

Water in the Desert

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Introduction

Water has always played an important part in the story of God. From the Edenic Paradise flowed a river to water the garden, from whence it divided into four distinct rivers: the Pishon, Gihon, Tigris and the Euphrates (Gen. 2:10-14). Deliverance from Egyptian captivity was accomplished by crossing the Red Sea (Exod. 14:19-31), while entrance into Canaan was achieved by crossing the Jordan River (Josh. 3:14-17). The Land of Promise was bounded by the river of Egypt on the south and the river Euphrates on the north (Gen. 15:13-21).

Depending upon man's behavior, God changes rivers into a wilderness and springs of water into a thirsty ground, or alternatively, He changes a wilderness into a pool of water and a dry land into springs of water (Psa. 107:33-38). The Messianic age is described as a time when "the wilderness and the desert will be glad, and the Arabah will rejoice and blossom" and "waters will break forth in the wilderness and streams in the Arabah. The scorched land will become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water" (Isa. 35:1-7).

The Word of God Gives Life

Like water in the desert, the Word of God gives life (Psa. 63:1; 143:5-6; Isa. 32:1-2; 41:17-18; 43:19-21; 44:1-4; John 4:7-14; 7:37-39).

The Word of God is Oft Hidden

Like water in the desert, the Word of God is often hidden (Prov. 2:1-5; Matt. 11:25-30; 13:10-16, 34-35, 44).

The Word of God Must be Protected

Like water in the desert, the Word of God must be protected (1 Tim. 6:20-21; cf. Rom. 3:1-2; 1 Cor. 9:16-18; 2 Cor. 5:18-21; 1 Tim. 1:8-11; 2 Tim. 1:13-14).

Conclusion

Will you joyously draw water from the springs of salvation (Isa. 12:2-4)? Will you manifest the mindset of the Ethiopian nobleman, who upon hearing the gospel said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" (Acts 8:25-40)? The water of life is promised to those who obediently follow the Lamb of God (Rev. 7:16-17; 21:1-6; 22:1-5, 14-17).