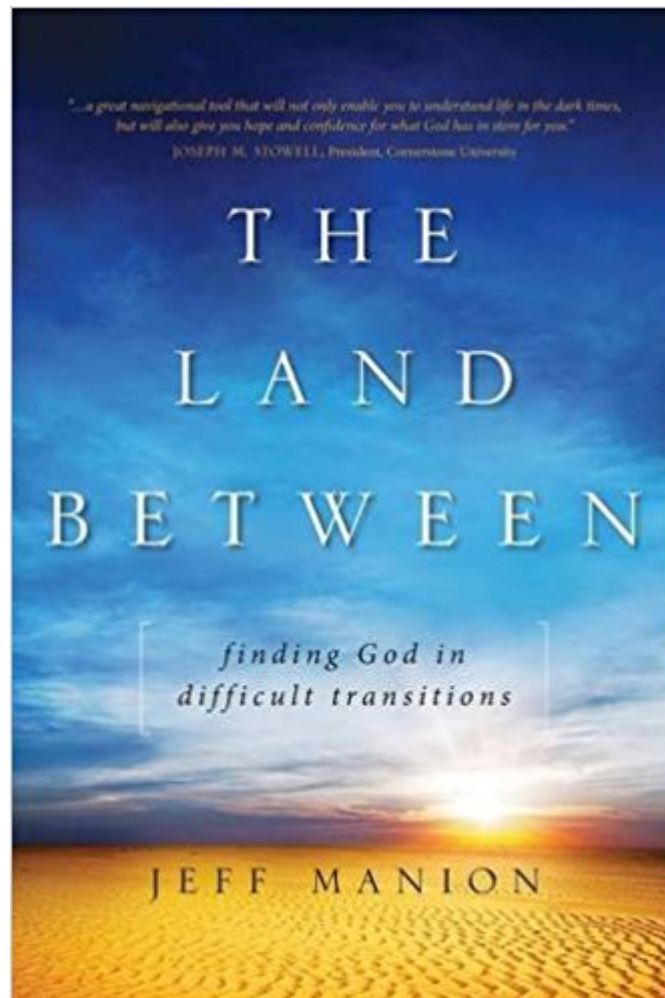




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The Land Between: Finding God In Difficult Transitions



Synopsis

Author Jeff Manion uses the biblical story of the Israelite's journey through the Sinai desert as a metaphor for being in an undesired time of transition. After enduring generations of slavery in Egypt, the descendants of Jacob travel through the desert (the land between) toward their new home in Canaan. They crave the food of their former home in Egypt and despise their present environment. They are unable to go back and incapable of moving forward. Their reactions provide insight and guidance on how to respond to God during our own seasons of difficult transition. The Land Between provides fresh biblical insight for people traveling through undesired and difficult transitions such as foreclosure, unemployment, uncertainty, and failure. Such times provide our greatest opportunity for spiritual growth. God desires to meet us in our chaos and emotional upheaval, and he intends for us to encounter his goodness and provision, his hope and guidance.

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Customer Reviews

"After fourteen years of friendship, I'm consistently amazed with the largeness of Jeff's heart---you begin to wonder if the whole world can fit in there. You'll feel and sense and hear that heart in these pages. ---Rob Bell, author of Drops Like Stars and Velvet Elvis -- Rob Bell, Author "If the many tear stains on my copy of this book could speak, they'd tell you how very deeply I connected with Jeff's words. Jeff is a dear friend and an amazing pastor, and he writes with the eloquence and depth I've come to appreciate in both his sermons and the conversations our families have shared around the dinner table. When you find yourself in the land between, and at some point you will, read this

book. --Shauna Niequist, author of *Cold Tangerines* and *Bittersweet* -- Shauna Niequist, Author
“Plant your feet on the soil of The Land Between and one thought comes to mind: This place will either kill my faith, or make it stronger.” Jeff Manion’s insights into the biblical narrative will guide you through the land between on a path away from resentment and into gratitude and growth.
--Dr. Mark Beeson, senior pastor, Granger Community Church -- Dr. Mark Beeson, Senior Pastor --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

In *The Land Between*, author Jeff Manion uses the biblical story of the Israelite’s journey through Sinai desert as a metaphor for being in undesired, transitional space. After enduring generations of slavery in Egypt, the descendants of Jacob travel through the desert (the land between) toward their new home in Canaan. They crave the food of their former home in Egypt and despise their present environment. They are unable to go back and incapable of moving forward. *The Land Between* explores the way in which their reactions can provide insight and guidance on how to respond to God during our own seasons of difficult transition. The book provides fresh biblical insight for people traveling through undesired transitions (e.g. foreclosure, unemployment, parents in declining health, post-graduate uncertainty, business failure, etc.) who are looking for hope, guidance, and encouragement. While it is possible to move through transitions and learn little, they provide our greatest opportunity for spiritual growth. God desires to meet us in our chaos and emotional upheaval, and he intends for us to encounter his goodness and provision during these upsetting seasons. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Times of transition and paths of difficulty give us an opportunity to become bitter and hard, or to trust in God and grow in faith. Jeff Manion wants you to understand the difference. While the world rewards us (briefly) for self-pity, we have a choice, if we believe that God uses our trials as a chance to build our souls for Him. Manion draws several images from the Hebrew Scripture. Consider how God used Israel’s desert wanderings to build a nation of covenant and trust. Manion dramatizes the early Hebrew struggle, from Abraham to David, as object lessons in God’s vision for how difficulty strengthens us in holiness and faith. Jesus and Paul make appearances, but Manion makes more and better use of the Hebrew Scripture than I’ve seen in a Christian book in quite a while. This book’s friendly, conversational tone leads us to trust in Manion’s godly guidance. He admits his own struggles to trust in God’s grace, offers telling and intimate anecdotes, and makes us feel like he is on this journey with us. I feel stronger for having read this book. Jeff Manion has his fingers on the

modern Christian pulse, he has identified a real faith need, and his vision could really push us back closer to God.

With my husband and I having experienced a sort of free-fall of disaster, despite the efforts of well-made plans, I sought counsel in redefining our lives. I found it here, and shared my readings with my husband. There is always a solid, underlying biblical message, but it is applied in such a way that we, as 21st century people, can relate. A year later, we are coming out of this difficulty, but I still often refer to the book. As Jeff Manion writes, you can read a thought-provoking book, but it is not until you are in the pain of transition that you transform permanently. The book provides an excellent guide. I believe the insights apply to those who are more open and spiritual, as well as those who are specifically Bible-based. If you feel that you need change as you are marking time in the metaphorical (or real) desert, this book will help clear your vision and offer perspective.

A great book which provides a very practical comparison of the challenges you face in life to the challenges the Israelites faced in their return to the promised land and how God molds us all through his love, testing of our will and the development of our trust and faith in Him.

The Land Between is well orchestrated. Using Moses and Abraham as our Old Testament guides, alongside the stories of friends and congregational members I learned so much about myself and my "land between". Circumstances may vary, but the way we respond to those circumstances has far reaching affects. This book is an easy read with a powerful message that can open your heart to receive a better way to navigate those difficult places we find ourselves in.

The author includes many current experiences from his own life and of those he has known, to illustrate how many of us today can fall into situations of great testing but fail in the main business of living in The Land Between. Critical tests are coming our way, but how are we responding? Through the book he points to solutions with help to overcome in these struggles. When Moses, Elijah and Jeremiah were hit with circumstances beyond their control (chapter 7), they could not be taken down permanently. Jeff Manion powerfully conveys turning points in their lives and gives hope to those of us facing hardships. Through their prayers of desperation God reached down to rescue them, lifting them up to go on to victory in spite of seemingly insurmountable circumstances. As the author points out, "In his providence, our Creator chose to include these high voltage prayers in his Word. God wants us to see them, maybe even to borrow from them, when we find ourselves at a

breaking point. Perhaps these prayers and others like them in the Bible were preserved as a way for God to whisper: 'See, you're not alone'. But this is just a side note to the main subject of the book: the miserable response Israel had in their own "Land Between". God marvelously delivered them from their 430 years of slavery in Egypt. Rather than respond in faith and courage, they resorted to whining and complaining about everything as they went through in their transition. Because of this they had to eventually die in the wilderness over a 40 year period, leaving the victory and eventual prosperity to their children. This is a timely book for many now struggling and needing a boost to get through today's uncertainties. This book should fly off the shelf this time of year to all who are discouraged or beat down or who are in a situation of transition and don't know where to turn. Arnold Pent

I really enjoyed this book. Handling life difficulties when you are stuck in a "wilderness" is very inspiring. I started reading this book right after I broke my ankle and was waiting to go into surgery. It had been recommended by a pastor I heard some years ago. I found it refreshing. The author talks about life's difficulties without being all sugary sweet but also without being a Debbie downer. I really enjoyed it and it has helped me through this hard time in my life

Anyone, I do mean ANYONE who is in a season of pain in their life, needs this book. Easy to read, but content is relevant and finds a way to give hope to the hopeless. It did for me and that's why I've given this to at least a half a dozen others. I keep a few on hand for when I meet a friend or stranger in crisis.

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