

Deserts into Rivers

Introduction

- So this month we prepare to go into a new spiritual year
- We will be moving out of 5785 into 5786 and the word of the Lord is new & fresh for a new year.
- So 5784 we came out of a year that was all about the Door, not a door, the Door, Jesus Christ!!
- And that took us into 5785 that was all about Beholding, the Anointed One, the King of glory!!
- So the foundation has been laid, we know Jesus Christ is the way, the Truth and the Life!
- We have learned to see Him, esteem Him correctly

* Now going into this year 5786 we will see what happens when He touches our lives, when heaven touches earth! *

Isaiah 41: 18-20
* Israel assured of God's help *

↳ When we live for Him, He will help us
↳ He will make dry land springs of water

Isaiah 43: 18-19
* The Redeemer of Israel *

↳ Behold, He will do a new thing
↳ He will make a road in the wilderness
↳ He will ^{make} rivers in the desert!

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."
JOSHUA 1:9

* Here Jacob will see for the first time Heaven that touches earth. A staircase where Heaven touches earth *

Genesis 28:10-22 with God

- Jacob flees and lays down to sleep and has an encounter
- Esau will not call Jacob a blessing. He wants to kill him
- his father Isaac and steals his brother Esau's blessing.
- Let's look at Jacob, his name means deceiver. It deceives
- grandson Jacob is going to persevere.

- So Abraham has a multi generational vision, even something his
He doesn't build it himself, he waits on God to build it.
going to build

- Abraham was living in tents, looking forward at what God's
- God said to Abraham he will be a blessing
- Hebrews 11:8-10
- touch earth, and God calls Abraham out of this fatherhood.

- This was there staircase to heaven, they believed heaven can
The Ziggurat in Ur was the highest building.
Genesis 11:3-4

Joshua 24:2 polytheistic as Joshua records

- Before his arrival in Canaan, the people of Abraham were
go up to meet with their gods
- This Ziggurat was believed to be the place where people could
go to Canaan

- God calls Abraham & his family out of Ur of the Chaldeans to
This existed during Abraham's time.

Ziggurat, a large temple dedicated to the moon god Nannar
- So where Abraham lived in Ur he could have seen this

- God is telling him to leave everything he knows.
Here we see Abraham looking for a country not build with hands

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Genesis 12:1-3

* Jacob who's name means deceiver, who is renamed Israel, who now Nathanael has been called after as an Israelite that has no deceit
 * Jesus here makes a direct tie to what Jacob received 2000 years earlier
 * Nathanael declares that Jesus is the son of God, because Jesus recognised him, and Jesus seeing that Nathanael believes in Him, gives him an even bigger vision than Jacob have seen.
 * Jesus here declares that He is the son of Man (Daniel 7:13-14) and He is now the place where Heaven touches earth, where man is restored to God. Jesus is that picture of Bethel (the Kingdom of Israel that was) He is fulfilling the promise through the people who belong to Christ (the Kingdom that is)

- We have seen how God called Abraham out of the country of the Chaldeans to Canaan.
 - Before his arrival in Canaan, the people of Abraham were Polytheistic as Joshua records (Joshua 24:2)
 - And now God promise Abraham that he will be a blessing, but his grandson Jacob does not really become a blessing. - He steals his father's birthright. (his name meaning deceiver)
 - But he has an encounter with God in a dream, and the promise of God given to him. (God changes his name to Israel, something that Jacob here caught a glimpse of a spiritual kingdom, something that would be established in his lineage, a kingdom that will never disappear; - He saw heaven touching earth, then we go forward 2000 years and Jesus in His ministry describes something similar

Deserts into Rivers
 Son of Man our ladder
 (Genesis 28:10-22)
 (John 1:43-51)

* There is also a Kingdom to come
Matthew 28:18

* All Authority has been given to Jesus Christ, He is in control.
↳ Jesus defeated all hardships
↳ He has authority over everything v19 and this Kingdom, His Kingdom will never end.
↳ And surely He is with us, because He has come to us!
↳ We can get now to the Father, living in the Kingdom

Daniel 7:27

Revelation 1:5-7

God will supply the total fulfillment to every need (the alphas!!)

dependant on God as our go-to into every situation.

needs, deserts, then there would be no cause for us to be

* We will not trust God without need. If there are no problems,

Simply do not like to be in need, we don't like desert-places

* We might never developed a need for deserts in our lives. We

* If God is to do more, there must be a greater desert.

* The more desolate your desert is, the more God will do

* God will transform, turn your desert into something else - rivers

Romans 8:28

Genesis 50:20

Jeremiah 32:40

Psalm 113:7-9

* A Transformation is happening in our desert. God is turning waste into waters. His turning deserts into rivers

see that "God is doing a new thing"

* We must look again with eyes of faith, into our desert and

* But I want us to look again in the desert

beyond recovery.

different, those things that are ruined, wasted, destroyed and

- All of our deserts might look different, and for everyone it's

- Yes, each one of us have our "own desert places"

- Their hopes dismantled, their dreams destroyed.

- Deserts kill our joy, dash our hopes, people are dying in this desert

- Deserts fill our world, its on our streets, decay pollutes our air

- misfortune, heartache, destruction, devastation, desolation & loss

- We are surrounded on every side by trouble, tragedy,

discourage us, deserts that are in our lives

- We are surrounded on every side by things that depress and

Deserts into Rivers
Deserts fill our world

Isaiah 43:18-19

Hebrews 4:14-19

↳ were hardened and a lot of them missed the promise
↳ because of this disobedience & unbelief their hearts

could take a hold of God's promise

↳ Because of this a generation had to pass before they

↳ This led to there 40 years in the Desert - place

- Complaining about God's provision, wanting to go back to Egypt.
- their lack of faith, refusing to enter Canaan
- through idolatry, worshipping the golden calf.
- Challenging God's leaders, came against Moses and Aaron

↳ Because of their rebellion against God

↳ they stayed there because of disobedience & unbelief

↳ Israel found themselves in the desert because they believed the report of man, and not the report of God (Num 13:1)

Deuteronomy 25:5

* Even their sandals did not wear out!

* He gave them manna in the mornings, quails in the evenings

* He gave them water gushing from a rock

* Although God miraculously supplied for them, cloud & fire

- but they got stuck, because of their unbelief

Promised land.

- Their desert was only meant as a journey to get to the

- we see Israel ending up in the desert

- how being in the desert makes us dependent on God

- How God uses the desert to do great things in our lives, and

are not necessarily a bad place

Fill our world, and how the desert place

- last week we looked at how deserts

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Israel in the Desert

Exodus 16:1-8

Exodus 13:17-22

Isaiah 43:18-19

How are we responding to the desert?
Can Joseph speak of God's faithfulness (test)

- In the same way some believers enter the desert for God's greater purpose to grow them in His ways
- Some stay there longer than necessary, they argue with God and struggle unwillingly to embrace the change
- They don't allow God to change their character in unexpected ways
- They keep looking back to what they used to have instead of embracing what God wants to do!!!

- ↳ In order for Joseph to come into the position that God had ordained for him, the Lord had to take him out of his familiar surroundings and remove some of his earthly relationships
- ↳ This would allow him to fully rely on the Lord and grow in wisdom, favor & insight
- ↳ His earthly father was no longer his protector or provider, but it was the Lord who would guide him and provide for him.

- The first thing they did was strip Joseph from his tunic
- The tunic was a reminder of Joseph's identity
- The desert is the place where our identity will come into question
- The enemy knows the believers identity, so he attempts to strip it and make believers question their identity

- Joseph was the favored child of his father Jacob, and to show his great love towards him, his father had given him a tunic of many colors
- In addition Joseph was given prophetic dreams by the Lord, but they were not appreciated by his brothers when shared.
- He also had to report about his brothers to his father when they were out in the field working
- All these things caused jealousy in the hearts of his brothers

Deserts into Rivers Joseph in the Desert

Genesis 37:20-28

Joshua 1:8

Our thoughts shape our lives, it shapes our character
Our thoughts are the foundation for your actions and the people we become
↳ what we repeatedly think about eventually becomes a part of who we are and how we act.
↳ we should think, meditate on the word of God day and night!!

Proverbs 23:7

Philippians 4:8

2 Corinthians 10:5

When we take water and splash it over our face that is what the word does!
And it starts with our thoughts, our thinking
How does this renewal happen?
It happens by the washing of the word!

This year is all about Heaven touching earth, when God's hand touches our lives.
And when this happens, He brings renewal, transformation (Renewal) & joy!

Finding the river in the desert, is like finding a lamp in the darkness, its finding God's word in the middle of your world

When we find ourselves in a desert, things can seem to get to much or even unbearable
But the one thing that will change our experience even our thinking and perspective on the desert is a river or rivers.
When we find a river in the middle of our desert it changes everything.
And this is what God wants to do, He wants to lead us to this river. This river will bring renewal, transformation & joy!!

How about the Rivers

Deserts into Rivers

Romans 12:1-2

Romans 5:3-4

5786

Genesis 28:12-22

86 is the Hebrew word "Elohim"

↳ it refers to the strength of God.

↳ or the fullness of Divine strength.

The numeric association can be calculated by adding 6 (natural man) to 80 (fullness in Christ)

↳ This can mean being all that he can be as a representative of Christ

Warning

↳ an attack will be aimed at leaders and those in supportive roles

↳ the enemy is going to do everything he can to try and get you off your position and out of alignment with God.

↳ this Amalekite spirit seeks to derail destinies through

compromise and comfort. (he wants to steal your highest & best)

↳ he will try and make people weary to the point of saying "I can't handle it"

↳ this spirit is working through Jezebelic & Raad structures, designed to divide and seduce leaders with promises of recognition, comfort,

↳ many believers are tempted to quit because they feel out of place,

↳ forgotten or unrecognized.

↳ the number 6 is the number for man. This also speaks of the flesh. We should be walking in the Spirit and must no longer be

carrotly minded.

1 Timothy 4:1 (MSG)

2 Timothy 3:1-7 (NKJV) (AMP)

Deserts into Rivers

Conclusion

Isaiah 43:18-19

- Remember we said that 5786 will be about what happens when

god touches our lives, when Heaven touches earth?

- We saw how Jacob saw Heaven touch earth at the staircase from Heaven in Genesis, and how Jesus Christ now has

become that staircase to us!

- We can get to God, because Jesus came to us. We can

now get to the Father because of the living word & the written word

- We saw how deserts lead us to rivers, in the way of the

things in our lives should lead us to the living & written word.

* When we find the water, we find the word! *

• And the word brings Renewal (Transformation) Renewal (Refining) and Rejoicing (God is able)

① The first thing that the river in the desert does is Renewal

↳ When we find this water, our thinking is renewed

↳ The way we were thinking are renewed and transformed

Romans 12:2

② Then Renewal happens, this water brings refreshing. It renews our spirits, it brings back the backsliding believer, it even

wakes up a church and brings new life! Psalm 23:1-3

③ And when we find this river, this water, the word of God

It brings Rejoicing. We start to rejoice because we see the hand of God, we see His miracle working power and

believe that He is able! Ephesians 3:20-21

From our Deserts to the River, God is working a mighty work in us, He is doing what only He can do. Trust Him through every moment, and the water will give you life!