

The Waters of Marah and Elim

Ex 15²² So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. And they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. ²³ Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore the name of it was called Marah. ²⁴ And the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" ²⁵ So he cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet. There He made a statute and an ordinance for them, and there He tested them, ²⁶ and said, "If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you." ²⁷ Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees; so they camped there by the waters.

► This little passage is like a movie _____, giving us a quick overview of the entire movie. The hardships, testings, lessons, and kingdom calling of God's people will come up again and again, and all of it is a foretelling of what Christ and his people are going to face, overcome, and accomplish in the NT era.

1Cor 10⁶ Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. ⁷ And do not become idolaters as were some of them ... ⁸ Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did ... ⁹ nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted ... ¹⁰ nor complain, as some of them also complained ¹¹ Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come [*i.e., the end of the OT era and the beginning of the New*].

► It's helpful if we start with the end in mind, which is God's people being living _____ to all nations, which is pictured by the oasis at _____ (27) and is a theme throughout Scripture.

See Gen 10 with the 70 nations descended from Noah's sons.

Rev 21⁹ Then one of the seven angels ... talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit ... and showed me ... the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God ... ¹² [S]he had a great ... wall with twelve gates ... [with] the names of the twelve tribes ... of Israel ... ¹⁴ Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb ... ²² ¹ And he showed me a pure river of water of life ... proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. ² In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

► But God's people of themselves have no water for anyone, for their water is _____ and undrinkable like the water of _____ (23). Their water must be healed and made _____ (24, 26). This is accomplished by the _____ of Christ, represented by the tree God tells Moses to cast into the waters (25).

Gal 3¹³ Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree" [Dt 21.23]), ¹⁴ that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

1Pt 2²⁴ [He] Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree

Acts 5³⁰ The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. ³¹ Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."

Jn 7² Now the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand ... 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." ³⁹ 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.

► Drinking living water (i.e., the Holy Spirit taking up residence within), always brings a person to faith and repentance toward Christ, and then _____ them over time, bringing them out of their old poisonous attitudes and ways into more and more _____ giving attitudes and ways. Faith, repentance, and transformation are the vital _____ God is checking for thru the hardships and tests he sends his people.

Dt 8² [Y]ou shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. ³ So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD. ⁴ Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. ⁵ You should know in your heart that as a man chastens [*i.e., trains*] his son, so the LORD your God chastens you.

► God is not looking for stoicism, but for _____, _____, and _____ expressed in understanding, gratitude, obedience, and holding fast to him.

Dt 30 ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; ²⁰ that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers

Dt 8 ¹¹ "Beware ... ¹² lest – when you have eaten and are full ... ¹³ ... and all that you have is multiplied; ¹⁴ when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; ¹⁵ who led you through that great and terrible wilderness ... where there was no water ... ¹⁷ then you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.' ¹⁸ And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant

Ps 142 *A Contemplation Of David. A Prayer When He Was in the Cave.* ¹ I cry out to the LORD with my voice; With my voice to the LORD I make my supplication. ² I pour out my complaint before Him; I declare before Him my trouble. ³ When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then You knew my path. In the way in which I walk they have secretly set a snare for me. ⁴ Look on my right hand and see, for there is no one who acknowledges me; Refuge has failed me; No one cares for my soul. ⁵ I cried out to You, O LORD: I said, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living. ⁶ Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low; Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are stronger than I. ⁷ Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Your name; The righteous shall surround me, for You shall deal bountifully with me."

Mt 6 ⁸ "[Y]our Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. ⁹ In this manner, therefore, pray: 'Our Father in heaven ...'"

► _____ turns to God; _____ froths about circumstances; _____ complains about God. Biblical prayer proceeds from faith and leads to greater faith. Fretting and grumbling proceed from unbelief and lead to greater unbelief.

James 5 ¹⁶ The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Ps 37 ¹ Do not fret because of evildoers, nor be envious of the workers of iniquity. ² For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. ³ Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. ⁴ Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. ⁵ Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. ⁶ He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. ⁷ Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. ⁸ Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret – it only causes harm. ⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the LORD, they shall inherit the earth ... ¹¹ [T]he meek shall inherit the earth [See Mt 5.5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth"]

► Biblical prayer:

- 1) Is _____ before God about the hardship;

- 2) Takes the hardship _____, not inward with stoicism or fretting or sideways with complaining to others;

- 3) Remembers, gives thanks, and solicits God based on his _____ and his proven _____;

- 4) Concludes with _____ in the Lord, like David in Ps 142.7b.