

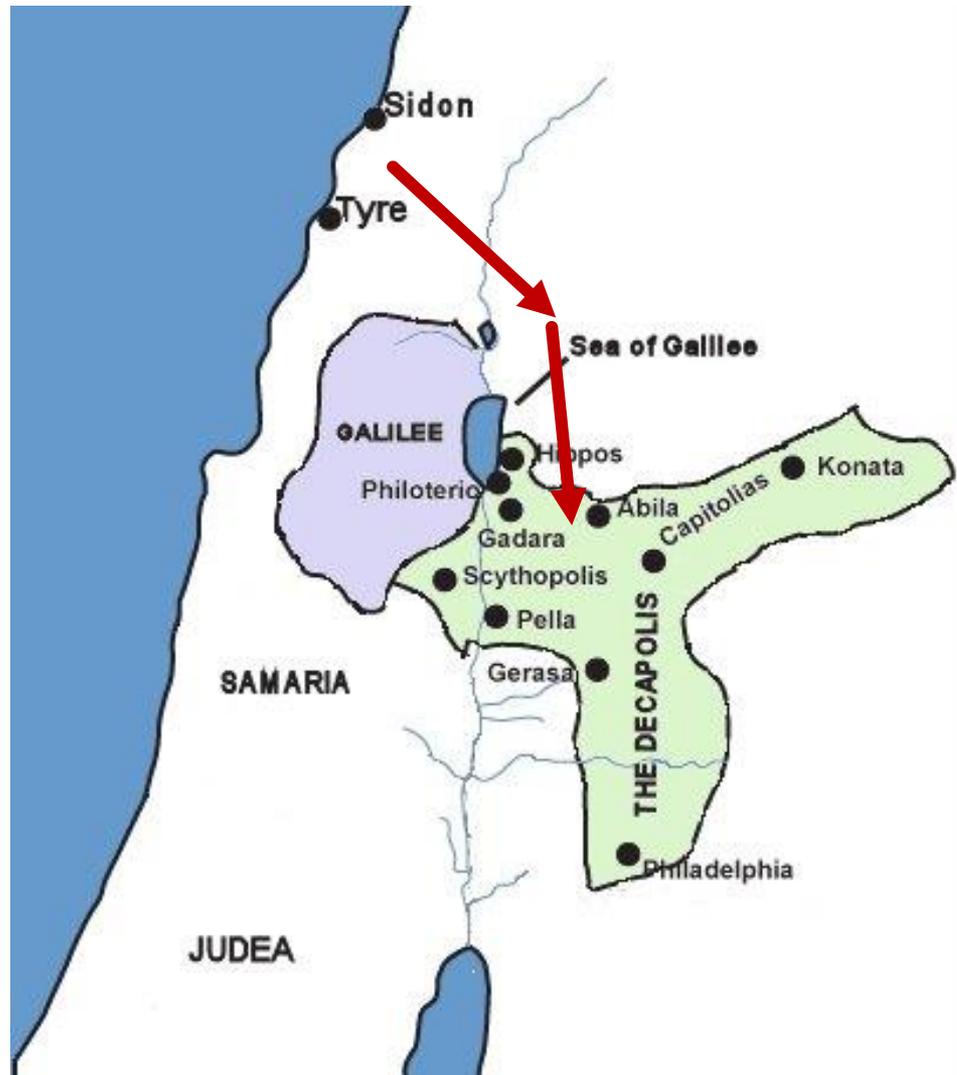
A photograph of five ancient stone columns standing in a row in a mountainous landscape. The columns are made of dark, weathered stone and feature ornate capitals. The background shows a vast, hazy valley with a river and distant mountains. The foreground is a grassy area with some scattered stones and a low stone wall. The text "Wilderness Prayer" is overlaid in white, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

Wilderness Prayer

HIDE OUT:

Mark 7:24 NIV

Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret.



The "Ten Cities"

IN THE DECAPOLIS:

Mark 7:31-32 NIV

Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him.

IN THE DECAPOLIS:

Mark 7:33-35 NIV

After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. He looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means "Be opened!") At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

CREATION GROANS:

Romans 8:22 NIV

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

A NEW CALCULUS:

Suffering < Coming Glory

THE CHRISTIAN'S GROANING:

Romans 8:23-25 NIV

Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.

THE CHRISTIAN'S GROANING:

Romans 8:23-25 NIV

For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is not hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

OUR GLORIOUS FUTURE:

2 Corinthians 5:1-2, 4 NIV

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling....

OUR GLORIOUS FUTURE:

2 Corinthians 5:1-2, 4 NIV

For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

THE GUARANTEE OF THE SPIRIT:

2 Corinthians 5:5 NIV

Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

WILDERNESS PRAYER:

Romans 8:26-27 NIV

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

WHAT TO LOOK AT:

2 Corinthians 4:18 NIV

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.