and the "word of the Lord" come to him while he was hiding in a cave. I am sure Elijah was looking for another mount Carmel experience. But the scripture says that the Lord brought "a great and strong wind", an "earthquake", and "a fire". But the Lord was not in either the wind the earthquake, or the fire. So, when did the Lord speak to Elijah, and set him straight? On this occasion, God chose to speak through

One of the reasons I really get a lot out of the Wilderness Trek is because I hear so much quietness. In the soothing calm of a mountain scene you can hear a squirrel, or a bird, or a falling leaf, or a tumbling pebble, or the turning pages of a Bible from yards and yards away. In a casual walk down a mountain trail or a stroll through a hidden meadow, you can see the beauty and power of God displayed IN SILENCE. Away from radios, T.V.'s, telephones, and traffic, your conscience can hear the voice of a tiny flower in a forgotten field, whispering - "He's alive!"

EPILOGUE

Can we learn from our Maker? He, through his word, his creation, and his people, is teaching - if we will listen. And his message is that we, like him, can use a mighty voice to teach our world. We can shout the Good News But, we can also teach through calm, unhurried, piercing, luminous words of life.