

**THE SPRING
OF WATER
HEALED BY SALT**

By William T. Barrett

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“THE SPRING OF WATER HEALED BY SALT”

2 KINGS 2

19 And the men of the city said unto Elisha, behold, I pray thee, the situation of this city *is* pleasant, as my lord seeth : but the water *is* nought, and the ground barren.

20 And he said, bring me a new cruse, and put salt therein. And they brought *it* to him.

21 And he went forth unto the spring of the waters, and cast the salt in there, and said, thus saith the Lord, I have healed these waters ; there shall not be from thence any more death or barren *land*. **22** So the waters were healed unto this day, according to the saying of Elisha which he spake.

REAL OBJECT

SPIRITUAL MEANING

QUESTIONS : What questions do you have about this text ?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8

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19 And the men of the city said unto Elisha, behold, I pray thee, the situation of this city *is* pleasant, as my lord seeth : but the **water** *is* nought, and the **ground** barren. 20 And he said, bring me a **new cruse**, and put **salt** therein. And they brought *it* to him. 21 And he went forth unto the **spring of the waters**, and cast the salt in there, and said, thus saith the Lord, I have healed these waters ; there shall not be from thence any more death or barren *land*. 22 So the waters were healed unto this day, according to the saying of Elisha which he spake.

REAL OBJECTS

SPIRITUAL MEANINGS

water
ground
new cruse
salt
spring
* nought
* barren

QUESTIONS : What questions do you have about this text ?

- 1 Why was the water * nought ?
- 2 What was the source of the water ?
- 3 What was the result of having water that was * nought ?

- 4 What was the result of putting salt in the water ?

- 5 Why was the salt cast into the “spring” of the waters instead of just into the waters ?

- 6 What did the salt represent spiritually ?

- 7 What did the “water” that was * nought represent Spiritually ?

- 8 What did the “new cruse” represent Spiritually ?

- 9 Why was it necessary to put the salt into a “new cruse” in order to heal the waters ?

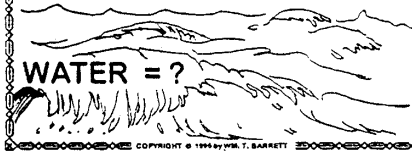
- 10 What did the “barren” **ground** represent Spiritually ?

- 11 What did the “spring” of (bad water) represent Spiritually ?

Key Word



WATER = ?



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WATER = People

REV 17:15 "... The waters, which thou savest... are peoples."

Key Word



VESSEL = ?



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VESSEL = Person

Jere. 18: 4-6 " And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter... Behold as the clay is in the potters hand, so are you in mine hand..

Key Word



BROKEN VESSEL = ?



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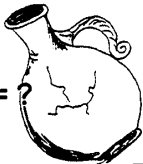
BROKEN VESSEL = Dead Person
(Spiritually dead)

Psm 31:12 "I am forgotten as a dead man out of mind: I am like a broken vessel."

Key Word



BOTTLE = ?
(Old)



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BOTTLE = Unconverted person
(Old)

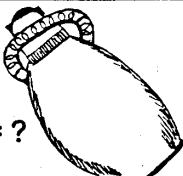
Jere 19:1,10,11 "Thus saith the Lord, go and get a potters earthen bottle... then shalt thou break the bottle... even so will I break this people... as one breaketh a potters vessel that cannot be made whole again."

Jere 13:12,13 "... saith the Lord... every bottle shall be filled with wine... behold I will fill all the inhabitants with drunkenness."

Key Word




BOTTLE = ?
(New)




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BOTTLE = Converted person
(New)

Jere 19:1 "Thus saith the Lord, go and get a potters earthen bottle... Jere 18:3,4,6 "Then I went down to the potters house... and the vessel he made of clay was marred... so he made it again another vessel... saith the Lord, behold as the clay is in the potters hand so are ye in mine hand..."

Key Word 


BARREN = ?
(Childless, unfruitful)




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BARREN = No converts for Jesus

2 Pet 1:8 "... Neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." | Pet i:23 "Being born ... again by the word of God." Gen 11:30 "... Was barren, she had no child."

Key Word 


SALT = ?



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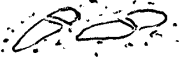
SALT = Gods' People
Matt. 5:13 "Ye are the salt of the earth.

SALT = Gods' Law
Lev. 2:13 "...the salt of the Covenant."
Deut. 4:13 "...His Covenant.. even 10 Commandments."

Key Word 

... good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.


SALT = ? Matt. 5:13
(without savour)
(without character)




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"Christians" in name only, who do not keep Gods Law and so do not represent Gods' Character by their lives.

The character of salt is shown by its "savour" (#3471, #3474)
Lose savour--Become insipid
Insipid-- Characterless

Key Word 

SALT = ?
(with savour)
(with character)




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Christians who represent Gods' Character by keeping His Law.

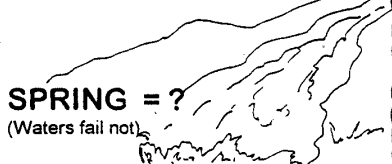
The character of God is shown by His Law.

God is	The Law is	God	Law
Love	Love	1 John 4:8	Rom. 13:10
Eternal	Eternal	Gen. 21:33	Ps. 111:7,8
Unchangeable	Unchangeable	James 1:17	Matt. 5:18
Faithful	Faithful	1 Cor. 1:9	Ps. 119:86
Righteous	Righteous	Jer. 23:6	Ps. 119:172

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Key Word 


SPRING = ?
(Waters fail not)



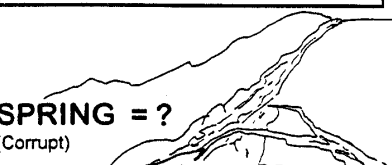
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SPRING = People guided by the Lord

Isa 58:11 "And the Lord shall guide thee . . . and thou shalt be like a . . . spring of water, whose waters fail not."

Key Word 

SPRING = ?
(Corrupt)



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SPRING = A righteous man falling down before the wicked
(corrupt)

Prov 25:26 "A righteous man falling down before the wicked is as a . . . corrupt spring."

GOOD GROUND = GOOD HEART

Luke 8 : 15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it and bring forth fruit with patience.

STONY GROUND (ROCK) = HARD HEART

Luke 8 : 13 They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy ; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away

Matthew 13 : 20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy received it, *21* Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while : for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word by and by he is offended.

Ezekiel 36 : 26 "A **NEW HEART** also will I give you, a **NEW SPIRIT** will I put within you : and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh and give you an **HEART OF FLESH**" (soft heart).

2 KINGS 2

19 And the men of the city said unto Elisha, behold, I pray thee, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord seeth : but the **water** is nought, and the **ground** barren. 20 And he said, bring me a **new cruse**, and put **salt** therein. And they brought it to him. 21 And he went forth unto the **spring of the waters**, and cast the salt in there, and said, thus saith the Lord, I have healed these waters ; there shall not be from thence any more death or barren land. 22 So the waters were healed unto this day, according to the saying of Elisha which he spake.

QUESTIONS : What questions do you have about this text ?

1 Why was the water * nought ? (* evil, bad, wicked)

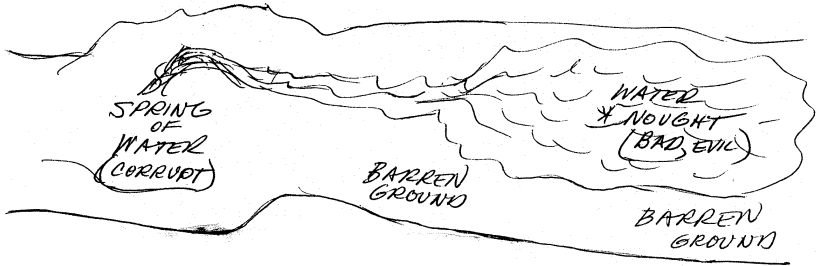
Because there was **no salt** in the water


No **LAW** among the people.

No one to represent God's **CHARACTER**

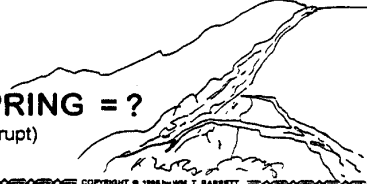
REAL OBJECT	SPIRITUAL MEANING
water	People (Rev. 17 : 15)
ground	The <u>heart</u> of a person (Luke 8 : 15, Matt 13 : 23, Mark 4 : 20)
new cruse	# 6746 – tall container (“new”) Vessel converted person (bottle)
salt	God's Law, God's Character, God's people
spring	(pure) <u>person</u> guided by the Lord (corrupt) <u>person</u> fallen into sin
* nought	# 7451 – bad, evil, wicked,
* barren	# 7921 Miscarry, childless lose children
<u>water</u> that was * <u>nought</u>	people who are evil or wicked
“ <u>barren</u> ” ground	The <u>heart</u> of a person not producing fruit or converts, children

- 2 What was the source of the water ?
 A spring producing **bad** water (Corrupt Spring)
 A RIGHTEOUS man who has
FALLEN into SIN (Prov.25 : 26)
3. What was the result of having water what was * nought ?
Barren ground and death
 (People **not** producing "FRUIT" or CONVERTS
 and LOST SOULS)
- 4 What was the result of putting salt in the water ?
Water that was healed :
 no death (NO LOST SOULS)
 Fruitful ground (CONVERTED PEOPLE)
- 5 Why was the salt cast into the "spring" of the waters instead of
 just into the waters ?
 Because the **source** of the problem was the spring.
It would have continued to spoil the rest of the water.
- 6 What did the salt represent spiritually ?
 GOD'S CHARACTER, GOD'S LAW, GOD'S PEOPLE.
- 7 What did the "water" that was * nought represent Spiritually ?
EVIL OR WICKED PEOPLE
- 8 What did the "new cruse" represent Spiritually ?
 A CONVERTED PERSON WHOSE HEART WAS
 MADE "NEW" BY THE LORD
- 9 Why was it necessary to put the salt into a "new cruse" in order
 to heal the waters ?
 God's **LAW** (salt) can **only** be kept
 by a **CONVERTED PERSON** ("NEW" CRUSE)
 (See OLD and NEW Wine Bottles study).
- 10 What did the "barren" **ground** represent Spiritually ?
 A person with an unconverted heart not producing any
 of the Christian Virtues or making any Converts)
- 11 What did the "spring" of (bad water) represent Spiritually ?
 A person who once kept God's Law (RIGHTEOUS)
 but who had fallen into sin.



Key Word 

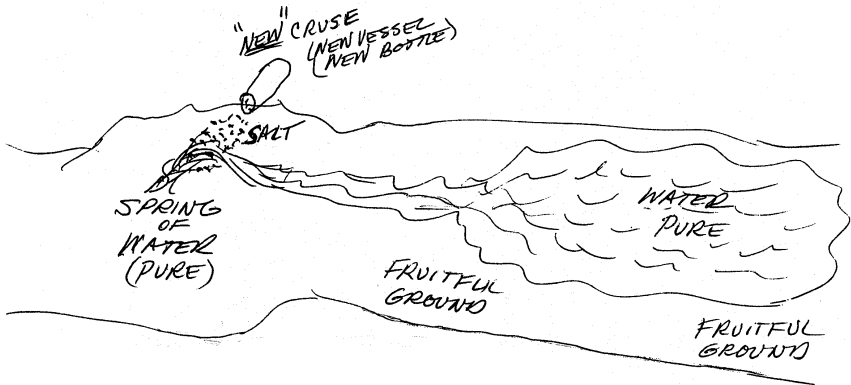
SPRING = ?
(Corrupt)




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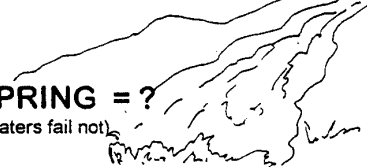
**SPRING = A righteous man
(corrupt) falling down
before the wicked**

Prov 25:26 "A righteous man falling down
before the wicked is as a . . . corrupt spring."



Key Word 

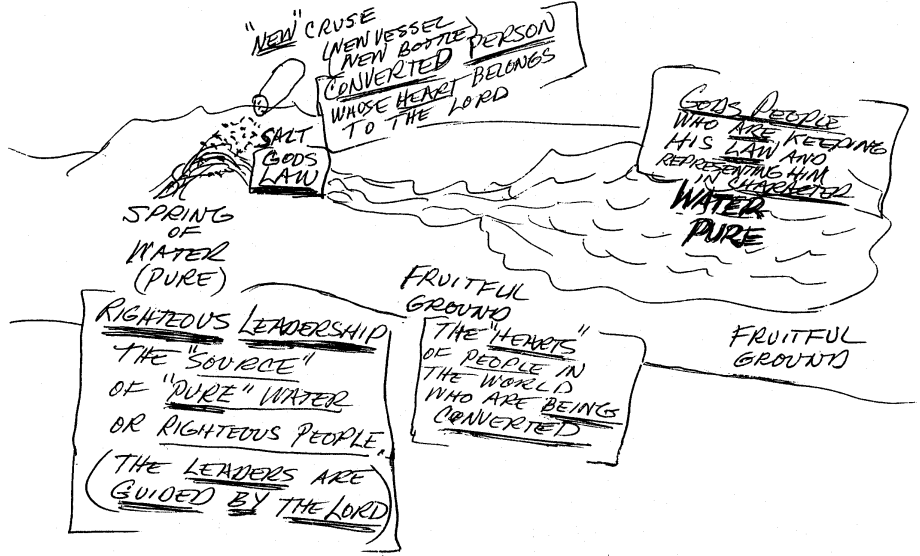
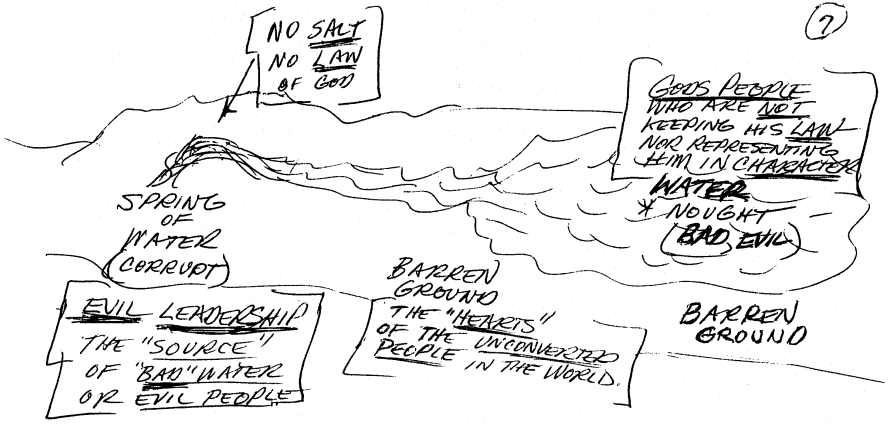
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SPRING = People guided by the Lord

Isa 58:11 "And the Lord shall guide thee . . .
and thou shalt be like a . . . spring of water,
whose waters fail not."



PARAPHRASE :

“The Spring of Water healed by Salt”

The **leaders** of God’s people were **not obeying** GOD’S LAW of 10 Commandments.

They were setting a **bad example** for the rest of God’s people, who then followed their leaders example !

The **result** of this was that the unconverted people around them were **remaining unconverted** !!

Instead of being led to give their heart to the Lord by observing the **lives** of God’s people, as they obeyed God’s Law and represented Him in Character, instead, they could see **no difference** between the way they were living and the way Gods’ people were living !

When the **leadership** of God’s people began to keep God’s Law and to be **guided by Him**, then God’s people began to **follow** their leaders example and to **also** keep God’s Law.

As the **unconverted people** around them began to observe how God’s people were “**loving their neighbors as themselves**”, they began to notice the difference and began to ask questions. In a short time the Holy Spirit had given them “**new hearts**” and they too began to keep God’s Law and to “love their **neighbors as themselves**”.

Other Bible Study Helps:

You will want to order “*How to Study and Understand Your Bible*” (104) for yourself or for friends or relatives. This book will simplify your study of the Bible using word pictures of real objects to explain the Spiritual meaning of Bible texts. (See *Bible Word Pictures* reference booklet described below.) “*How to Study...*” is also available in Spanish: *Cómo Estudiar y Entender Su Biblia* (204).

Along with the “*How to Study and Understand Your Bible*” book, you will need to also order the *Bible Word Pictures* reference booklet (106). This booklet contains 240 Bible Word Pictures which can be used to study the **Spiritual** meaning of any Bible text. The **Pictures** and corresponding **Bible texts** identify the **Spiritual** meaning of objects and make it easy to visualize and remember them. The *Bible Word Pictures* will allow you to discover the “**hidden treasure**” of the Bible. Also available in Spanish: *Ilustraciones de la Biblia* (206).

You can start a Bible Study Group using the “*How to Study...*” book (104) or the pamphlet lessons (105), along with the *Bible Word Pictures* ref. booklet (106).

The books “*Bible Parables Made Simple*” (101) and (102) cover the Parables, which contain the **Truths** that Jesus felt were the most important for us to understand. You will be **fascinated** as you see how the Bible explains itself, as the *Bible Word Pictures* reveal the **hidden meanings** of the parables. **Volume 1** explains 13 parables from the book of Matthew and **Volume 2** explains parables from Matthew and other books of the Bible.

The booklet *Last Day Events* (103) will amaze you as you see all the major events foretold to happen to the church outlined in the first book of the Bible, Genesis.

The book “*Bible Concepts compared to Popular Beliefs*” (107) will surprise you, as you compare the Scriptures and discover the Bible Concept of various subjects as compared to Popular Beliefs.