

## Communion Meditation – In the Wilderness

Acts 7.17-36

Moses in the Wilderness

July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014

### Introduction to Series on Life in the Wilderness

- Today starts a series on the Israelites in the Wilderness
- Variable length / Varying content

### Three 40 Year Portions of Moses' Life

- “Forty” is used 3 times in our text (**v23, 30, 36**)
- Moses' life is apportioned into 3 parts of 40 years each
  - **1<sup>st</sup> portion** – life of privilege in the home of Pharaoh
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> portion** – humble life of anonymity in Midian
  - **3<sup>rd</sup> portion** – leading Exodus on journey through wilderness
- We refer to the last 40 years as wilderness wanderings
  - But for Moses isn't it true of the prior 40 years in Midian?
  - And even of the prior 40 years in the palace of Pharaoh?
  - Moses' life was characterized by time spent in the wilderness

### Plans for You

- This was God's plan for Moses
  - No accident / Stephen shared this moments before being stoned
  - The Exodus account doesn't state Moses' age when he left palace (**v11**)
- About 800 years later, when Israelites were in exile, Jeremiah said ..
  - **Jer 29.11** ~ “I know the plans I have for you .. plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (NIV)
  - We freely apply this text to ourselves today . . .
    - “Is it right that we do so?”

### Moses lived his entire life in the wilderness

He lived in the wilderness of privilege until he was 40

He lived in the wilderness of anonymity until he was 80

He lived in the wilderness faithfulness until he was 120

### Moses lived his entire life outside of the Promised Land

So did all the Israelites that followed him .. As do we ..

As Abraham did, we do, we look for a city .. whose builder and maker is God ..