Lessons from the desert or, don’t waste a good trial.

DEUTERONOMY 8
Don’t waste your time looking for someone to blame. *God is at work!*

Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years… He humbled you, causing you to hunger  
(Deuteronomy 8.2-3)
Considering that our will is too strong, God might use pain to help us surrender to him and, surrender, is a kind of death. Pain is a sign that something is wrong and we just cannot ignore it.

God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.
Don’t waste your time pretending:  

"... Remember how the Lord your God lead you all the way in the desert... to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands".

(Deuteronomy 8.2-3)
Don’t waste your time pretending:  Let me know who you are!

“Greet Apelles, tested and approved in Christ”. (Romans 16.10)

“And what more shall I say? … Others were tortured … others were chained and put in prison. They were stoned, they were put to the test, they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword… destitute, persecuted and mistreated— the world was not worthy of them”. (Hebrews 11.32-38)
“He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you or your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years” (Deuteronomy 8.3-4)
“Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him”.

Isaiah 64.1-4
When it is darkest, men see the stars.

Ralph Waldo Emerson
(1803-1889)
For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land…(and) when you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God… then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God… you may say to yourself ‘my power and the strength of my hands have produce this wealth for me’”. (Deuteronomy 8.7-17)
You fool!
Your life will be demanded!

King Herod – Acts 12.20ss

Rich man in Luke 12.16ss
Don’t waste your time complaining. *The best is yet to come!*  

“He lead you through the vast and dreadful desert... to humble and to test you, to do you good in the end”  

(Deuteronomy 8.15-16).
“Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way”.

James 1:2-4 – The Message
“Do good to your servant... Before I was afflicted I went astray... You are good, and what you do is good... It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees (which now are) more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold”.

(Psalm 119.65-72)
“Others were chained and put in prison. They were stoned, they were put to the test, whose weakness was turned to strength, and who became powerful in battle.”

(Hebrews 11.34)
Don’t waste your time complaining. *The best is yet to come!*

“Unless you have gone through certain things, you are still an unfinished product”

David Jeremiah
Don’t waste your time complaining. *The best is yet to come!*

Every block of stone has a statue inside it, and it is the task of the sculptor to discover it.  

*Michelangelo*
Don’t waste your time complaining. *The best is yet to come!*

“We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose... to be conformed to the likeness of his son”.

*(Romans 8.28-29)*