

Psalm 105:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He opened the rock, and the waters gushed out; they ran in the dry places like a river.

Analysis

This verse recounts the water from the rock at Horeb (Exodus 17:1-7) and later at Kadesh (Numbers 20:1-13). 'He opened the rock' uses pathach (פֹּתֶח), meaning to open or split. 'Waters gushed out' (zarab, זָרַב) means to flow or stream forth abundantly. The waters 'ran in the dry places like a river' shows the abundance and continuity of supply. Paul identifies this rock as a type of Christ: 'they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ' (1 Corinthians 10:4). The struck rock prefigures Christ struck in judgment for our sin, from whom flows the water of life (John 7:37-39).

Historical Context

The rock-water miracle occurred twice: first at Rephidim/Horeb (Exodus 17) and later at Kadesh (Numbers 20). In the second instance, Moses struck the rock in anger rather than speaking to it as commanded, costing him entry into the Promised Land. This severe judgment shows the importance of precisely obeying God's word, especially regarding types of Christ. The rock was a constant reminder of God's provision throughout wilderness wandering.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does water from a struck rock prefigure salvation through Christ's suffering?
2. What does the abundance of water in a desert teach about God's sufficient provision?
3. Why was Moses's alteration of God's command (striking vs. speaking) so severely judged?

Interlinear Text

בָּאָיָה וְתַחַת
He opened the rock gushed out and the waters they ran in the dry places
H6605 H6697 H2100 H4325 H1980 H6723

גָּתָר:
like a river
H5104

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 17:6 (Parallel theme): 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.

Numbers 20:11 (Parallel theme): And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.

Isaiah 48:21 (Parallel theme): And they thirsted not when he led them through the deserts: he caused the waters to flow out of the rock for them: he clave the rock also, and the waters gushed out.

1 Corinthians 10:4 (Parallel theme): And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

Psalms 114:8 (Parallel theme): Which turned the rock into a standing water, the flint into a fountain of waters.

Psalms 78:20 (Parallel theme): Behold, he smote the rock, that the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed; can he give bread also? can he provide flesh for his people?

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