

If Anyone THIRSTS!

Exodus 17:1-7

Numbers 20:2-13

John 4:1-14

John 7:37-39



Pressing Forward into 2023

- Discipleship: **D for DILIGENCE** - Disciples give their ALL.
- Psalm 119:4; Proverbs 10:4; Romans 12:11-12; 2 Peter 1:5-8; Heb 6:11-12
- Catechism and Meditation

The Journey So Far

- God UNCONDITIONAL PROMISES to Abraham, Jacob, and Moses.
- God keeps His promises: He multiplied His people, He brought them out of the “house of bondage”, He judged Pharaoh and Egypt, He provided a guide to lead them to the land He had promised. (Genesis 15:13-16; Exodus 3:6-8)
- God treated His people differently than the Egyptians by providing a way to propitiate His anger as He ransomed and redeemed His people by the blood of Christ and His almighty power.
- He demonstrated His great power both in Egypt and at the Red Sea.
- He demonstrated His power and majesty in the cloud.
- He demonstrated His mercy, love, and power in feeding them with fresh manna daily.
- 1 Corinthians 10:1-12 - All these things were written for our learning. All were examples to not follow. YET, it seems more and more that Christianity has not learned and is following the route as the Jews in the Old Testament.

Massah (“to test”) and Meribah (“contention and quarreling”)

★ DO NOT FORGET! - But they did!

God Is a Testing God

- Exodus 15:25-26; 16:4; Deuteronomy 8:1-3, 16; **13:3**, Genesis 22:1; 2 Chronicles 32:31; Psalm 81:7; 66:10; 17:3; Proverbs 17:3; Judges 2:21-22; 3:1-4; Psalm 105:19; Ecclesiastes 3:18; Jer 11:20; **1 Peter 1:7**; 1 Cor 10:13
- **Trusting and clinging to God.** (Deut 13:3)
- Faith - Romans 8:28 - God is working all things for our good for those who are called according to His purpose and who love (obey) Him.

- **Test of Obedience:** Will we obey or will we do whatever we wish?
- Sins of ingratitude and **unbelief**. It is for the sin of **indifference** that God hands people over to do things that are **unfitting** and approve of those who do unfitting things. (Romans 1:18-32) We are experiencing God judgment in the world today!

The Sin of Testing God

- (Numbers 14:20-23) Those who tested God in the wilderness were not allowed to see the Promised Land.
- (Matthew 12:39; 16:1-4) Christ called those who asked for sign (testing Him) wicked, evil, and adulterous!

Sometimes God Commands, “Test Me”

- (Malachi 3:6-10) Giving of tithes and offerings.
- (Isaiah 7:10-14) God commanded Ahaz to ask for a sign. When God commands then we must obey.

Two Rocks (Exodus 17:1-7; Numbers 20:2-13)

- Strike the Rock (Exodus 17) (Psalm 78:15-16; 105:41; 114:8; Isaiah 48:21)
- several years (almost forty) later
- Speak to the Rock (Numbers 20)

Christ the Rock (John 7:37-39)

- (1 Corinthians 10:1-4) Christ is the ROCK! Christ is in the OLD and the NEW!
- **PSALM 36:7-9** - God's people are abundantly satisfied with . . . READ.
- “If anyone thirsts . . .”
 - One must be ALIVE to thirst. A dead person cannot/does not thirst!
 - Thirst is a recognized NEED.
 - Thirst is something we are acutely CONSCIOUS.
 - Thirst is a craving for something we do not have.
 - Many things seem to promise to quench but do so only for a little while.
 - Many in the West do not understand what it really means to thirst so they cannot really understand Christ's words.
 - Many thirst for the things of the world. (2 Timothy 3:1-5; John 4:10, 13-14)
- ★ BLESSED is the man who **hungers and thirsts** after righteousness. (Matt 5:6)
- ★ “If anyone thirsts let Him Come to Me”
 - ONLY thirsty people will come and drink.
 - “Come” - Verb - **PRESENT** tense; **ACTIVE** voice; **IMPERATIVE!**
 - ★ This “coming” is something one does continually throughout his life - every day! - Did you come to Christ today? Yesterday?
 - “Come” - action verb - implies at determined act of one's will.

- “Come to ME” - One who comes to Christ turns his back to the world.
- “Come to ME” - finding satisfaction in Christ rather than anything else in the world.

“Drink” - **PRESENT** tense; **ACTIVE** voice; **IMPERATIVE**.

- CRAVE like a new born baby - 1 Peter 2:2
- A continual drinking implies an overflowing.

What Is Water (John 4:13-14)

- ❶ Water is a **GIFT** from God - God gave His Son!
- ❷ Water is **INDISPENSABLE** to man - without Christ you can do nothing.
- ❸ Water is a **UNIVERSAL** need - all have sinned against God.
- ❹ Water comes first from Heaven.
- ❺ Water is a **BOON** (something that satisfies; refreshes) - John 4:13-14; Psalm 36:7-9.
- ❻ Water is something we **never TIRE** - John 7:37-39
- ❼ Water is strangely and **unevenly DISTRIBUTED** by God. (Amos 4:7)

The Holy Spirit Is the Water (John 7:37-39; 4:13-14)

- Our faith must be **strictly** according to the **written** Word of God.
- THEN, out of our bellies will come rivers of living waters!!
- “Belly” means “the inward part of us that is never satisfied.”
 - Our bellies are constantly craving. (Philippians 3:19)
- BUT those who truly believe will be completely satisfied and overflow!
- We are satisfied by continually coming to Christ and continually drinking Christ.
- “A vessel will not overflow until it is full, and to be full it has to be filled.” See Ephesians 5:18.
- **WHEN THE BELLY IS FULL, THEN THERE IS NO EFFORT REQUIRED TO OVERFLOW!**
- **Thirst satisfied:** Psalm 36:7-9; Jeremiah 2:12-13; 17:13; Rev 7:17; 21:6; 22:17

The Glorious Gospel at the Rock

- We are following the people that God calls His own - “My people”. Those whom He has redeemed are God’s special people. (Matthew 1:21)
- These are people He brought out of Egypt, the house of bondage. God’s special people were in bondage to sin, the world, Satan and their own lusts. They had not desire for God. BUT GOD, by His mercy and great love gave life to these people and saved them. (Ephesians 2:1-5)
- God set His people free from Satan, by destroying the work of the devil (Hebrews); God gave them a new heart with His Law written on it (Hebrews 8:10-12); God gave them His Holy Spirit to cause them to obey His commandments (Ezekiel 36:25-26).

- God set His people from the bondage of sin and set them free to be slaves unto Him and righteousness. They were now free to serve God and not the world, Satan, and/or their own lusts. God made it so that sin no longer has dominion over His people and they are now **free** to obey and serve Him. (Romans 6:6, 14, 16-22)
- God continually tests His people's faith to show them their hearts and lead them continually in repentance. (2Cor 7:9-10 ; Luke 13:1-5; Mark 1:14-15; Proverbs 4:23)
- God sent His Son not only to die for His people's sins but also to sustain them in their journey. Christ promised, those who continually (daily) come to Him and "eat His flesh and drink His blood" will live forever. (John 6:48-58)
- God has provided and preserved His Word for His people to feast ("eat and drink") on and be strengthened by. (Luke 4:4; Jeremiah 15:16; Psalm 19:10; Ezekiel 3:1-3; Revelation 10:9)
- God provides grace for His people to live the difficult life of a Christian.
- God, Himself, works in each of His people to will and do His good pleasure and so doing. (Philippians 2:12-13)
- In this world, **God's people thirst** - not for the things of the world but for God. To those who thirst, Christ says, "Come to Me and be satisfied!" Christ's promises His people an abundant life. (John 10:10; 7:37; Psalm 36:7-9)
- By "drinking" Christ, God's people are completely satisfied and become a blessing to others. (John 7:37-38)

Do You Thirst for Him?

- Do you really THIRST? If you have no REAL THIRST for Christ you are not saved!
- Are you "**panting**" for God - the fountain of living water? Or do you believe the world (cistern that cannot hold water) can satisfy you more than God? Psalm 42:1-2; 63:11; 36:7-9; 84:2; 107:9; 143:6; Jeremiah 2:13; 17:13
- Are you **thirsting** and **hungering** after righteousness? Then you will be FILLED (completely satisfied)! Matthew 5:6
- Are you **craving**, as a newborn baby craving pure milk, the pure Word of God daily? (1 Peter 2:2)
- Are You **coming** to Him every day?
- Are You **drinking** Christ every day?
- Are You OVERFLOWING to others? Are rivers of living waters flowing out of you to others? Are others' lives blessed by you?
 - ☆ YES - praise the Lord! All glory to God!
 - ✘ NO - then you are not drinking Christ daily and you need to seriously examine your faith.