

Water, God, and Us

Threads running thru woven rugs make beautiful designs. My grandma did lots of crocheting quilts, etc. I was always mesmerized. Much more amazing are threads woven thru the Bible. Certainly testify to God's authorship. One is water. It begins in Genesis, runs thru Revelation (Zachariah will even tie in at one point - wait for it! :). So let's follow the thread and learn a few lessons.

I. OT

A. Gen.

1. Creation

- 1.1-2 world appears covered by water
- 1.6 God brings **order**, separates waters - sky
- 1:9-10 God brings dry land, further ordering the waters.
 - a. Making boundaries - Psalm 104:5-9
 - b. Next time you go to a beach, be amazed that Pacific/Atl don't decide to trade places

2. Creation

- 2:5-7 God utilized water to carry life out to the nations.
- 2:10-15 God himself is of course is the source, a river of living water.

3. Flood

- 6:5,17 God can also retract boundaries. Same H2O used to bring life, he can use to take it.
- Jer 5:22 God asked, why don't you fear me? Good ques to ask ourselves.

4. Nile/Moses

- Exodus 1.22 Pharaoh misused water to drown babies
- Exodus 2.3,5,10 But God is in charge. He reverses Pharaoh intent. Uses water to carry Moses to safety, it is a tool in God's hand to use for judgment or to carry to safety.

5. Red Sea

- Exodus 14 As Israel fled Egypt, Egyptians chased after them. Sea became barrier
- Exodus 14. 21-22, 27 Water is *a divine dividing line*. One side slavery/misery, other side freedom/rest

6. Balaam Vision

- Num 24.1,5-7 Blessing God made to Abe. His seed would be dispersed like water into earth
- Israel is God's instrument to bring life - life is not in them per se, but in a king who would come thru them

7. The Rock.

- Ex 17. Thirsty people. Could not supply life giving water by themselves. Totally dependent on the Lord. They needed to learn that.
- God supplied abundantly from the rock. He was showing that in Him was life! He and He only could quench their thirst. And that he was faithful to abundantly supply their needs. Might anticipate this same point will resurface later in the story.

8. Naaman

- 2 Kings 5.1 Captain of Army of Syria - non-Jew
- 5:3 Little girl, a slave of Israel
- 5:9-10...slisha Sends him to wash in a river (7x). Does not handle it well. Pride/looking for something more spectacular. Finally. Gives in submits/is cleansed.
- Power not in water, but in God. Combine submissive spirit, with God's way. God's power to grant him new life thru instrument of water.

- Water a dividing line. One side: Sick/death; Other side - healing/cleansed/new life.
9. Isaiah 42
 - Israel had worshiped idols. Idols were *empty cisterns*. The people were dried up, like a barren desert, spiritually dead - no life in those gods.
 - But God promised a day when he would pour out his Spirit and restore life, make a new people. Ones who called on *His name* (see fulfillment in Acts 2).
 10. Zachariah 13:1, 14:10
 - Looks forward to a day when God would again be a cleansing/purifying fountain
 - Waters he foresaw were life-giving - going out, even from his people as they knew the Lord
 - So we won't be surprised in NT if we see water involved in the kingdom the Lord would establish in His Son

II. NT

- A. Very beginning of NT, there is water.
 1. Matt 3:3-5. John getting people ready to meet the Lord he was **immersing** people in water.
 2. Matthew 3:11. John would say he was inferior to the One who was coming (Jesus). He pointed people to where life is - Jesus the Messiah
 3. John 4:10, 13-14. Jesus claimed to have life in himself. See him reaching across lines. This water/life was for all. Jew, Gentile, Samaritan, whoever would partake.
 4. John 7:37-39. Jewish feasts were shadows of Jesus. Some of their rituals (like transporting a pitcher of water a well to the temple), furnished Jesus an opportunity to invite people to come to him.
 - Again we see the Spirit (who provided life in OT) and believers engaged in the work of carrying this life out to all the world
- B. Jesus sends apostles out teaching.
 1. Mark 16:15-16. Shouldn't be surprised if in OT, cases where God used water in the process of saving someone, he might do it with Jesus.
 - Some say - 1st u r saved , then believe, then baptized.
 - Others say - 1st you believe, then saved, then baptized.
 - Seems a bit out of order. In the OT
 1. **Noah** 1st believed, then passed thru water (in ark), other side he was saved.
 2. **Moses** & Israel 1st believed, passed thru the water of Red Sea, then saved.
 3. **Moses mom**, believed in God, put Moses in basket in river, carried him to safety
 4. Jesus said, he who believes and is baptized, shall be saved!
 2. God's dividing line. The pattern is repeated too often that way for it to not be so. If you think there is nothing to order - try randomly switching of the wires the next time you replace spark plugs on your car.
- C. Water is linked to the Word. Ephesians 5:23-25
 1. Jesus goal to sanctify/cleanse his bride by the washing of the word
 - Is this baptism. Perhaps. Certainly we are washed / sanctified / cleansed in immersion.
 - But the word itself washes us. Wonder if this isn't also involved.
 2. Detox concoctions are popular - getting toxins out of the body. That is good I guess, far as it goes, but it's useless as far as eternal things.
 3. But when *we flood our minds with the Word*, it has a "detox effect", it can wash and purify. When I am depressed, or just being self-centered, self-pitying, or just with a general evil mindset, it is

flooding my mind with the wonderful works of God that will recalibrate/flush/change my disposition from self-focus/self-centeredness - to an outward/upward/servant mentality.

D. To enter the presence of God

1. **Heb 10:19** In OT , only high priest enters the temple and only once a year. Message of the sanctuary was - STAY OUT! Do not draw near! (cf Numbers 8).
2. **Heb 10:22** **But message of Hebrews is Draw near!!** How? Hearts sprinkled clean (Blood of lamb), then conscience & *bodies washed with pure water!*
3. Message - the tabernacle is now open. Great visual - "entering the gate", we pass first by the great altar (where Jesus blood was shed), prior to entering the holy place, we must go to the laver (the water of baptism) and be washed!! After that we are free to enter the house of God.
4. Thru blood and water we can draw near to God.

Finally, the Bible concludes with water.

- Revelation 7.16-17, 22.1, **22:17** Invitation to all to come and drink. 1) Threads tie the Bible together from beginning to end, teaching us, 1) it is God's word 2) God is all about LIFE. He is the fount of living waters. 3) He has extended his invitation. If you need baptized. Jesus said - Mk 16:16. Act of submission and trust. Power is in the Lord to raise us up. Give us life again.