

Numbers 21:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And from thence they went to Beer: that is the well whereof the LORD spake unto Moses, Gather the people together, and I will give them water.

Analysis

From thence they went to Beer: that is the well (בְּאֵר, be'er, meaning "well")—After recounting military boundaries, the narrative shifts to water provision. **Gather the people together, and I will give them water** echoes earlier water miracles (Exodus 17, Numbers 20) but without Moses' intercession or rock-striking. This generation receives water through direct promise, not mediated crisis.

God's provision shifts from dramatic signs to quiet faithfulness. The wilderness journey matured Israel from requiring constant spectacle to trusting simple promise. Beer becomes a symbol of covenant reliability—God still provides, even when the manner is ordinary rather than extraordinary.

Historical Context

Beer ("well") may be Beer-elim (Isaiah 15:8). Wells in the Transjordan wilderness were crucial for survival. Unlike Sinai's rock-water miracles, this provision appears natural—God working through ordinary means rather than supernatural intervention, though His promise makes it covenantal.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How has God's provision in your life shifted from dramatic interventions to quiet, faithful supply?
2. Do you value extraordinary miracles over ordinary providence, or recognize both as equally divine?
3. What 'wells' in your life testify to God's simple promise-keeping rather than spectacular displays?

Interlinear Text

וּמִשָּׁם H8033	בְּאֵר כֹּה H876	הָוָא H1931	הַבַּיִת H875	אֵשׁ ר H834	
And from thence they went to Beer			that is the well		
אֶמֶר H559	יְהוָה H3068	לְמֹשֶׁה H4872	אֶת H853	הָעָם H5971	וְאֶתְּנֶה H5414
spake	whereof the LORD	unto Moses	Gather	the people	and I will give
לָהֶם H0	מַיִם: H4325				
	them water				

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 20:8 (Parallel theme): Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.

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

Revelation 21:6 (Parallel theme): And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

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.

Revelation 22:17 (Parallel theme): And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Isaiah 43:20 (Parallel theme): The beast of the field shall honour me, the dragons and the owls: because I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen.

Exodus 17:6 (References Moses): Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

Judges 9:21 (Parallel theme): And Jotham ran away, and fled, and went to Beer, and dwelt there, for fear of Abimelech his brother.

Isaiah 49:10 (Parallel theme): They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.

John 4:10 (Parallel theme): Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

