

Utah's Zion National Park

A Timeless Creation Shaped By Water

By Michael Andrew Just



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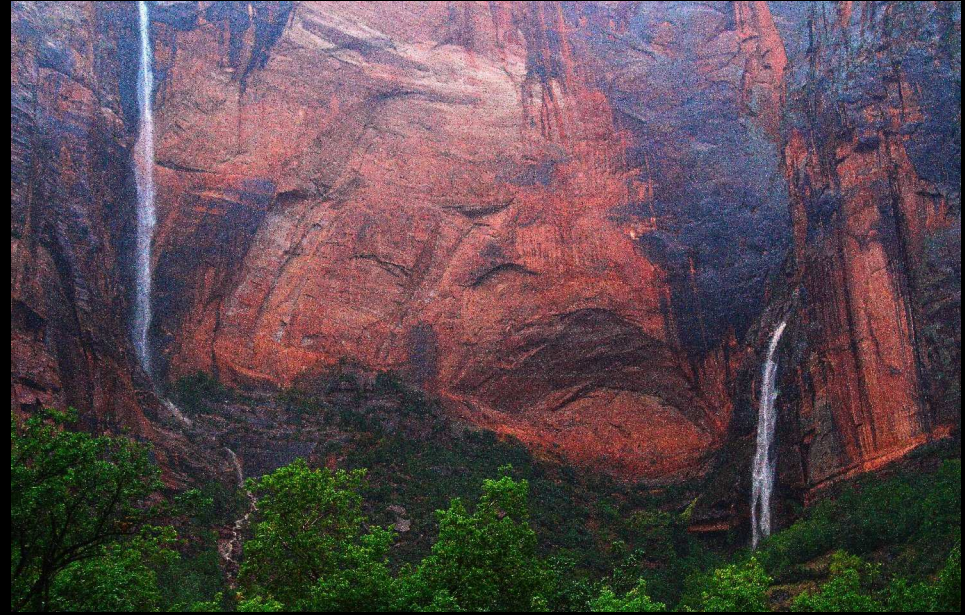




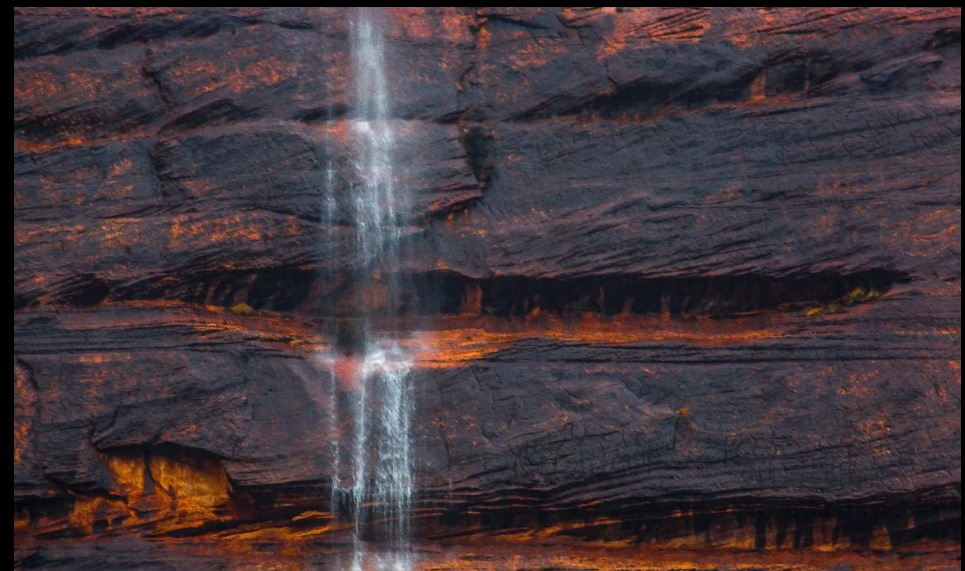
The Virgin River is responsible for Zion National Park in Southern Utah. There wouldn't be a park if not for the persistent erosive power of the river. It's been a 2 million year ongoing process. Wonder what it'll look like in another 2 million years? The river and its tributaries shaped the canyons, towers, cliffs, temples, narrows and soaring Navajo Sandstone walls.

The beginnings of Zion started to form some 200 million years ago. The area was under a sea of water where deposits of sand remained once the sea receded. The sand became the relatively soft sandstone walls which the river carved the last 2 million years.. Like a Michelangelo, Zion Canyon was sculpted to its present day look, a geological masterpiece.

Now with its numerous ecosystems, plants, reptiles, birds, insects and animal life are able to flourish.

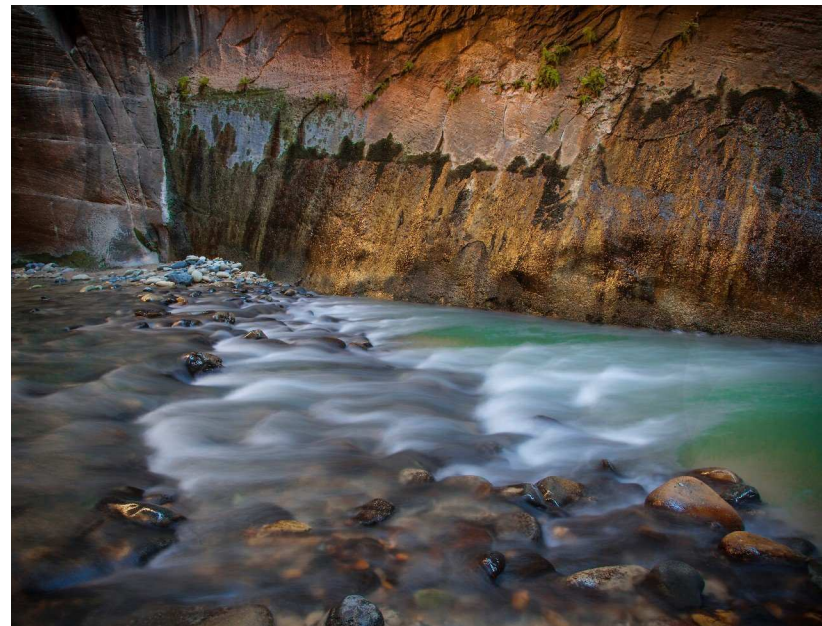
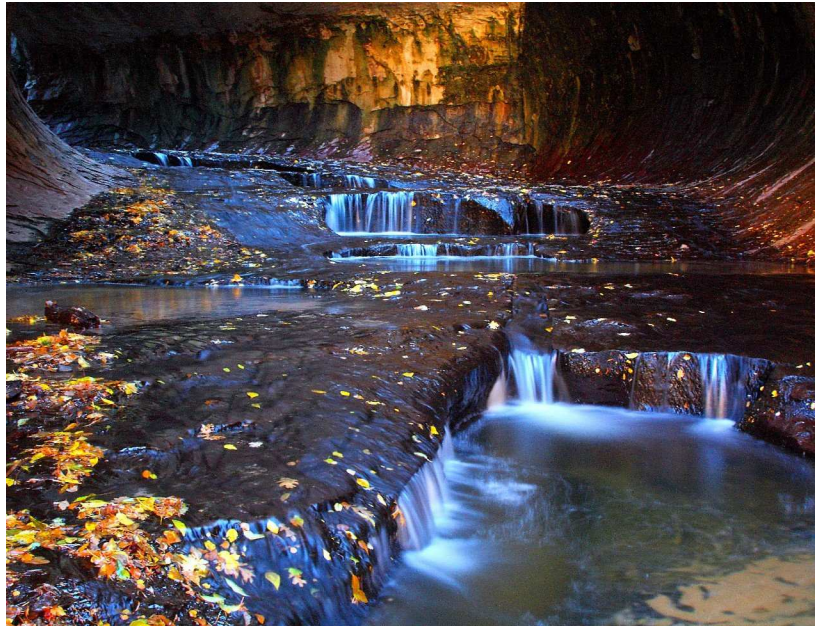


Although Zion receives only 16 inches of rain per year, the forces of water are responsible for these images of the park.

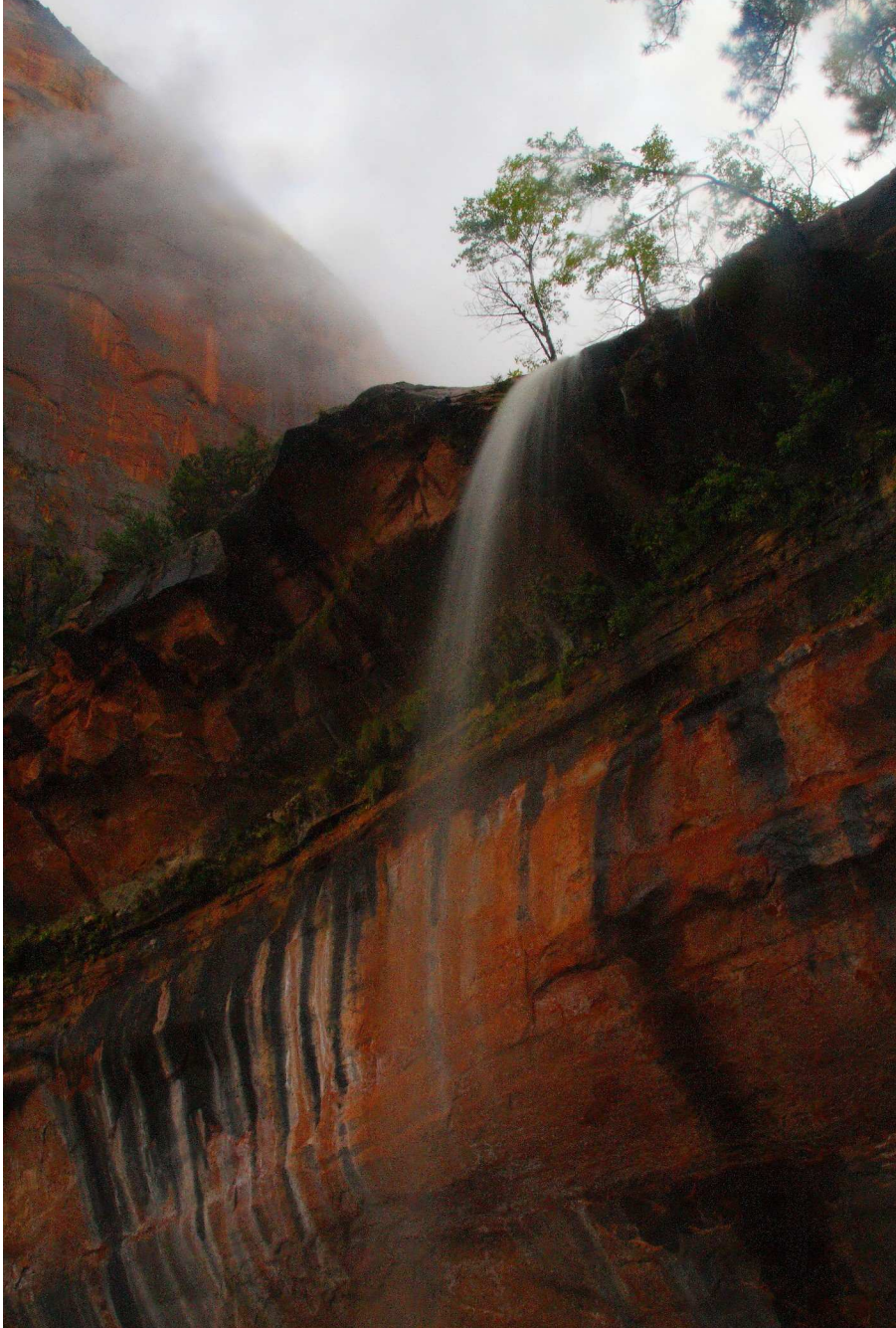


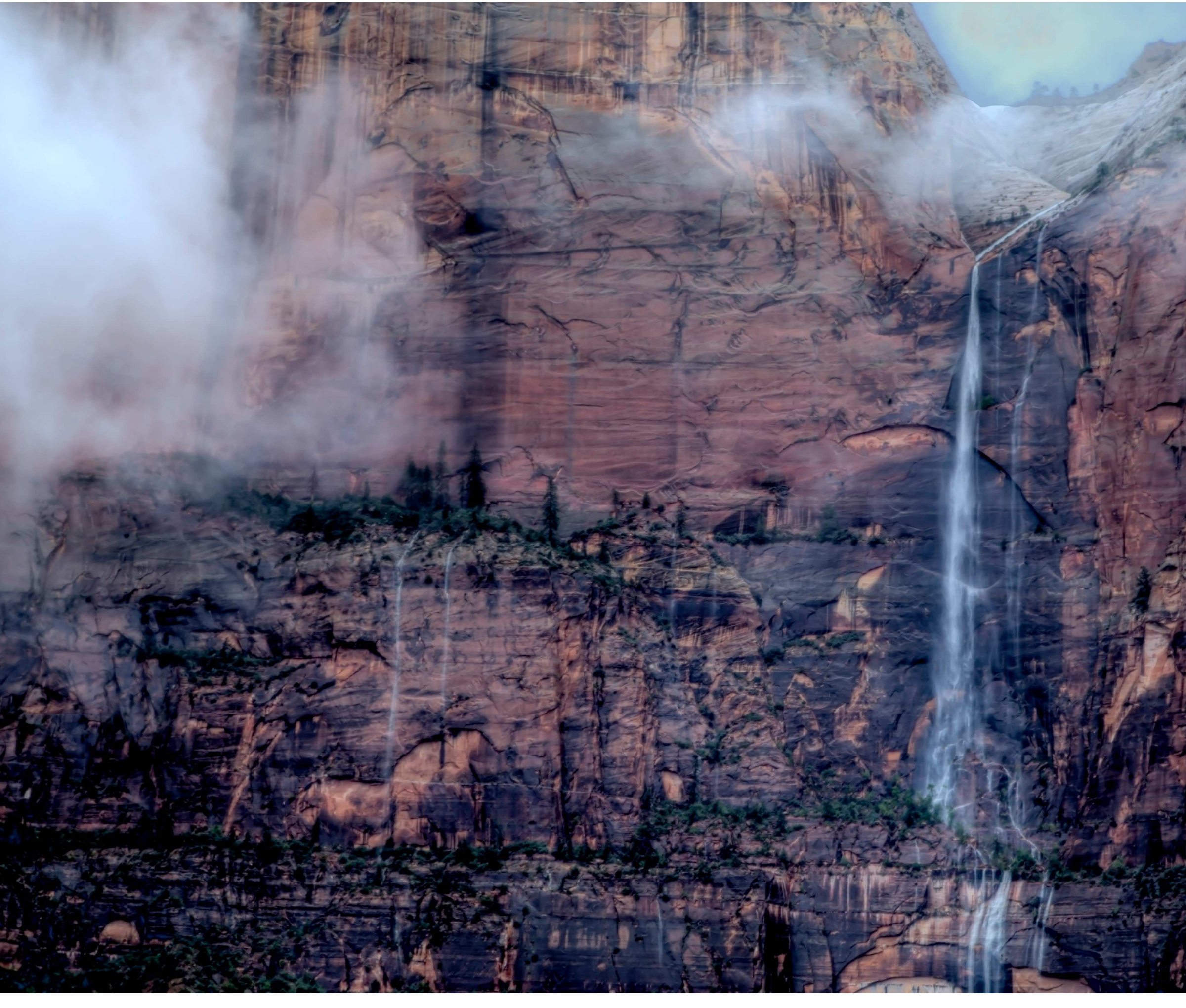
The spectacular Narrows, the ultimate Virgin River sculpture.





“Water, water, water....There is no shortage of water in the desert but exactly the right amount , a perfect ratio of water to rock”- Edward Abbey- *Desert Solitaire*







A storm enters
Zion Canyon.





Testaments To The Power Of Water











Rain brings moisture which generates atmosphere.



Fresh snow produces a wonderland at Zion Canyon.







Summer monsoons are violent and produce deadly flash floods



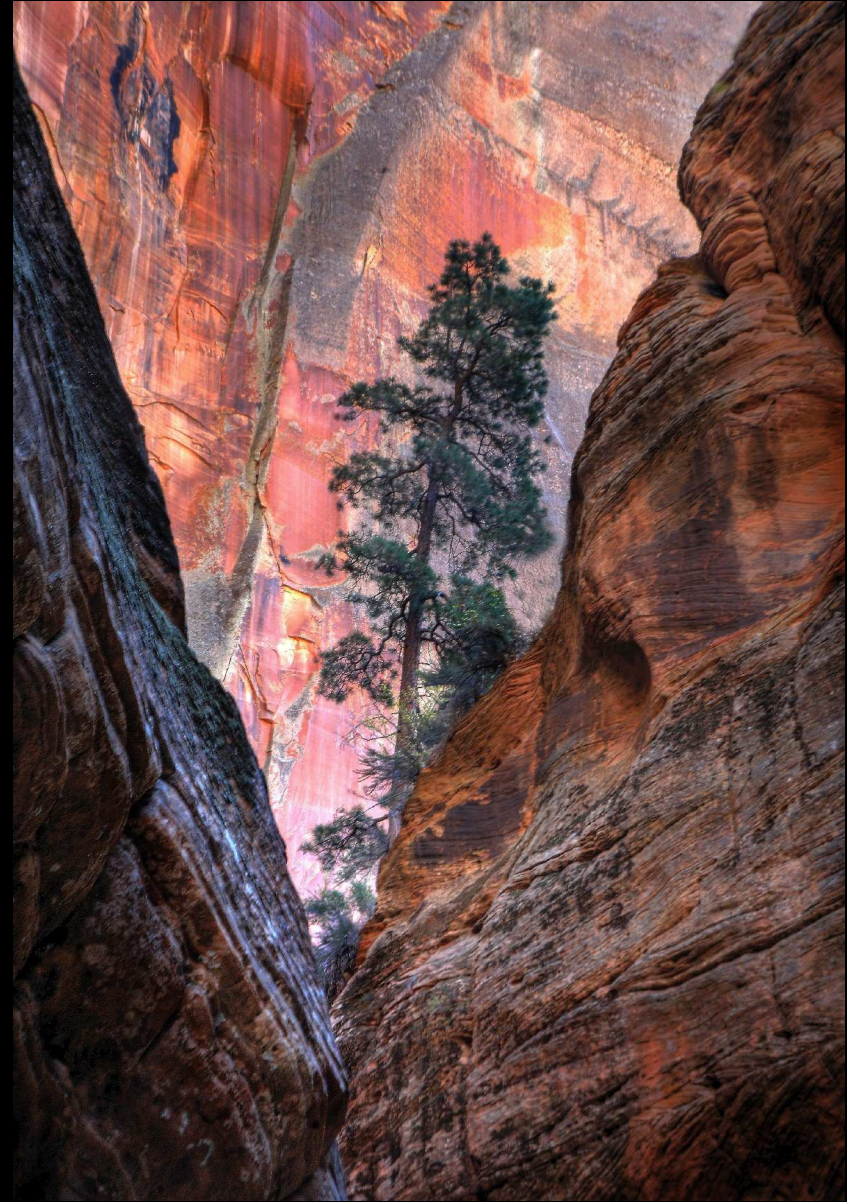
Storm approaches Zion's West Temple

There's just enough moisture to produce a myriad of plant species. There's over 1,000 at Zion

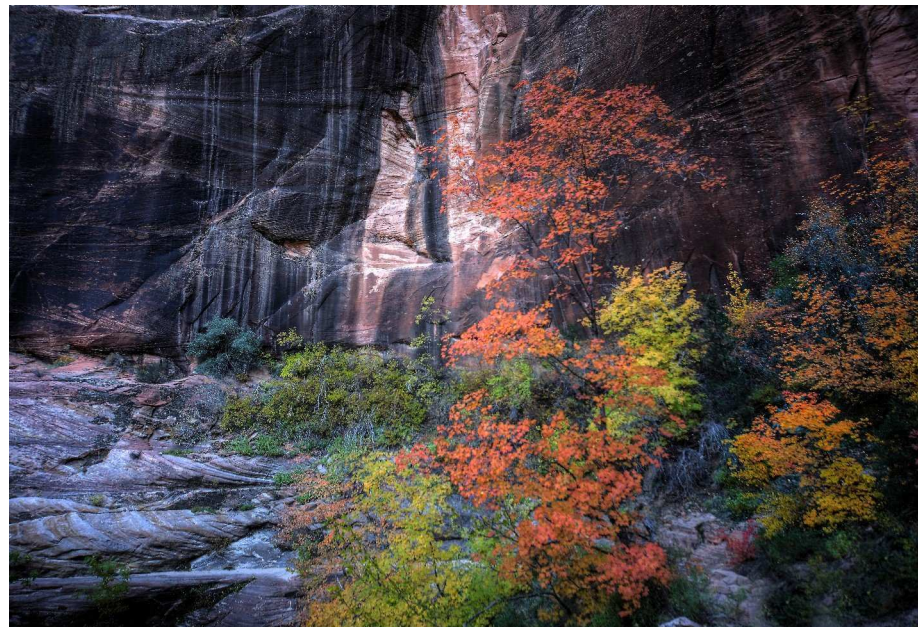
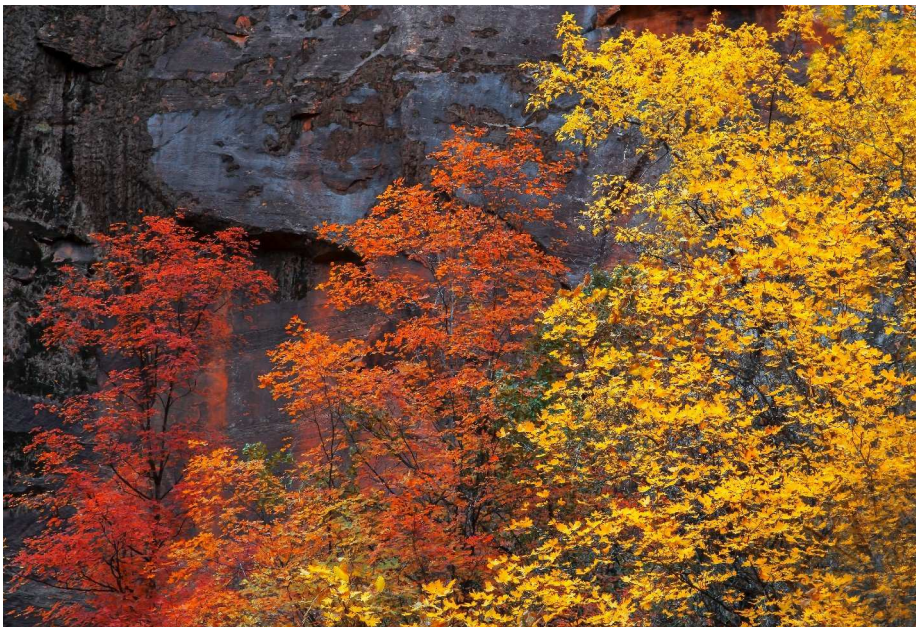




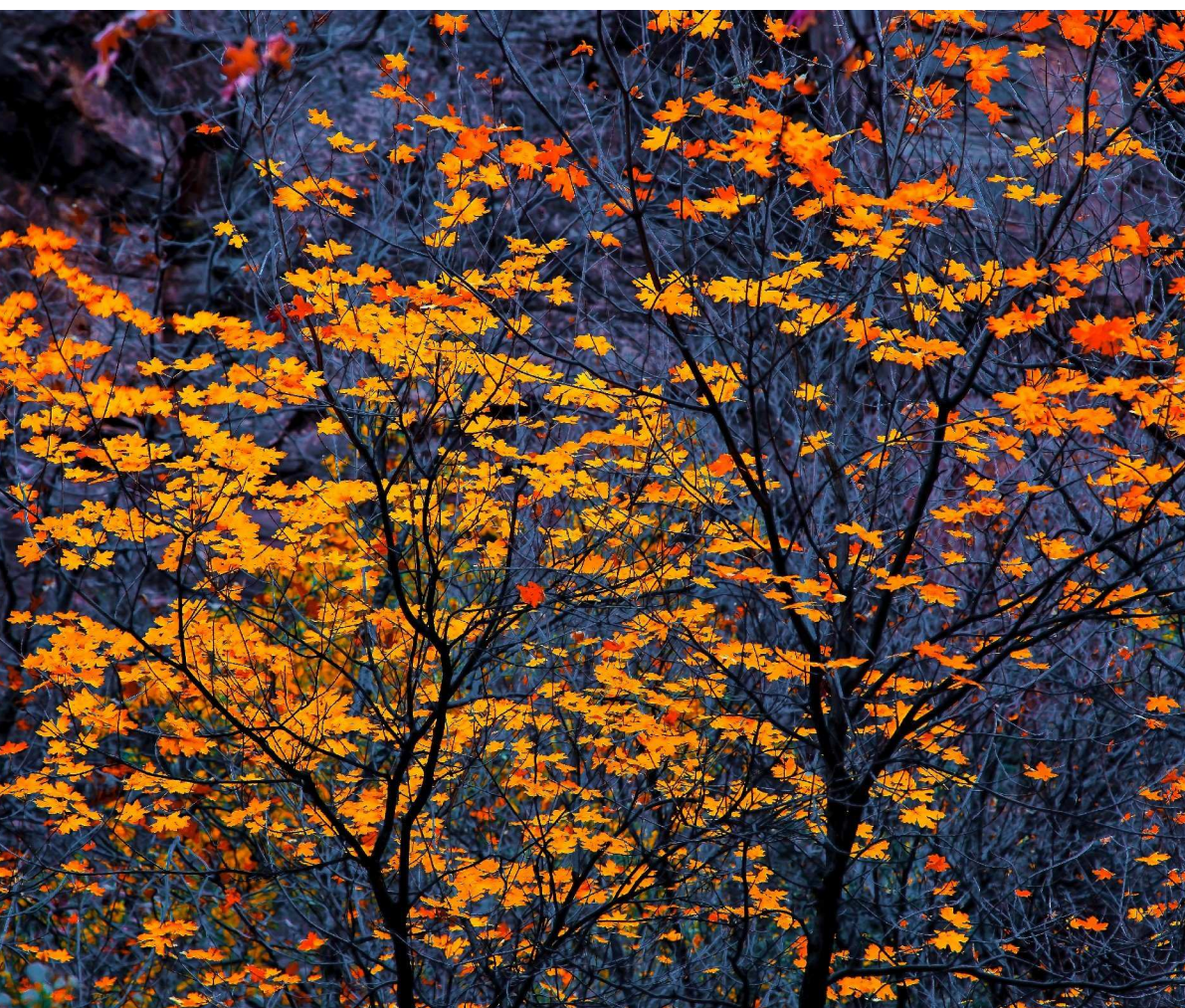
Fresh raindrops cling to a Sacred Datura Flower.



Even the Ponderosa Pines can grow out of the sandstone with little moisture.



Summer rains lead to an autumn full of color.



Cottonwood Trees can only thrive along a river like The Virgin.





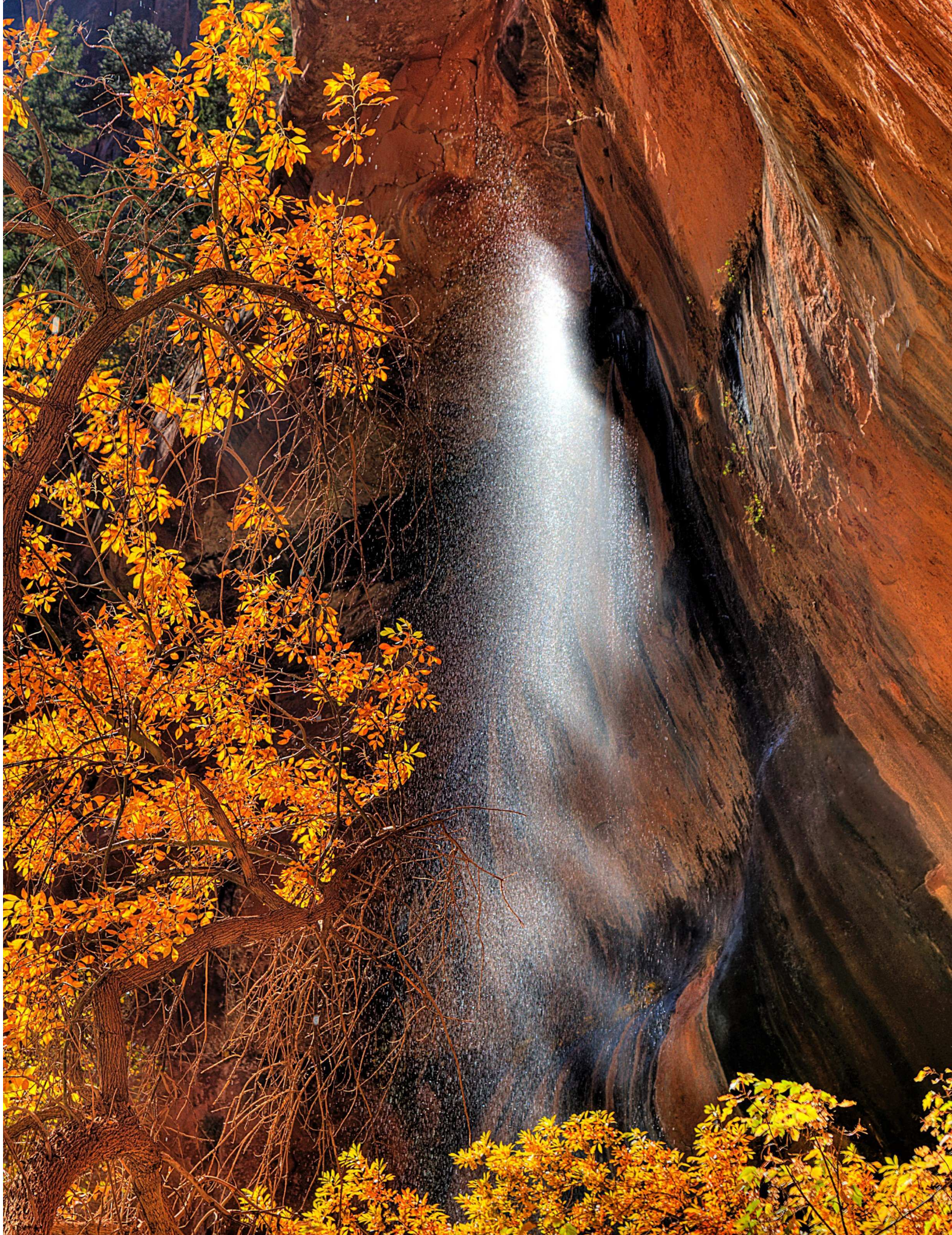
The canyon walls provide a striking backdrop to the Cottonwoods during autumn.

A rainbow appears during a rain-drenched monsoon.





Storm clouds have their own personality at Zion National Park.







Each day brings a new, dramatic look to Zion National Park

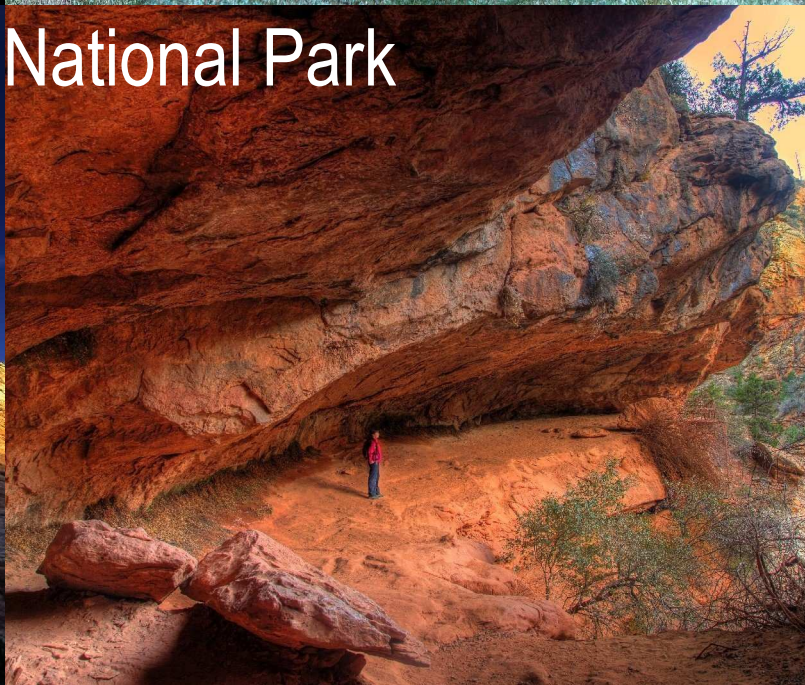
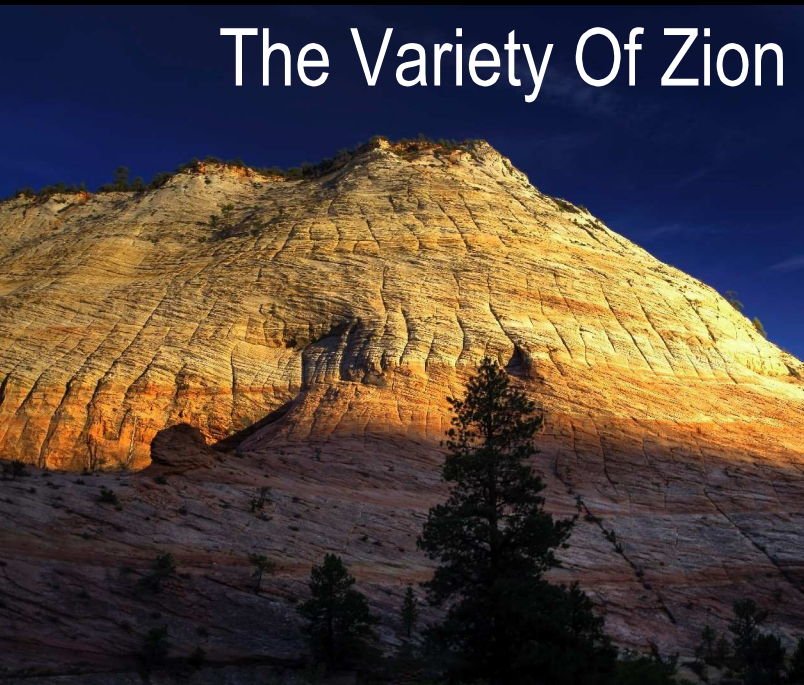


Wildlife find the topography of Zion suitable.





The Variety Of Zion National Park





The Moon watches over "The Watchman"

