

HWMR - CRYSTALLIZATION STUDY OF NUMBERS, Book 3, Week 16

Speaking to the Rock to Drink of the Spirit as the Water of Life and Digging the Well to Allow the Spirit as the Water of Life to Flow Freely within Us

MC Hymns: 1198, 250

Scripture Reading: Exo. 17:6; Num. 20:8; 21:16-18; 1 Cor. 12:13; John 4:10, 14; 7:37-39; 19:34; 1 Cor. 10:4; Rev. 22:1-2

- Exodus 17:6 - I will be **standing** before you there **upon the rock** in Horeb; and you shall **strike the rock**, and **water** will come out of it so that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.
- Numbers 20:8 - Take the rod, and gather the assembly, you and Aaron your brother, and **speak to the rock** before their eyes, so that it yields its **water**. Thus you shall **bring forth water** for them out of the rock and give the assembly and their livestock something to drink.
- Numbers 21:16 - And from there they journeyed to Beer; that is the **well** where Jehovah said to Moses, Gather the people together, and I will give them water.
- Numbers 21:17 - Then Israel sang this song: **Spring up, O well! Sing to it!**
- Numbers 21:18 - The well, which the leaders sank, Which the nobles of the people dug, With the scepter, with their staffs. And from the wilderness they journeyed to Mattanah;
- 1Cor. 12:13 - For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one fSpirit.
- John 4:10 - Jesus answered and said to her, If you knew the gift of God and who it is who says to you, Give Me a drink, you would have **asked Him**, and He would have given you **living water**.
- John 4:14 - But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall by no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a **fountain** of water **springing** up into eternal life.
- John 7:37 - Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him **come to Me** and **drink**.
- John 7:38 - He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall **flow rivers of living water**.
- John 7:39 - But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for the Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.
- John 19:34 - But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out **blood** and **water**.
- 1Cor. 10:4 - And all drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank of a spiritual rock which **followed** them, and **the rock was Christ**.
- Revelation 22:1- And he showed me a **river of water of life**, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.
- Revelation 22:2- And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Now that the Spirit has been given, there is no need for Christ to be crucified again that the living water may flow forth. **To have the living water**, we simply need to **take the rod** and apply it to our situation today. We also need to **speak to the rock**. **Speaking to the Rock** is a matter of **believing**. Furthermore, Speaking to the Rock indicates that we have **prayed**, not in the way of begging but in the way of believing that the Spirit has already been given.

Through the **crucifixion** of Christ **living water has flowed out of Christ**. This is clearly revealed in **John 19:34**. "*One of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water.*" Today we need only to **speak to the rock**, and the **water will flow again from the rock**. We may say, "Praise the Lord that the Spirit is here!" This is to speak to the rock that the water may flow into us to be our supply. This is **the way to apply the death of Christ** to our situation that we may have the Spirit of life.

(Life-Study of Numbers, Chapter 30, Section 2)

Day 1

I. The striking of the rock is a clear, complete, and full picture of Christ's crucifixion—Exo. 17:6:

- A. In this type, **Moses** signifies the **law**, and the **staff** represents the **power** and **authority** of the law.
- B. Hence, the **striking of the rock** by Moses' staff signifies that **Christ was put to death on the cross** by the authority of God's law—cf. Gal. 2:19-20a; 3:13.
- C. Christ as the **living, spiritual rock** was **smitten** by the authority of God's law so that the **water of life** in resurrection could **flow out** of Him and into His redeemed people for them to **drink**—Exo. 17:6; 1 Cor. 10:4:
 - 1. Christ is our **begetting rock** and the rock who is our **salvation, strength, refuge, hiding place, protection, covering, and safeguard**—Deut. 32:18; 2 Sam. 22:47; Psa. 95:1; 62:7; 94:22; Isa. 32:2.
 - 2. **Blood** and **water** **flowed out** of the Lord's pierced side on the cross; the **blood** for **our judicial redemption** saves us from the guilt of sin, and the **water** of life in resurrection for **our organic salvation** saves us from the power of sin—Gen. 2:21-22; John 19:34; Zech. 13:1; Psa. 36:8-9; Rev. 21:6; Hymns, #1058, stanza 1.

Day 2

- D. The water that **came out of the rock** is the **water of life** in resurrection:
 - 1. **Resurrection** denotes something that has been **put to death** and is **alive again**; it also denotes **life that springs forth out** of something that has passed through death.
 - 2. The **water** that **flowed out** of the **smitten rock** sprang forth only after the major steps of incarnation, human living, and crucifixion had been accomplished; hence, Exodus 17:6 is a profound verse, **implying** Christ's incarnation, human living, and death.
 - 3. The Spirit as the **living water** for us to **drink** and **flow out** could be received only after the Lord Jesus had been glorified, that is, only after Christ had entered into resurrection—John 7:37-39; Luke 24:26.
 - 4. Actually, the **water of life, the flowing water, is resurrection**; resurrection is the Triune God—the Father as the **source**, the Son as the **course**, and the Spirit as the **flow**—John 5:26; 11:25.
- E. The source of the **water of life** is the throne of God and of the Lamb—the redeeming God; hence, **the water of life is the Triune God flowing out to be our life**—Rev. 22:1:
 - 1. The **flow of the living water** began from the throne in eternity, **continued** through the incarnation, human living, and crucifixion of Christ (John 4:10, 14; 19:34), and **now flows** on in resurrection **to supply** God's people with all the riches of the divine life (Rev. 22:1-2).
 - 2. The **flowing of the water of life** in resurrection is **for** the **building up** of the **Body of Christ** (1 Cor. 12:13) and the **preparation** of the **bride of Christ** (Rev. 19:7), both of which will consummate in the New Jerusalem (21:9-10; cf. Eph. 5:23, 28-30).

Day 2

- F. John 4:14b reveals a **flowing Triune God**—the Father is the **fountain**, the Son is the **spring**, and the Spirit is the **flowing river**, issuing in the totality of the eternal life, the New Jerusalem.
- G. The entire Triune God was **involved** in the water flowing out of the smitten rock for the people to drink—**God** [the Father] was **standing** upon the **rock**, the rock was **Christ** [the Son], and the living water **coming out** of the **rock** signifies the drinkable and **outflowing Spirit** as the ultimate issue of the Triune God—Exo. 17:6; 1 Cor. 10:4; John 7:37-39.
- H. Our **drinking** of the one Spirit in resurrection makes us **members** of the Body, **builds us up** as the Body, and **prepares** us to be the bride of Christ—1 Cor. 12:13; Rev. 22:17.

II. To receive the living water from the crucified Christ, we need only to “take the rod” and “speak to the rock”—Num. 20:8:

- A. Since **Christ** has been **crucified** and the **Spirit** has been **given**, there is **no need for Christ to be crucified again**, that is, no need to strike the rock again, that the living water may flow; in God's economy **Christ should be crucified only once**—Heb. 7:27; 9:26-28a.
- B. To **take the rod** is to **identify** with Christ in His death and **apply** the death of Christ to ourselves and to our situation.
- C. When we **identify** ourselves with the smitten Christ, that is, when we are **one with Him** as the smitten Christ, the divine life as the living water **flows out of us**—Exo. 17:6; John 7:38; cf. S. S. 2:8-9, 14; Phil. 3:10.
- D. To **speak to the rock** is to **speak a direct word to Christ** as the smitten rock, **asking Him to give us the Spirit of life** based on the fact that the Spirit has already been given—cf. John 4:10; Hymns, #248.

- E. If we **apply** the death of Christ to ourselves and **ask** Christ in faith to give us the Spirit, we will **receive** the living Spirit as the bountiful supply of life—Phil. 1:19.
- F. Moses should have simply spoken to the rock, **telling** it to flow forth with water (Num. 20:8); if we deal with the **contending** of God's people in this way today, the church life will be glorious.

Day 4

III. Whereas the **rock in Numbers 20:8 typifies **Christ on the cross**, smitten by God so that the living water, the Spirit of life, may flow out into us, the **well** in Numbers 21:16-18 typifies **Christ within us**—John 4:11-12, 14:**

- A. The **digging** of the **well** (Num. 21:18) **signifies** the **digging away** of the “dirt,” the **barriers** in our heart—our conscience, our mind, our will, and our emotion—so that the Spirit as the living water may spring up within us and flow freely.
- B. We need to go to the Lord to be “dug out” for the free flow of the living water within us; there is much “dirt” within us that needs to be dug out:

Day 5

1. We must **dig away** the many things condemned by the Lord in our heart; not many brothers and sisters have a pure heart in seeking only the Lord Himself—Matt. 5:8:
 - a. On the one hand, many are seeking the Lord and His way, but on the other hand, they are **still seeking things other than the Lord Himself**.
 - b. Our loving and seeking the Lord may be with a **complicated** heart; the aim and goal of our heart are not so pure; we do not know how many goals are within our heart, such as our family, our job, our degree, and our concerns about our future.
2. If we would experience a **free, inward flow of the Spirit**, our **conscience must be dealt with and purified**—Heb. 9:14; 10:22; 1 Tim. 1:5, 19; 1 Pet. 3:16, 21; 1 John 1:7:
 - a. When we refuse to do what the Lord commands, this becomes an **accusation** in our conscience; these accusations are the dirt that needs to **be dug away**.
 - b. We need to go to the Lord again and again in our spirit and be dug in His presence; by the help of the Holy Spirit we must dig away all the dirt.
 - c. A conscience void of offense means to be free from any kind of offense or accusation—Acts 24:16.

Day 6

3. We must **dig away** the dirt in our **mind**; the Lord wants to **transform** us by the **renewing** of our mind—Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:23; Rom. 8:6; 2 Cor. 10:4-5:
 - a. Many who are regenerated are just like the people of the world in their thinking about fashion; they dress in **conformity** to the modern age.
 - b. Many who are regenerated continue to use their money in the same way as those in the world; not until they love the Lord more and give the Lord more ground to work within them will they be transformed in their way of spending money.
 - c. Many young people studying in the colleges have the same thoughts about their studies and degrees as other worldly young people; if their minds were being renewed, they would not give up their studies, but they would have the Lord's point of view in which to evaluate their studies.
 - d. Our mind has been blinded by the many imaginations that we have day by day; the heaps of **dirt** are **simply** the many thoughts, imaginations, and dreams, which must **be dug away** before the **living water can freely flow**.
4. We must **dig away** the dirt in our **will**; there are not many who are absolutely and utterly obedient to the Lord:
 - a. Many times we do not submit ourselves to the Lord's sovereign arrangement in our environment—cf. Phil. 4:11-13.
 - b. Sometimes we think that we are quite submissive to the Lord, but when He puts us into certain circumstances, we are exposed.
 - c. Many experiences and circumstances under His sovereignty simply expose us to the light so that we may know how stubborn our will is.
 - d. The will must be wholly **submissive**, and not only submissive but in **harmony** with the will of God; then every decision that we make will be an expression of Christ—Luke 22:42; James 4:7; Phil. 2:13.
5. After digging away the dirt from the will, we need to **deal** with our **emotion**:

- a. When we are emotional, we are occupied with ourselves; we are under the bondage and control of our emotion.
 - b. The regulating of our love **must be under the control of the Lord**, and we must always be ready to exercise our emotion according to the Lord's pleasure— Matt. 10:37-39; Phil. 1:8.
 - c. We all must learn to deal with our emotion according to the pleasure and joy of the Lord; we must learn that whatever we hate or love, whatever we like or dislike, must be done under the permission of the Lord with His joy.
 - d. If our emotion is kept under the rule of the Lord with His pleasure and joy, it will be saturated with the spirit and transformed.
6. **We must forget about our needs, our jobs, our future, and our circumstances; we must seek only the Lord's presence and ask Him to bring us into His light; then we can follow His light to dig away the dirt in our heart, conscience, mind, will, and emotion**—Isa. 2:5; Luke 11:34-36; 1 John 1:5, 7, 9.
 7. **This digging is accomplished only by prayer in our private time with the Lord; we have to spend more time with the Lord and pray according to His inner leading.**
 8. The more we dig away the dirt, the more living, strengthened, and victorious we will be as the living water flows freely within us to **cause us to grow in life** for the building up of the Body of Christ—we need to sing and pray over Hymns, #250.

DIGGING THE WELL IN ORDER FOR THE LIVING WATER TO FLOW OUT

Being **filled in spirit** refers to the **flowing of living water from within us**. In the Old Testament, while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness, they often encountered the problem of a **shortage of water**. Shortly after they crossed the Red Sea, they came to Marah and to the twelve springs of water at Elim (Exo. 15:22-27). At **Meribah** Moses **struck the rock**, and **water flowed out** (17:1-7). In Numbers 20:2-13 the children of Israel encountered a shortage of water again, and God instructed Moses to **speak to the rock** so that it would yield its water for the people to drink. In verses 16 through 18 of chapter 21 the children of Israel came to **Beer**. On this occasion they did not strike the rock, nor were there visible springs. Rather, they **dug a well** for water to spring up. On one hand, they used the scepter and their staffs to dig the well; on the other hand, they sang, "Spring up, O well!" Many Bible students pay attention to the twelve springs at Elim and to the water that flowed out of the smitten rock, but they neglect the **digging of the well in Beer**. We are focusing on the type of digging a well in order to get water. We are not concerned with the springs at Elim or with striking the rock. The rock has been cleft, and the springs are flowing into us. **Our present need is to dig the well. We must dig until the living water springs up.**

Digging the well does **not refer to seeking** the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Bible speaks of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit only in Acts, not in the Epistles. The spirit that is spoken of numerous times in the Epistles does not refer to the Holy Spirit but to the mingled spirit, that is, God's Spirit mingled with our spirit. For example, Romans 8:4 speaks of walking according to the spirit. The word spirit here refers to the Spirit of God mingled with the spirit of man, that is, the divine Spirit mingled with the human spirit. We can say confidently that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is not referred to in the Epistles. Romans 5:5 says, "*The love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*" There is a distinction between the love of God being poured out through the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the believers. The **outpouring of the Holy Spirit** recorded in Acts was **outward**, upon the believers, just like water covering people outwardly so that they are submerged in water. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit was an extraordinary experience, not a daily matter. It was something done by God to meet a particular need. **Now God is in our spirit as the spring of living water**. We do not need to search for outward springs or to strike the rock, nor do we need to wait for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. **We need only to dig the well, to open a hole in our being, so that the spring of water hidden in our spirit will flow out.**

Digging The Well through Prayer

We **dig the well** through **prayer**. The more **thoroughly we pray**, the **deeper we dig**. Ephesians speaks of being filled in spirit (5:18) and of "*praying at every time in spirit*" (6:18). **In order to be filled in spirit, we need to pray in spirit**. If we want our spirit to be strong and released so that God can flow out of us, we must exercise our spirit through prayer daily. Then our spirit will be strong, and we will be able to express the sense within our spirit. If we would be faithful to exercise our spirit, in a short time our spirit will be released, and living waters will flow out. Moreover, we will be able to supply the saints and lead them to release their spirit. (The Exercise of the Spirit and the Building of God, Chapter 5, Section 2)