***Will You Choose the Wilderness? (Part 2)***

“Although most often associated in the Pentateuchal narratives as a place of testing in which the elements needed to sustain life are scarce (Numbers 14:26–35; Deuteronomy 9:7), for Luke the wilderness also has positive connotations. It is a place where prophets are called (1:80; 3:2) and a deeper relationship with God can be cultivated (1:80; 4:42; 5:16).”  
 ̶ Clint Burnet, *Eschatological Prophet of Restoration*

**Luke’s Theological Portrait of John the Baptist in Luke 3:1–6**

The truth is we do not really know who the greatest men and women are. Our evaluation in this age is not the same as God’s evaluation (1 Samuel 16:7; Matthew 8:11–12; 19:30; 20:16; Mark 10:31; Luke 13:28–30).

God has designed this age to produce a people who will become His treasured possession. God expresses His commitment and desire throughout Scripture by reminding His people, “I will be your God, and you will be My people.”

This phrase encapsulates one of God’s deepest desires, and as a result, it is found in various forms in the Bible at least 35 times (Genesis 17:8; Exodus 6:7; 19:5; 29:45; Leviticus 11:44–45; 26:11–12; Numbers 8:14–17; Deuteronomy 29:13; Ruth 1:16; Song of Songs 2:16; 6:3;Isaiah 51:15–16; Jeremiah 7:23; 11:4; 24:7; 30:22; 30:24–31:1, 33; 32:38; Ezekiel 11:20; 14:11; 36:28; 37:26–28; Hosea 1:9; 2:23; Zechariah 2:10–12; 8:8; 13:9; Malachi 3:17; John 14:17, 20, 23; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Romans 9:25; Hebrews 8:10; 11:16; Revelation 21:3, 7).

You are welcome to go through the mentioned scripture references for deeper study and meditation!