

Isaiah 41:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.

Analysis

God promises supernatural provision: rivers on bare heights, fountains in valleys, wilderness transformed to pools, dry land to springs. The Hebrew 'petach' (open) suggests God creating what doesn't exist. This exceeds natural provision—it's new creation, demonstrating God's power to transform impossible situations completely.

Historical Context

This prophetically describes both literal provision during return and spiritual transformation—God makes the desolate heart fruitful. The imagery reverses exile's curse into blessing.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How have you experienced God opening rivers in barren places of your life?
2. What spiritually dry areas need God's transforming water to become springs of life?

Interlinear Text

בָּקַע וְתַת	וּבֵת וְנָהָר	שְׁפָיִים	עַל אֶפְתָּח	
of the valleys	in the midst	rivers	I will open	
H1237	H8432	H5104	H5921 H6605	
צִיָּה	וְאֶרֶץ	מַיִם:	לְאֵגֻם	מִדְבָּר
and the dry	land	of water	a pool	the wilderness
H6723	H776	H4325	H98	H4057
				אֲשֶׁר יֵאֵלֶּם
				I will make
				H7760
				מַעְיָן וְתַת
				and fountains
				H4599
				לְמוֹצֵי אֵי
				springs
				H4161
				מַיִם:
				of water
				H4325

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 107:35 (Parallel theme): He turneth the wilderness into a standing water, and dry ground into watersprings.

Isaiah 58:11 (Parallel theme): And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

Isaiah 30:25 (Parallel theme): And there shall be upon every high mountain, and upon every high hill, rivers and streams of waters in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall.

Revelation 7:17 (Parallel theme): For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Isaiah 44:3 (Parallel theme): For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:

Revelation 22:1 (Parallel theme): And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

Isaiah 32:2 (Parallel theme): And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.

Zechariah 14:8 (Parallel theme): And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.

Joel 3:18 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim.

Isaiah 12:3 (Parallel theme): Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.