

BFF315 Jesus the Water of Life

Scott: Welcome to the "Building Faith Families" podcast with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today. Good morning, Steve. How are you today?

Steve: I'm well. How are you?

Scott: Pretty good.

Steve: We're going to be referencing a couple of the recent podcasts for this one. This subject has been occupying my thoughts of late. The talk today is about water, which we know we need for the basin which is right outside the door of the tent of meeting. Let's pray before we go any further.

Father, I have lots of stuff swimming in my mind, and lots of truths that are coming together in a special way. I pray by Your Spirit that you helped me to understand them, and teach them well. Help us all to hear, and be able to apply what we're learning today. Help us to see Jesus in a fresh way, in Jesus' name, Amen.

Scott: Amen.

Steve: In my Bible reading, I am in the Book of Numbers. Where are you in the Old Testament?

Scott: Numbers as well.

Steve: I'm also in Luke. So far this year, I've read Mathew, Mark, and 33 Psalms. Luke has long chapters. The first chapter is 80 verses and such a rich treasure.

Now that I'm learning how to do these deep dives, as you call them, I keep stopping and heading to Biblehub.com to explore and research passages which catch my attention. Now it takes me even longer to read these long chapters, but it's all good.

As I was reading Numbers, I was surprised that the first eight chapters of Numbers have to do with the tent of meeting, have you noticed that? At the end of Numbers' chapter one, it says, "Appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of the testimony, and over all its furnishings and over all the belongs to it there to carry the tabernacle, etc.

"When the tabernacle set out, the Levites shall take it down. When the tabernacle is to be pitched, the Levites shall set it up. And if any outsider comes near, he shall be put to death, the people of Israel shall pitch their tents by their companies, each man in his own camp, and each man by his own standard.

"But the Levites shall camp around the tabernacle of the testimony, so that there may be no wrath on the congregation of the people of Israel. The Levites shall keep guard over the tabernacle of the testimony."

This is fascinating to me.

Then it says in Numbers 2, the first two verses, "The people of Israel shall camp each by his own standard with the banners of their father's houses, they shall camp facing the Tent of Meeting on every side."

The 12 tribes, are camped three to each quadrant, three in the East three in the West, three in the North, and three on the South. Between these tribes, and the tabernacle, are the Levites.

The Levites not only are guarding the holy things, they're keeping guard over the tabernacle. As they do so, they're protecting the people from this sacred and potentially dangerous place.

If Israelites do not approach the tabernacle properly, they're going to die. This is serious stuff. God lives in this tabernacle, this is the Holy of Holies in the most holy place. Levites are a buffer. But what I also didn't know is that all of the tribes, even though they're lined up three in each quadrant, are all facing the tabernacle. Their whole life revolved around God.

Scott: I've thought that many times in reading the Old Testament, especially when they're just wandering in the wilderness because it's not they were even farming or anything or really taking care of much.

Their entire day was focused on whatever God had told them to do or just walking to the next place. In my modern-day American life, it's hard to wrap my head around what a normal day looked like there.

Steve: I agree. It seems that when they get up in the morning, and see Moses walking into the Tent of Meeting, everybody stands at the front of their tent watching, until Moses entered the tent when the pillar came down. Then they went back to the normal tasks of the day.

They had sheep, and goats, and different animals. They had flocks to take care of, and they needed to go out and receive the manna, which was a daily event. As we are observing, their life revolved around God.

Today, we have so many distractions. We have to fight and work hard to set aside time to put God first. David says, "I have set the Lord ever before me." These people were being taught that.

Remember that besides the manna and besides the structure of the camp and how it was all set up, there was water, and this is what we're going to talk about today. The water at the entrance of the tabernacle.

Now a little review from a previous podcast where we talked about this basin. I'll read in Exodus 30, "Jehovah said to Moses, 'You shall also make a basin of bronze, with its stand of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and you shall put water in it, with which Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet.'"

"When they go into the Tent of Meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn a food offering to Jehovah, they shall wash with water, so that they may not die. They shall wash their hands and their feet, so that they may not die. It shall be a statute forever to them, even to him and to his offspring throughout their generations."

This water is for washing, it's washing their hands, and their feet. There are other duties for the Levites and priests which required water. I believe Scriptures reveals a source of water near the basin of bronze.

Hold that thought. You can visualize the tent, which we just talked about in a previous podcast, you've got the veil, like the door into the tent, and then you have this bronze basin filled with water, near the veil, between the altar and the tent.

More review. When we studied the veil, we read this passage, I bet I've read this passage five times in our previous 10 podcasts, but it is so rich.

Hebrews 10:19, "Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that He opened for us through the curtain, that is, through His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the House of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."

Christ opens the way. Our hearts are sprinkled clean and our bodies washed with pure water. There's a cleansing that takes place at this entrance into the holy places through the blood of Jesus, and there's also a water element.

The question is, where did this water come from?

1 Corinthians 10:1-4, "I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud..." To me, that's God, they were under the cloud of His presence "...all passed through the sea..." I think that's the Red Sea. "...all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate..." and here's where it gets really interesting, "...the same spiritual food..." I'd call this manna, "...all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ."

There was a rock that followed them throughout their time in the wilderness. As we know, there were a couple places where there were springs. On another occasion they encountered a source of water but it was not suitable for drinking. Moses had to throw in a log and purify this water.

However most of the time, over a million Israelites were wandering in a dry and arid wilderness, and Paul tells us that they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ

This explains why Moses got in trouble in smiting the Rock. He was mad at the people. He was angry. God told him to speak to the Rock, and in anger he smote it

twice. Because of that, Moses was not able to enter the land. God said, "You did not treat me as holy."

Let's consider the word spiritual. Think about when someone observes you praying over your food, or reading your Bible on the plane, they assume you're "spiritual." But everybody is spiritual. We all worship something. This word "spiritual" is so vague that it sounds strange in this context, and I hope I can do better.

I just wrote a new chapter for a book, and studied the word agape. It turns out that the word agape, a noun, is a Christian invention. There was no word "agape" in the Greek culture at the time of Christ. I had assumed that there was a whole body of words that Paul drew from to write the New Testament."

While there was a verb, agapeo, a verb, which meant to love, and this was present in that day, the word agape was a Pauline invention. Agape did not appear in Greek literature until after the New Testament came out. It's a unique word. There are three derivatives or cognates of this word in the New Testament, agape, agapeo, and agapetos which means beloved.

They're all from the same root. When you see anything with agape in it, you're thinking this is not a brotherly affection like phileo. This is divine love. This is how God loved (agape) the world. This is from heaven.

Agapeto, which means beloved, is used 61 times. God says, "You are My beloved Son." Paul and John addressed the believers as "beloved" because they are divinely loved.

When I take that concept and consider the word spiritual, as in spiritual drink, I like to think of the Spirit. This is something that God gave. God gave Spirit food and Spirit drink.

Take out the U-A-L at the end of Spiritual and reread it. They ate the same spirit food, the manna, they drank the same spirit drink, because they were drinking supernatural water from the supernatural Spirit Rock that followed them. That make sense?

Scott: Yeah, it's a little weird though too. I didn't notice last time we talked about this. I was assuming they carried that rock along with them. It sounds like it was just rolling along. I'm envisioning a VeggieTales-type cartoon. Perhaps a rock hopping along behind me.

Steve: I now have an image in my mind that I can't forget.

Scott: If you had the little VeggieTales sheep they'd be bouncing along. Sorry. :-)

Steve: That's OK. I'm sure our listeners are enjoying your images. Let me read that again. "They ate the same Spirit food and they all drank the same Spirit drink. For they drank from the Spirit Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ."

This Rock was a source of life. It was a source of water. When you're in the wilderness, and you don't have water, you are in trouble. God in Christ, supplied water as well as manna for bread.

They were both given from God, they were spirit food, they were spirit sustenance. In Ephesians 5, "Christ loved the church, and gave Himself up for her that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word."

The word washed. It cleansed. John 15:3 builds on that idea, "Already you are clean because of the Word that I have spoken to you." John 17:17, where Jesus is praying to the Father, pulls these thoughts together, "Sanctify them in the truth. Your Word is truth."

This water is truth. It is cleansing. It washes us, it makes us clean. It also satisfies our thirst. Now I'm going to read three more passages, and then we're going to pull it all together. This is so rich to me. When I saw this the other day I just was wow.

Most of us could quote John 1:1-3, "In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him. Without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life. The life was the light of men. In Him was life."

Jesus is the source. He is in the beginning with God. Everything was made through Him. He is the Creator, the firstborn of all creation. There are two other verses in John that are imbued with this concept.

Jesus is sitting at Jacob's well with the Samaritan woman. She's talking to him about water, and He's talking to her about water, but He's making a point. Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again. But whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:14)

John 7:37-39, "The last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' Now, this He said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive, for the Spirit had not been given because Jesus was not yet glorified."

I'm going to just make a couple statements, and you can respond. Let's see if we can do this without VeggieTales, and little hopping things please :-).

Scott: Sorry.

Steve: It's OK. Jesus is the word. He's the Source of Life. Jesus is the water. He's the rock, the rock was Christ. Jesus is all three. He cleanses us. He nourishes us. He is the Source of Life. He assuages our thirst. He takes care of all of our needs.

When I first started studying the tabernacle, one of the things that I found in my research, was that people believed that Jesus was all three gates. At gate one on the

outside, He was the way. Gate two into the tent, He was the truth. Gate three into the Holy of Holies, the most holy place, He was the life.

Because there are three curtains or veils that we have to go through to get to the Father, that these were named, the way, the truth, and the life. I thought, "Well, that sounds nice." However the more I dug, I could not find any research to support it. I just found sermon after sermon talking about it, but nobody told me where they got it. So I set it aside.

The more I began doing my own researching, I think I can say that He's definitely the way, the first gate in the curtain coming in. Now we have identified Jesus as the rock, the source of water, the water for cleansing and the washing of water with the Word, for Jesus is the Word. When you put them all together, I think it's pretty clear that Jesus is the truth, and as such, He is that second gate. Nobody comes to the Father except through Jesus, through the veil, through His flesh, which He opened up. It all clicked.

I researched again and looked up everywhere where water and rock appeared in Scripture in the same verse and I found 11 instances. I found one in Isaiah, three in Psalms, Nehemiah, Deuteronomy, Numbers, and Exodus. This connection between Jesus and the rock is clearly mentioned. It was a miraculous event, so miraculous that the writers of Scripture keep referring to it throughout Israel's history.

Psalm 78:19, "They spoke against God, saying, 'Can God spread a table in the wilderness?' He struck the rock so that water gushed out and streams overflowed."

Psalm 105:39-40, "He spread a cloud for a covering, And fire to give light in the night. They asked, and He brought quails, And satisfied them with the bread of heaven. He opened the rock, and waters gushed out; They ran in the dry places like a river."

Psalm 114:7, "Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord, At the presence of the God of Jacob, Who turned the rock into a pool of water, The flint into a fountain of waters, The flint into a spring of water."

That word "flint" is fascinating. It's first used way back in Deuteronomy 8:13-16, "When your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, Who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, Who brought you water out of the flinty rock, Who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end.

Isaiah 48:20-21, "The Lord has redeemed His servant Jacob, they did not thirst when He led them through the deserts. He made water flow for them from the rock, He split the rock and the water gushed out."

This is a common theme in scripture, that the rock was the source of water for those children of Israel. I can't understand how God could feed a million people. There were 600,000 men, I think it says, so there might have been 2 million people. He fed them with manna for 40 years every day.

He brought quail in, and Moses said, "I don't know how you're going to do this. I can't understand it," and the quail fed the people. He was able to provide water for all those people for all their needs for 40 years in the wilderness. It's miraculous. The Son of God is miraculous. The rock was Christ, the bread was Christ, this is clear. What do you think?

Scott: It's funny, because I've heard about the manna all my life, so it's easy to imagine that. Sure, OK God makes manna like snow from the sky or whatever, it just shows up on the ground in the morning.

I don't remember ever hearing anyone talk about the rock, except for the one time when Moses struck the rock and water came out. No one's ever pointed out the rock following them and being their source of water.

It's like, "Wait, that just can't be right," because no one's ever talked about it. Then it's just right there in scripture, this is it. You put it all together with the other versus about Jesus and water and rock. OK. It's just stunning how little we think about this stuff.

This was how they lived, this is how they survived for 40 years. Most of us just, "Oh yeah, they wandered in desert 40 years. Got it." This is how they survived. The living water coming from the rock who was Christ. My mind is blown.

Steve: I'll read one more. Nehemiah 9:13–15, as a good summation. "You came down on Mount Sinai and spoke with them from heaven. You gave them right rules and true laws, good statutes, and commandments, and you made known to them, your holy Sabbath and commanded them commandments and statutes in a law by Moses, your servant. You gave them bread from heaven, for their hunger, and brought water for them out of the rock for their thirst. You told them to go in to possess the land that You had sworn to give them."

I agree with you Scott, I hadn't heard anything of this. I have to confess, a friend of mine is the one that started putting me onto this. Then, when I did the research, I can see that this rock is mentioned throughout Scripture, whether it's Nehemiah, the Psalms, Isaiah. Throughout the Pentateuch, you don't talk about water without talking about the rock.

Paul pulls it together in first Corinthians, when he talks about the manna, he talks about Moses. It's very clear, he's talking about the Exodus, and the rock was Christ. Powerful stuff.

Scott: It really amplifies the verse where Jesus is talking about living water, springs of living water welling up within you. If you connect all this together, that takes on a new layer of meaning or importance to me anyway.

Steve: As you're going through the Bible, you're going to find more, I'll just read just a little portion here. Deuteronomy 32:4 "The Rock, His work is perfect, for all His ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is He."

Deuteronomy 32:18 "You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you, and you forgot the God Who gave you birth.

22 times God and rock are used in the same verse, such as 1 Samuel 2:2 "There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides You; there is no Rock like our God."

2 Samuel 22:3 "My God, my Rock, in Whom I take refuge, my Shield, and the Horn of my salvation, my Stronghold and my Refuge, my Savior; You save me from violence.

2 Samuel 22:32 "For Who is God, but Jehovah? And who is a rock, except our God?"

2 Samuel 22:47 "Jehovah lives, and blessed be my Rock, and exalted be my God, the Rock of my salvation."

2 Samuel 23:3 "The God of Israel has spoken; the Rock of Israel has said to me: When one rules justly over men, ruling in the fear of God."

We're way over time. Thank you for letting your mind be blown. May God continue to blow our minds on a regular basis as He reveals more about Jesus in the Word.

Father, thank You for Your word which is true. Thank You for the water of Your word, which not only cleanses us, but assuages our thirst. Thank You that the word and the water, and the truth are Christ. Thank You for giving us Jesus to meet all of our needs today and open our eyes as we read through Scripture to see Jesus our rock, our source of life in Jesus name. Amen.

Scott: Amen. That's our show for this week, folks. Thanks for joining us for The Building Faith Families podcast with Steve Demme. If you have a question for the show, email Steve at spdemme@Gmail.com. If you have a question for me, you can reach me at scott@unsocializedmedia.com. Thanks for joining us. Have a great week.