

Rain, Rain – Come My Way!

by Laura Shaw

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland. The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the desert and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.”

Isaiah 43:18-21

It's raining in Texas! I feel like doing cartwheels all over my house as I watch the rain pour down onto our thirsty ground. I would imagine that every tree, flower, crop, and animal are praising His name right now, as are most of us. You see, when it pours down after a long period of drought, we begin to forget the heat from the past. God does a new thing and changes the outlook for today.

Why the periods of drought, though? Only God truly understands the whole perspective on this, but He brings to my mind how much more thankful we are for the rain when it's been dry for a long time. I even picture thirst in a literal sense.

A drink is a nice add-on to my food at breakfast, lunch and dinner, but a drink after awhile in the hot sun or a workout—we're desperate for it. Likewise, God's water for my soul, His Word, is always useful and refreshing to me. When I'm in a dry time spiritually, though...oh, how His words satisfy my soul. As the psalmist expresses this in 143:6, *“I spread out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.”* How different our cry to the Lord when the heat of this world has beaten down on us to the point that we are desperately thirsty and in need of His refreshment.

Is this a dry season for you? Are you walking in the desert crying out, “My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. WHEN can I go and meet with God?” (Psalm 42:2) Jesus Himself says to you in John 7:37-38: *“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within Him.”* Where's the sign-up list? This is an invitation that requires a positive RSVP from us! We've got to show up, and we've got to believe...He WILL do a new thing in His time, making a way for us through this desert. When we finally get a drink, our praise will be louder than ever!

Is this a prosperous time for you? Is His water dripping from your tongue? Praise the Lord! The detour through the desert will come soon enough, but until then, keep filling up, and let the extra flow out to help refresh others. When we're full, and we're praising the Lord, He is glorified through us. *“I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. (Psalm 63:2)”*

So, whether we parched and thirsty, or the living water is gushing forth from our lives, God is in it. He is doing a new thing (sometimes He just takes longer to do it than other times)! It is all to proclaim His praise! It is all for His glory! Ask Him to give you a drink from His fountain today...the one that will never run dry and will fully satisfy. Amen.