

Prophetic Fall Feasts of The LORD

Nov. 13, 2019 Lesson #43 John 7:37-39 Water Drawing Ceremony

In John 7 and 8, Jesus uses 2 traditional symbols from the Feast of Tabernacles celebration, water and light, to help the people understand who He is, His mission and what He offers. The Jews added 2 extra rituals to their celebration to remind them of God's wilderness blessings.

1. Pouring out of the water from the pool of Siloam which recalled God's provision of water in the desert
 2. Placing 4 large lighted candlesticks to recall the pillar of fire that led them by night
- Jesus related these to Himself.

- During the Feast of Tabernacles when the water was being poured out, Jesus cried out, "If any man thirsts, let him come to me and drink." [John 7:37]
- To the Temple crowd: "I am the light of the world." [John 8:12]

Consider: What a tragedy the Jews were careful to maintain their traditions and yet completely missed their Messiah when He was in their midst.

1st Mention of Pool of Siloam

II Kings 20:20 And the rest of the acts of Hezekiah, and all his might, and how he made a pool, and a conduit, and brought water into the city, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? [Built in 8th Century BC]

At the time of Jesus, the Pool of Siloam [lower pool] would have been ~ 700-years-old.

- The pool is located south of the City of David in the lowest elevation in Jerusalem.
- When it ceased to be in use after the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, it was eventually covered over and buried by several feet of mud and debris.
- It was "lost" to history until it was uncovered in 2004 during a sewage system project.
- Workers found a huge pool underground with stairs around it.
- There are 3 sets of 5 steps each leading down into the pool.
- It is 225' long; roughly rectangular shape like a trapezoid.

They later found a road with steps leading from the pool up to the Temple.

Ancient Jerusalem road to Second Temple to be open underground: July 4, 2019

"From a sewage pipe that burst 15 years ago came these excavations that resulted in the discovery of the Pool of Siloam, and then an entire road intact from that pool ascending to the Temple. The total length of the street that connected the Pool of Siloam in the south of the City of David to the foot of the Temple Mount is 600 meters long [.37 miles] and approximately 8 meters wide."

"Visitors will be able to walk all the way from the Pool of Siloam, where Jesus sent the blind man, up to the halfway point on the Pilgrimage Road. The road had been covered by debris after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans and the slaughter of its 700,000 Jewish citizens.

"Not only do you walk on the road that Jesus and the disciples walked, you see the evidence of life during the time of Jesus -the remnants of homes and shops and the ashes and broken bricks from the destruction of Jerusalem. It is mind blowing."

You see the flagstones on the road, you find them here at the pool and you see the exact same flagstones at the end near the Temple Mount itself. If you look, it's the same designer, the same cut, shape and design, it's one construction project," Spielman said.

The Pool of Siloam in Jerusalem was used for ritual cleansing and purification.

- Its water was used for a special ceremony during the Feast of Tabernacles.
- During the time of Jesus the poor people, and sick people would come here to bathe.
- Jesus chose this place to send the blind man [John 9:6-7].
- The pool was more than just a place for refreshing and re-hydrating.
- It was considered the purest of ritual baths because it was fed by the Gihon spring.
- It was a **mikvah**, a public bath for cleansing that rendered the pilgrims ritually pure before they ascended the Jerusalem pilgrim road to the Temple to worship God.

The Joyful Musical Procession Called *Simchat Beit Hashoevah* Or The Rejoicing Of The Water-Drawing At Feast Of Tabernacles

Preparing for the morning sacrifice

1. Each morning a procession of priests would descend the steps from the Temple to the Pool of Siloam and dip a golden pitcher into the water. [*m. Sukka* 4:9].
2. They would be accompanied by the congregation assembled at the Temple.
3. The Pitcher would hold 3 log [= .5 litres = ~2 pints]
4. They were reminded of the miraculous provision of water from the rock. It was living water and life sustaining.
5. The priest would carry the filled pitcher back to the altar at the Temple.
6. A 3 fold blast of the priests' silver trumpets announced his arrival in the Temple area.
7. The priests returned to the temple, climbed the steps and proceeded once around the altar with the water.
8. Two silver basins were waiting. He poured wine into one as a drink offering and water from the Pool of Siloam into the other basin.

"As the water and wine were poured into the bowls, the Temple music began. Psalms 113 through 118 were sung. With the opening and closing words of Psalm 118 and verse 25, 'Save now, I beseech thee, O Lord,' the waiting worshippers shook the palm branches in their hands to all four points of the compass, thus signifying that God will rule over all nations."

9. The High Priest took the 2 silver basins, held them up and recited:

Isa. 12:3 Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

10. They offered prayers for rain. Water was often scarce. In Israel, it doesn't rain during the summer, and the ground gets very hard. Gentle rains were needed to soften the ground so it can be prepared for the fall planting.

- ❖ The people were very much aware of their dependence on God for the rains that were so vital for the preservation of life.
- 11. All-night revelry led up to this morning libation. This was a time of joy so great that it was said, "He that never has seen the joy of the Beth he-She'ubah [water-drawing] has never in his life seen joy" (*m. Sukka* 5:1; cf. *Deut* 16:14-15; *Jubilees* 16:20, 25).

Interesting Points Regarding the Water Drawing Ceremony

1. The high priest carried a *golden* pitcher: Gold speaks of *divinity*.
2. The pitcher held *three logs* of water. Three also deals of *divinity*.
3. This procedure of carrying the pitcher of water was done for seven days. Seven in the Hebrew is "Sheba" means complete.
4. Three logs of water for seven days = 21 logs of water.
5. This water was poured into *silver* bowls.
6. The number 21 represents carnality.
7. Seven represents completion and silver speaks of redemption.
8. Thus the overall picture: Our high priest (prophetic of Jesus) has completely redeemed [7 and silver] us from our carnal (21) nature.
9. Note that the water was drawn from the pool of Siloam. [Well of Salvation]
10. The word Siloam also occurs three times in Scripture.

The 7th day became known as Hoshana Rabba, which means Great Salvation.

The Hebrew word literally says, with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Isa. 12:3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

7th Day of Feast: The High Priest, dressed in his finest, would officiate with a huge contingent of similarly attired priests. There would be trumpets blowing, singing psalms and waving palm branches. The procession around the altar with the water took place 7 times.

John 7:37-39 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. ³⁸ He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. ³⁹ (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

The Jews were reenacting a tradition that could never satisfy the heart.

What Jesus offers is the fulfillment of the very things they were celebrating.

His offer shows he is far more than just a prophet or an agent. It is God himself offering us life.

Imagine the uproar his statement must have caused! The priest had just poured out the water libation as an appeal to the Creator God to provide water for the people.

Jesus, as if to answer the prayer, tells the people to come to him for water.

What a radical statement and shocker to the crowd. Jesus was claiming to be none other than the Creator himself!

1. God himself can be called "the spring of living water." [Jer. 2:13; 17:13]

Jer. 2:13 For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the Fountain Of Living Waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

2. In John 7:39 Jesus Is Offering The Holy Spirit and claiming He is able to satisfy people's thirst for God.

Psalms 46:4-5a There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God (Jerusalem), The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. God is in the midst of her.

1. The holy place of the tabernacle of the "Most High" has direct reference to the Temple on Mt. Moriah.

2. The word rendered river in this psalm is the Hebrew word Nahar, which denotes a perennial spring, a constantly flowing source of clear, fresh, running water that the Hebrews called 'living waters' in contrast to the waters of a stagnant pool.

Is there a perennial, a constantly flowing spring of water connected with:

1. Ps. 48:2 the 'city of the great King' (Jerusalem)

2. The Temple on Mt. Moriah

3. The rejoicing of the city of Jerusalem

Consider: How is it that a Roman historian could describe Jerusalem, situated on an elevation, on mountains, as "Within, truly well-watered; but without, altogether dry?" (Tacitus, Hist.v.12).

Point of Interest: In spite of its closeness to the arid Judean wilderness, on the East side of Jerusalem there is a single source of living water called the Gihon Spring or the Gihon Fountain. It was "vital to the existence of Jerusalem."

(Digging Up Jerusalem, K.M.Kenyon, 1975, p.76).

Water, or the lack thereof, always has a major impact upon man's ability to live in a particular area. The original city of David, surrounded on three sides by valleys, was easily defended.

Nevertheless, despite strong fortifications, Jerusalem had no permanent water supply within her protective walls. The ancient city had only one reliable, perennial water source — the Gihon Spring, located in the Kidron Valley, outside and below the defensive walls.

Rainfall was completely seasonal, a short rainy season followed by 7 months of virtually no rainfall. Any permanent settlement had to be within reach of a perennial water supply.

Only one such spring exists in Jerusalem, the Gihon spring; it is truly water in a thirsty land.

2 Biblical Incidents > Gihon Spring [God, source of life] > Perils of Pride

1. Jebusites & King David:

Jerusalem, chosen by God as His city as a symbol of eternal reality, [I Kings 14:21] is 5,000 years old. God chose it as a symbol of weakness to confound the wise.

In human wisdom Jerusalem would never be chosen.

➤ It had no great attributes; no great river or minerals; not on a sea front or on a trade route. It barely had a water supply - the Gihon Spring.

The Jebusites (original inhabitants > Jebus, an old name for Jerusalem > Josh: 18:28) were in the land during the time of Joshua and controlled Jerusalem. Under Joshua, the Israelites were never able to drive out the Jebusites and inhabit Jerusalem.

Any fortification of The Gihon Spring in the valley would easily be overcome from higher grounds. To protect it, they (Jebusites) closed the entrance to the Spring and cut a vertical shaft (Warren's Shaft) to access the water. This shaft provided them secure access to a permanent water supply from behind their fortress walls.

400 years passed from the time of Joshua until King David who captured the city from the Jebusites 3,000 years ago and made it the capital of Israel

During the time of David, the Jebusites arrogantly boasted of their ability to defend Jerusalem, saying, "You shall not come in here, but the blind and lame will turn you away." [II Sam. 5:6]. However, David either knew or discovered not only access to the Gihon Spring, but also the "water tunnel" [II Sam.5:8] that led from the Spring into the city.

He offered a reward of first in command to any of his men who would be first to scale the shaft and enter the city.

I Chron. 11:6 And Joab the son of Zeruiah went up first and became chief.

David's men entered the city of Jebus by stealth, climbing up through the aforementioned water tunnel (II Sam. 5:6-10; I Chron. 11:4-9).

Joab's feat in climbing the 50-foot shaft must have been considerable.

An expedition in 1867 by Warren could not climb it without wooden scaffolding.

2. In 701 B.C., after 46 Judean cities had been conquered by the Assyrian army, Jerusalem was facing a similar fate.

Jerusalem came under siege by King Sennacherib of Assyria who demanded tribute money and boasted he would capture Jerusalem. No god has defeated us, nor will your God.

II Kings 18:27 But Rabshakeh said to them, "Has my master sent me only to your master and to you to speak these words, and not to the men who sit on the wall, doomed to eat their own dung and drink their own urine with you?"

When King Hezekiah of Judah learned about the oncoming attack, the Bible says "he took counsel with his princes and his mighty men to stop the waters of the fountains which were without the city, making it easy for the enemy to capture it and block Jerusalem's water supply. [II Chron. 32:1-3].

Hezekiah's first thought was to protect Judah's source of water—the fountain.

Problem: How can they block the enemy's access to the fountain? How can they secure continual access to the fountain's water for the inhabitants of Jerusalem inside the walls?

Gihon Spring Meets the Pool of Siloam

Reminder: God, Himself, is the source of Life, represented by the Gihon Spring.

- ❖ The Gihon Spring is the original and only source of water for Jerusalem.
- ❖ God placed it there when He created the earth.
- ❖ The name reflects the flow of the spring, which continues to this day as an unsteady flow, surging at times, depending on the season and amount of rainfall.
- ❖ Groundwater accumulates in the spring via a subterranean cave. Whenever that cave fills, it empties through cracks in the rock and is siphoned to the surface.
- ❖ This necessitated that the water be accumulated in a rock-hewn pool—the Pool of Siloam—so that the water was accessible when the spring was not gushing forth.

Construct Hezekiah's Tunnel To Block The Water Supply Outside City Walls

He had his engineers redirect the waters of the Gihon Spring, by carving a 1,750-foot water tunnel [~583 yards] through solid rock. To cut this channel, workers began tunneling through the rock on either end, until they met—incredibly—not only in the middle, but also at a perfect gradient to facilitate the flow of water.

An underground tunnel, hewn out of solid rock, was constructed during Hezekiah's time to bring the water (vital life-giving) inside the walls of Jerusalem (God's city and dwelling place in the Temple) so the people would have water during times of attack by the enemy.

The water from the Gihon Spring flowed into the Pool of Siloam inside the walls.

WOW: An underground tunnel was hewn out of SOLID ROCK to bring the life-giving water from The Gihon Springs [= God the Father] inside the walls of Jerusalem: God's Holy City; His Dwelling Place; His Temple.

The water from the Gihon Springs was SENT to The Pool Of Siloam via Jesus Christ, The Solid Rock. God Provided Life-giving Water In Us By SENDING Jesus Christ The Solid Rock

David's conquest of the Jebusite stronghold, and the deliverance Hezekiah experienced from the hands of Sennacherib share two points of reference: both illustrate the perils of pride. Both are connected with the same pool of water — the waters which flowed from the Gihon Spring, a type of God, the source of life. In both cases, water served as a means to victory. Truth: The ONLY way we will have victory over the enemy and live the abundant life is via the power of the "Living Water," the Holy Spirit.

Truth: Jesus Christ is the Source Of Living Water. He revealed this in:

John 4:10, 14 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." Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

He will be in you as a well of water which is eternal life. Eternal life isn't a THING.

Eternal Life = Jesus Christ In Me

John 7:37-39 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow Rivers Of Living Water. (But this spoke he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Notice the condition for having this river of living water [Holy Spirit]: He That Believes On Me. Jesus promises something that comes with the "well of water:" a river of living water.

The WELL is supposed to result in an overflow or RIVER.

Consider: These 2 passages tell of the relationship between salvation and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

- Salvation and this baptism are ONE; not TWO experiences.
- Some teach that you must first be saved; later you will experience a, "second blessing" called "the baptism of the Holy Spirit."
- You don't receive Christ at salvation and add the Holy Spirit later.
- Neither do you receive some of the Holy Spirit but receive more of Him later.
- At salvation, you are COMPLETE IN CHRIST.
- However, you do need to grow, and come to manifest Him. The indwelling of Christ must come to overflow from you. All of this is accomplished by the Holy Spirit.

Note that BOTH the well and the river are the result of salvation.

1. BOTH the well and the river are the result of CHRIST IN US.

2. We do not get the well at salvation, only to lack the river - until we receive a second blessing. Salvation and the baptism of the Holy Spirit are ONE blessing.

Jesus said the SPIRIT was the river, but that the overflow He was promising was the result of what? - a second blessing? No. If we break these two things into two different experiences, we are essentially saying that we could have Christ in us, but no possibility of overflow - unless we get another blessing..

The Key to Overflow He works through our WILLS, our conduct, our personality, and our faith. I must yield to the Lordship of Jesus Christ to turn on the flow through the power of the Holy Spirit. We do the yielding to Him, and He does the flowing.

The RIVER provides a great illustration. We receive the WELL OF LIFE at salvation. But even though the potential for the RIVER is there, there cannot be a RIVER flowing until - what? Until all the hindrances to the flow are removed. Just like a RIVER cannot smoothly flow if rocks and barriers are in the way, neither can the Holy Spirit flow through us if our hearts are hard and our agendas are in the way. These must be removed; then the Holy Spirit can flow as a RIVER. Nothing needs to be ADDED for the flow. In fact, there needs to be a SUBTRACTION. I must decrease so that HE might increase.

You cannot help but feel sorry for the people described in John 7; people who responded to Jesus in the wrong ways. Had they willingly received the truth and acted with sincere obedience, they would have ended up at the feet of Jesus, confessing Him as Messiah and Son of God.

John wants us to see that Jesus Himself is the fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles.

- ❖ In 1:14 John told us "the Word became flesh and *tabernacled* among us."
- ❖ I Cor. 10:5 Paul: Jesus is the ROCK that supplied water to Israel in the barren desert.
- ❖ John 6: He is the bread of life, the fulfillment of the manna that sustained Israel in the wilderness.
- ❖ John 7:37 -39 On the last day of this feast, Jesus claims to be the source of living water to all who will come to Him and drink. He fulfills ALL the Feast symbolized.
- ❖ Jesus came, He stood and He cried out offering them a drink from Himself [the same One from Whom their ancestors had drunk physical water]!
- ❖ He offered them living water that they might live spiritually, even as their ancestors were enabled to live physically in the OT after receiving the physical water.
- ❖ Wiersbe: "At the feast, the Jews were reenacting a tradition that could never satisfy the heart. Jesus offered them living water and eternal satisfaction!" Could God have "painted the picture" more clearly? In so doing, He is showing that He is ultimate fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles!
- ❖ We will worship Him as we celebrate the Millennial Feast of Tabernacles, celebrating the final ingathering of souls into the His glorious Kingdom.
Hallelujah! Hosanna! Maranatha! Amen!