

WOULDN'T IT BE WONDERFUL IF...

I Corinthians 10:1-5

Introduction:

- A. Have you ever thought that things would be wonderful if...?
1. You just had more money
 2. You just had a better car
 3. You just had better health
 4. You just had a better...
- B. Today, let's indulge in those thoughts as we see what ancient Israel had in the days of Moses. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we had what they had?

Yahweh's Visible Presence (1a,2a)

- A. The period of the E_____
1. Joseph brought his family (the sons of Israel) to Egypt to escape _____ years of famine.
 2. The sons of Israel stayed in Egypt for over _____ years.
 3. As the sons of Israel multiplied, Egypt e_____ them.
 4. The sons of Israel cried out to God for deliverance and God raised up M_____ to free them.
 5. Pharaoh refused to let this happen, so God put _____ plagues on Egypt before Pharaoh let the people go.
 6. God led the people out of Egypt with a pillar of c_____ (by day) and f_____ (by night) which was always visible to them.
- B. Verse 1a states that all of Israel was u_____ the cloud, which refers to the pillar of cloud.
1. Ex 13:21 identifies the pillar of cloud and fire as being _____
 2. Verse 2 uses the term b_____
 - a. All were baptized INTO M_____ in the cloud
 - 1) See a similar phrase in Rom 6:3 (baptized into Christ) and 1 Cor 12:13 (baptized into one b_____) carrying the idea of being identified with Christ and with the body of Christ.
 - 2) All were identified with Moses (NLT – f_____ of Moses).
 - b. The baptism was IN the cloud
 - 1) The word baptism means to _____ or to saturate.
 - 2) Thus all of Israel was s_____ by the Lord's presence in a visible way.
- C. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could physically see the Lord's presence all the time?

Yahweh's Miraculous Protection (1b,2b)

- A. Verse 1b states that the Israelites passed through the s_____
1. Pharaoh w_____ from a high elevation the parting and the continued journey of the Israelites.
 2. Pharaoh saw that they were not traveling in c_____ and decided to pursue them with his army and kill them.
 3. The pillar of cloud stopped the army from coming n_____ to the Israelites who were at the edge of a sea.
 4. God parted the waters and as verse 1b states all of Israel passed through the sea.
 - a. Verse 2 states that Israel was baptized IN the sea (they were completely surrounded by the sea and never got w_____!).
 - b. After completing the crossing, the pillar of cloud l_____ and Pharaoh's army began crossing so as to attack Israel.
 - c. God collapsed the sea onto the Egyptian army and drowned them, not leaving _____ alive.
 - d. The news of this spread extreme f_____ to other nations (see Josh 2:11).
- B. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we had the Lord's miraculous protection?

Yahweh's Supernatural Provisions (3,4)

- A. The people of Israel exited from a fertile land into the w_____ where water, trees, and food were scarce.
1. God sustained this massive group of people for _____ years in the wilderness.
 2. Verse 3 states that all of Israel ate the same spiritual food and that food was called m_____ (Ex 16) – God fed them in a supernatural way.
 3. Verse 4 states that all of Israel drank the same spiritual drink.
 - a. God provided water from a r_____ on more than one occasion.

- b. He calls the rock C_____ to emphasize that the rock did not naturally contain water, but Christ was the source.
 - c. God satisfied Israel's thirst in a supernatural way.
- B. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the Lord supernaturally provided for all our needs?

Conclusion:

- A. If you had Yahweh's visible supernatural presence, His constant supernatural protection, and His supernatural provisions.
- 1. You would never f_____ alone because you could always see Him with your own eyes.
 - 2. You would never f_____ anything because God would miraculously protect you.
 - 3. You would never worry about f_____ or drink because God would supernaturally feed you.
 - 4. You most certainly grow spiritually by leaps and bounds!
- B. Israel had all the above but verse 5 states that most of them displeased God. Why? Because they were people who looked at their circumstances and would think – "Wouldn't be wonderful if..."
- 1. Whenever anything went wrong, they would say – we were better off in E_____.
 - 2. In Egypt, they did not see God, did not have that miraculous protection, nor were they fed supernaturally. They c_____ out for God to get them out of Egypt!
 - 3. Israel's constant complaining resulting in then being "laid low" in the wilderness (KJV – overthrown in the wilderness; NIV – bodies scattered over the wilderness). – they were all disqualified from entering the P_____ land but were doomed to wander in the wilderness for the rest of their lives.
- C. We live in an i_____ world and rarely will everything be just right. Don't focus on what you don't have but what you do have.
- 1. Israel had God's visible presence for a time, but we have God's p_____ presence forever (Jn 14:17; 1 Cor 6:19)
 - 2. Israel had God's miraculous protection for a time, but we have God's s_____ protection forever (Jn 10:28; Rom 8:35-39).
 - 3. Israel had God's supernatural provisions while in the wilderness, but we have God's p_____ provisions while on this earth (Phil 4:19; Matt 6:33).
 - 4. Where is your focus?