

Rivers in the Desert

There is a recurring theme through the Scriptures of water (rivers, rain, streams, wells, springs) coming into the dry, desert places.

It speaks of thirst being quenched.

The fulfilment of these verses is seen in the New Testament, with the coming of the Holy Spirit into individual's and the church's life.

Just as a wilderness or desert land without any water is dead and unfruitful, so a person or a people without the Holy Spirit are dead unfruitful.

In some deserts there are seeds lying dormant just waiting for the rain to spring forth into life and flourish. When this happens all the animal kingdom comes to receive refreshing and to be strengthened and to bear fruit. We see this demonstrated on the savannahs of Tanzania and Kenya.

This speaks of revival and the "rain" coming and reviving the church and then bringing multitudes to the Lord – fruitfulness.

Isaiah 41:17-20 (New King James Version)

¹⁷ "The poor and needy seek water, but *there is* none,
Their tongues fail for thirst.
I, the LORD, will hear them;
I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them.

¹⁸ I will open rivers in desolate heights,
And fountains in the midst of the valleys;
I will make the wilderness a pool of water,
And the dry land springs of water.

¹⁹ I will plant in the wilderness the cedar and the acacia tree,
The myrtle and the oil tree;

I will set in the desert the cypress tree *and* the pine
And the box tree together,

²⁰ That they may see and know,
And consider and understand together,
That the hand of the LORD has done this,
And the Holy One of Israel has created it.

Isaiah 43:18-21 (New King James Version)

¹⁸ "Do not remember the former things,
Nor consider the things of old.

¹⁹ Behold, I will do a new thing,
Now it shall spring forth;
Shall you not know it?
I will even make a road in the wilderness
And rivers in the desert.

²⁰ The beast of the field will honour Me,
The jackals and the ostriches,
Because I give waters in the wilderness
And rivers in the desert,
To give drink to My people, My chosen.

²¹ This people I have formed for Myself;
They shall declare My praise.

Isaiah 44:3-5 (New King James Version)

³ For I will pour water on him who is thirsty,
And floods on the dry ground;
I will pour My Spirit on your descendants,
And My blessing on your offspring;

⁴ They will spring up among the grass
Like willows by the watercourses.

⁵ One will say, 'I *am* the LORD's';
Another will call *himself* by the name of Jacob;
Another will write *with* his hand, 'The LORD's,'
And name *himself* by the name of Israel.

Isaiah 45:8 (New King James Version)

⁸ "Rain down, you heavens, from above,
And let the skies pour down righteousness;
Let the earth open, let them bring forth salvation,
And let righteousness spring up together.
I, the LORD, have created it.

Isaiah 51:2-3 (New King James Version)

² Look to Abraham your father,
And to Sarah *who* bore you;
For I called him alone,
And blessed him and increased him."

³ For the LORD will comfort Zion,
He will comfort all her waste places;
He will make her wilderness like Eden,
And her desert like the garden of the LORD;
Joy and gladness will be found in it,
Thanksgiving and the voice of melody.

Isaiah 55:1 (New King James Version)

¹ "Ho! Everyone who thirsts,
Come to the waters;
And you who have no money,
Come, buy and eat.
Yes, come, buy wine and milk
Without money and without price.

Isaiah 55:10-13 (New King James Version)

¹⁰ "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven,
And do not return there,
But water the earth,
And make it bring forth and bud,
That it may give seed to the sower

And bread to the eater,
¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;
It shall not return to Me void,
But it shall accomplish what I please,
And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.
¹² “For you shall go out with joy,
And be led out with peace;
The mountains and the hills
Shall break forth into singing before you,
And all the trees of the field shall clap *their* hands.
¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree,
And instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree;
And it shall be to the LORD for a name,
For an everlasting sign *that* shall not be cut off.”

John 4:13-14 (New King James Version)

¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”

John 7:37-38 (New King James Version)

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

³⁷ On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”

Revelation 22:1 (New King James Version)

The River of Life

¹ And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

Psalms 65:9-13 (New King James Version)

⁹ You visit the earth and water it,
You greatly enrich it;
The river of God is full of water;
You provide their grain,
For so You have prepared it.
¹⁰ You water its ridges abundantly,
You settle its furrows;
You make it soft with showers,
You bless its growth.

¹¹ You crown the year with Your goodness,
And Your paths drip *with* abundance.

¹² They drop on the pastures of the wilderness,
And the little hills rejoice on every side.

¹³ The pastures are clothed with flocks;
The valleys also are covered with grain;
They shout for joy, they also sing.

Ezekiel 47:1-12 (New King James Version)

The Healing Waters and Trees

¹ Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the front of the temple faced east; the water was flowing from under the right side of the temple, south of the altar. ² He brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me around on the outside to the outer gateway that faces east; and there was water, running out on the right side.

³ And when the man went out to the east with the line in his hand, he measured one thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the water came up to my ankles. ⁴ Again he measured one thousand and brought me through the waters; the water came up to my knees. Again he measured one thousand and brought me through; the water came up to my waist. ⁵ Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross; for the water was too deep, water in which one must swim, a river that could not be crossed. ⁶ He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen *this*?" Then he brought me and returned me to the bank of the river.

⁷ When I returned, there, along the bank of the river, were very many trees on one side and the other. ⁸ Then he said to me: "This water flows toward the eastern region, goes down into the valley, and enters the sea. When it reaches the sea, its waters are healed." ⁹ And it shall be *that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live.* There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes. ¹⁰ It shall be *that* fishermen will stand by it from En Gedi to En Eglaim; they will be *places* for spreading their nets. Their fish will be of the same kinds as the fish of the Great Sea, exceedingly many. ¹¹ But its swamps and marshes will not be healed; they will be given over to salt. ¹² Along the bank of the river, on this side and that, will grow all kinds of trees used for food; their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine."

1 Corinthians 10:4 (New King James Version)

⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

Joel 2:23-29 (New King James Version)

²³ Be glad then, you children of Zion,
And rejoice in the LORD your God;
For He has given you the former rain faithfully,
And He will cause the rain to come down for you—
The former rain,

And the latter rain in the first month.

²⁴ The threshing floors shall be full of wheat,
And the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil.

²⁵ “So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten,

The crawling locust,
The consuming locust,
And the chewing locust,
My great army which I sent among you.

²⁶ You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
And praise the name of the LORD your God,
Who has dealt wondrously with you;
And My people shall never be put to shame.

²⁷ Then you shall know that I *am* in the midst of Israel:

I *am* the LORD your God
And there is no other.
My people shall never be put to shame.

God's Spirit Poured Out

²⁸ “ And it shall come to pass afterward
That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your old men shall dream dreams,
Your young men shall see visions.

²⁹ And also on My menservants and on My maidservants
I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

Acts 2:16-18 (New King James Version)

¹⁶ But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ ‘ *And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,
That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your young men shall see visions,
Your old men shall dream dreams.*

¹⁸ *And on My menservants and on My maidservants
I will pour out My Spirit in those days;
And they shall prophesy.*