

Thirsty?

Fountains of Water in Dry Lands

The *Book of Isaiah* is full of references to **water** as a spiritual symbol.

This book was written just prior to the captivity of Judah to Babylon, around 760-698 B.C. Isaiah was a prophet to Judah. As a prophet, Isaiah was a man raised to speak on behalf of God to the heart and conscience of the nation.

Prophetic messages have two purposes:

1. to speak to the _____ of that time, and
2. to predict God's _____ in the future.

Read Isaiah 41:17-21. (See also: Isaiah 44:3,4; 48:21, 49:10, 58:11.)

Verse 17

“The afflicted and needy are seeking water, but there is none, And their tongue is parched with thirst; I, the LORD, will answer them Myself, As the God of Israel I will not forsake them.

1. In verse 17, the “afflicted and needy” are searching for _____ **water**, not physical water.
Judah was not in need of physical water at this time.
2. God’s people today who are in Christ—though many are physically poor and lacking the good things in the world—need nothing more in Christ. However, at times, individual Christians long for:
 - a. more of the _____ of God
 - b. fresh supply of the _____ of God
 - c. more _____
 - d. fresh _____
 - e. more _____
 - f. more _____ in His Word. >>>

Verse 18

“I will open rivers on the bare heights And springs in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water And the dry land fountains of water.

1. When God says He will “open rivers on the bare heights,” He is saying He has the power to change the very _____ of nature. He is also making a reference to the miracle of supplying water in the desert to the Israelites when they needed it.
2. One commentator says that by referring to the high places and the valleys, Isaiah is spiritually expressing that, “in all circumstances, whether elevated or depressed, God’s people will be _____ in their souls—even when it is least expected.”*

Verse 19

“I will put in the desert the cedar and the acacia, the myrtle and the olive. I will set pines in the wasteland, the fir and the cypress together,

1. The trees mentioned here are trees not usually found in the desert. They are all trees which bore much _____ to the people at that time, and were usually used in everyday life—oil, wood, sweet in scent, profitable—instead of bearing _____, as might be expected in the desert.
2. These trees can be a symbol of the _____ we can do, and a symbol of those _____ brought into God’s kingdom, in spite of difficult circumstances.

Verse 20

“So that people may _____ and _____, may _____ and _____, that the hand of the LORD has done this, that the Holy One of Israel has created it.”

~BY Darla Knoth,
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