

Seeing Only Jesus

12) Water From The Rock

'Then all the congregation of the children of Israel set out on their journey from the Wilderness of Sin, according to the commandment of the Lord, and camped in Rephidim; but there was no water for the people to drink. Therefore the people contended with Moses, and said, "Give us water, that we may drink." So Moses said to them, "Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt the Lord?" And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, "Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"'

(Ex.17:1-3)

- ✓ **The people ran out of water**
- ✓ **But they looked to Moses for that which only God can supply - water in a wilderness**
- ✓ **They needed to learn to trust Him as the source for all their needs - to be God-dependent, not co-dependent**
- ✓ **If we look to others, instead of God, to meet our needs we will end up in conflict with them. No one will ever satisfy the co-dependent person**
- ✓ **Complaining against God was the special sin of the Israelites during the wilderness period. 12 times were recorded in all; this was the fourth**

- ✓ *'So he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the contention of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"' (Exodus 17:7)*
- ✓ **Note the names given to this place – Massah because the tempted God; Meribah = because they contended with Moses**
- ✓ **To tempt God is to put Him to the test by setting before Him certain conditions before we will trust Him**
- ✓ **Moses took the need to the LORD. Prayer reveals God-dependency**

'And the Lord said to Moses, "Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink"'

(Exodus 17:5-6)

- ✓ **Moses was told to take the rod with which he smote the River, and to smite the rock - not smite the rebels!**
- ✓ **God did not punish them, but provided for them. Why? Because He smote the Rock**
- ✓ **The Rock is a picture of Christ. He is the Rock of Ages. They *'all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ'* (1 Cor.10:4). *'On this rock I will build My Church'* (Matt.16:18)**

- ✓ **In chapter 16, Christ descends as manna from heaven. He is to be the Bread of Life**
- ✓ **In chapter 17, He is smitten in judgment.**
'Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed' (**Isa.53:4-5**)
- ✓ **When the rock was smitten, living waters gushed forth. Everything we need is included in the sacrifice of Christ, Rom.8:32**

'He split the rocks in the wilderness, and gave them drink in abundance like the depths. He also brought streams out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers. Behold, He struck the rock, so that the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed'

(Psa.78:15,16&20)

- ✓ **In John 6, Jesus is the Living Bread**
- ✓ **In John 7, He is the Living Water.** *'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. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified' (John 7:37-39)*
- ✓ **It is by means of the Spirit that we live the Christian life**

**The Rock followed them for 40 years from
Rephidim to Kadesh. There were no more
complaints about water until 40 years later**

***'Now there was no water for the congregation;
so they gathered together against Moses and
Aaron. And the people contended with
Moses...Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,
"Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron
gather the congregation together. Speak to the
rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water;
thus you shall bring water for them out of the
rock, and give drink to the congregation and
their animals"'***

(Num.20:2,3,7,8)

✓The Hebrew word for 'rock' here is different to that in Ex.17. Here it means an elevated rock. It speaks of Jesus' heavenly ministry

✓Moses was not told to *strike* this rock, but to *speak* to it. To strike it is to crucify Jesus afresh

✓Also, it was a different rod that was used.

*In Ex.17 – it was the rod of Moses, i.e. a rod of judgment. The earthly ministry of Jesus

*In Num.20 – it was the rod from '*before the LORD*' (v.9), i.e. the rod of Aaron; the priestly rod

- ✓ **We are not to expect the rock to be struck anymore, i.e. to think Jesus has to do more to forgive our sins. This is to crucify afresh the Son of God. At the Cross, sin's judgment was finished**
- ✓ **Instead we are to focus on the High Priestly ministry of Jesus at the right hand of the Father. Speak to the Rock for the grace we need each day, 'Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need' (Heb.4:14-16)**