

## *Missing the Desert for the Details*



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Eternally Speaking Now

You've likely heard the saying, "I can't see the forest for the trees." Well, last week, I couldn't "see the **desert** for the **details**."

During our teaching segment in history, my son Zachariah asked where the Sahara **desert** was. I directed him to the globe, giving him a hint of its general location.

**He looked and looked but couldn't find it.**

Since it's so huge, it should be obvious. I encouraged him to **look more closely** in northern Africa. He still didn't see it, so I joined him in the search. To my dismay, I **couldn't find it** either. I grabbed my phone and pulled up the internet. As I was about to resort to Google, my son exclaimed,

***"I found it, Mom! It's so big, we couldn't see it!"***

Sure enough, the words 'S A H A R A D E S E R T' were larger than life, written across the vast **expanse** of northern Africa. We'd missed the **ginormous** letters because we'd been so focused on the tiny, **detailed** words written across the globe.

I have to be honest-- I love **details**. I *delight* in **details**. God Himself enjoys **detail**. Look at how specific He is in His instruction for building the ark (Genesis 6) and the temple (Exodus 32). Observe creation, and be amazed by how **detailed** He is in His creative design, utilizing a myriad of colors, shapes, and sizes. Not one human being's strand of DNA is identical to another. In all creation. *Ever*.

Indeed, God's **details** bless us in countless ways, as do detail-oriented people. And so do big-picture people, of course. In fact, **God is as 'big-picture' as He is detailed**. Not only does He know the end from the beginning, but He Himself *IS* the beginning and the end. (Isaiah 46:10, Revelation 22:13)

So, if God is equally **detailed** as He is **'big picture'**, it seems wise to conclude that it's important for us to keep a healthy balance between the two perspectives as well, right?

## **CHALLENGE**

As we tread through the **'deserts** of life,' it can be tempting to create mountainous dunes from a **tiny** grain of sand. We can be **tricked** into running toward a **mirage**, **believing something is there that is not**.

*Are your **dust storms** so harsh  
that you can't see the big picture?  
God has lessons for us in the desert.*

Whenever my son gets **overly concerned** about the **details** of life, I like to walk him **up the stairs** to get 'God's perspective.' From the loft, we'll **look down** into the living room, remembering,

*"In God's hands are the deep places of the earth" (Psalm 95:4), and "He works all things together for the good of us who love Him, who are the called, according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28).*

**Today, I believe the Lord would say,**

Take a breath,  
get a **drink of water**,  
and **sit down to rest.**

Then '**go upstairs**' with Jesus,  
and **look down** at your 'living room.'  
*Ask Him to show you the bigger picture-- His perspective.*  
There's a **greater purpose** going on above all those **details!**

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One of the meanings for the word Sahara is *Dawn*.  
I pray even now, however **huge** your **desert** is, that God would bring forth the  
brightness of the dawn of His light  
to the same degree of the darkness of your **desert**.  
Yes, Lord, may it be so. Amen.

**"The people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and upon those who  
sat in the region and shadow of death,  
light has dawned."**

*Matthew 4:16*

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