

- Exodus 17:1-7 (ESV) 1 All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. 2 Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” 3 But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” 4 So Moses cried to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” 5 And the LORD said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. 6 Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”



- Why would the Israelites be hesitant to trust God completely?
 - True they had seen great wonders, repeatedly
 - But they had been mistreated repeatedly by the Egyptians too. They had tried to kill the Israelites in many ways, abused them.



**according to the commandment of Jehovah
Exodus 17:1**

- Exodus 17:1-7 (ESV) 1 All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, **according to the commandment of the LORD**, and camped at Rephidim,

•



- Exodus 17:1 — and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.



- How did the people react to this lack of water?
 - quarreled (2, 7)
 - tested Jehovah (2, 7)
 - thirsted (3)
 - grumbled (3)
 - ready to stone Moses (4)
- "Give us water to drink!"



- 3) "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"



- 7) "Is Jehovah among us or not?"



What Jehovah Reveals about the People

Hard hearts

Put Jehovah to the test & proof

They go astray in their hearts

They have not known my ways

Psalm 95.6-11

- Psalms 95:6-11 —
 - Hard hearts
 - Put Jehovah to the test and proof
 - Go astray in their heart
 - Not known my ways

What Jehovah Is Doing



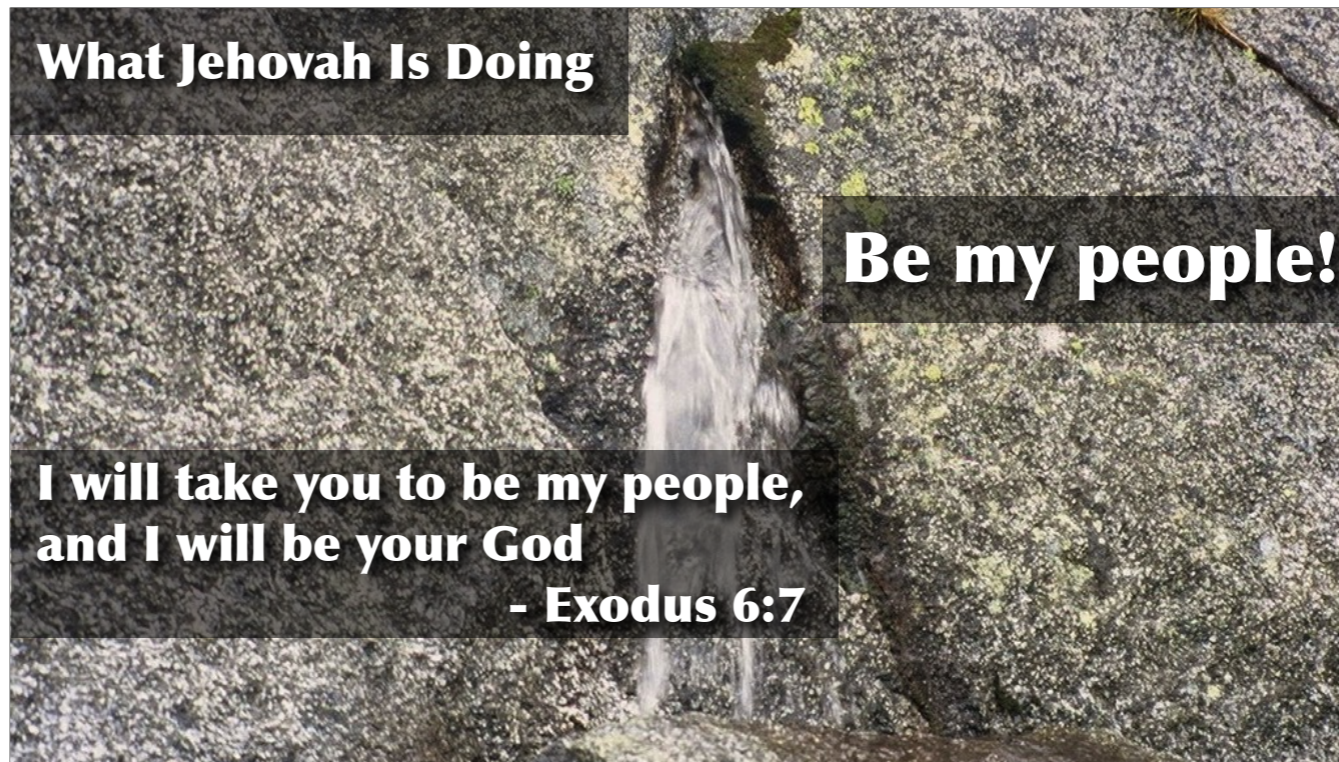
- What Jehovah is ACTUALLY doing!
 - “all these bad things wouldn’t be happening if God was really with us”
 - Where is God?
 - What is God doing?



- God Knows!
 - Exodus 2:25 God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.
 - When Israelites were slaves in Egypt and suffering and it was growing worse... God knew
 - When Joseph was sold as a slave, and in prison ... God knew
 - When God has lead his people to a place with no water ... God knows



- God knows what's happening to you.
 - Never doubt that God knows.
 - Psalms 94:9 (ESV) 9 He who planted the ear, does he not hear? **He who formed the eye, does he not see?**
 - To the foolish and wicked who claimed that God didn't see their evil.



- My People!

- Exodus 6: — 7 I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.
- This reminds us of God's great purpose: He wants us to be his own people; his children.
 - Offered for all in Jesus.



- God's Purpose!

- **8 I will bring you into the land** that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. **I am the LORD.**”
- The Israelites needed to know that God would do just as he swore to do.
 - Hebrews 6:13-14 (ESV) 13 For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, 14 saying, “Surely I will bless you and multiply you.”

What Jehovah Is Doing

**They did not listen
to Moses, because of
their broken spirit
and harsh slavery
Exodus 6:9**



- The People didn't hear it ...
 - 9 Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery.

What Jehovah Is Doing

**They did not listen
to Moses, because of
their broken spirit
and harsh slavery
Exodus 6:9**



- This is heartbreaking
 - Jehovah is giving the people hope, the fulfillment of promise
 - But they have been so broken that they can't even hear any sense of hope.
 - At this point, they cannot conceive that God's promise could possibly be real.
 - In their day to day lives, there wasn't time, or energy, for hope.
 - They were trying to survive.

What Jehovah Is Doing

**They did not listen
to Moses, because of
their broken spirit
and harsh slavery
Exodus 6:9**



- Often this is a problem we face when we are teaching others.
 - We come to them with the gospel (good news!), hope, reconciliation, eternal life, heaven.
 - But they really cannot hear it because life has been hard, they've been treated harshly, and they are just trying to survive the day.
 - I'm sure I don't have a solution, especially one that will instantly win them over to Christ.

What Jehovah Is Doing

**They did not listen
to Moses, because of
their broken spirit
and harsh slavery
Exodus 6:9**



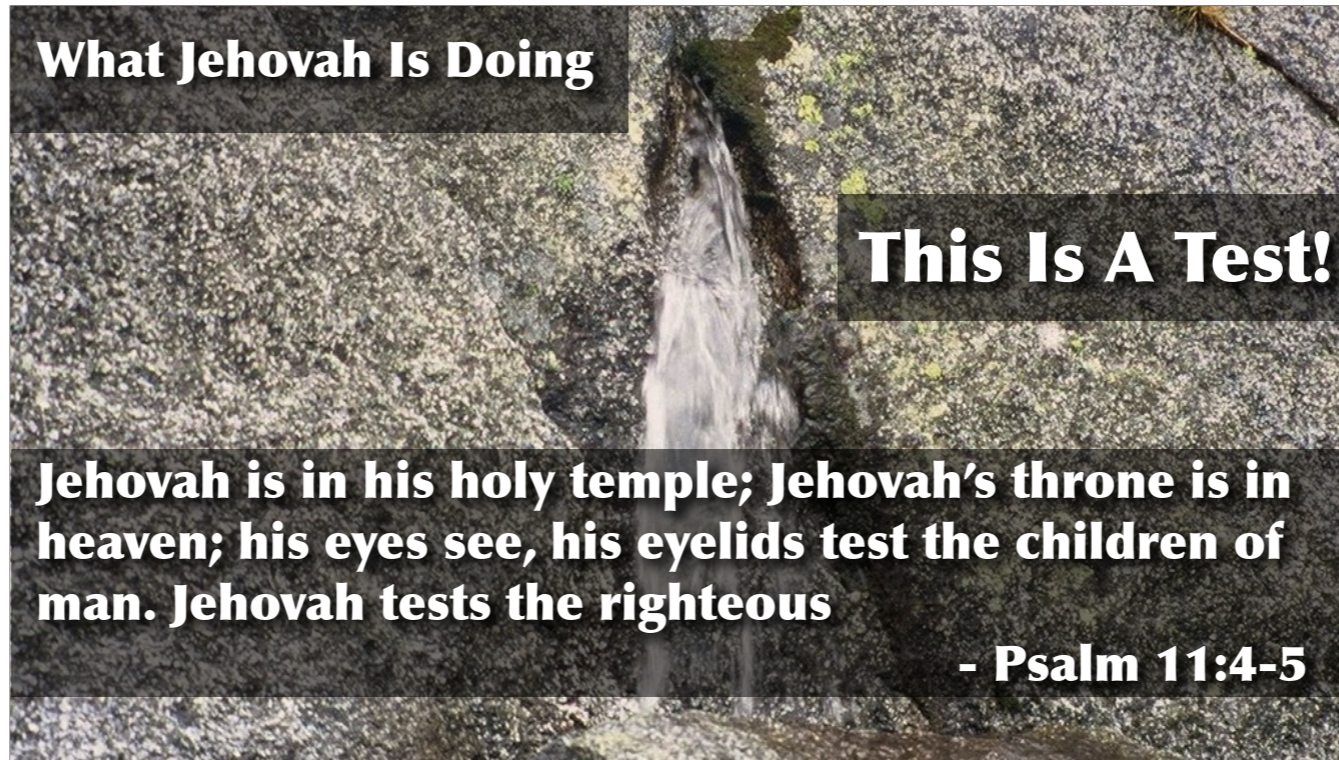
- But I know that Jehovah kept working and working with his people: love, kindness, and patience
 - Help them to see that God knows!
 - Keep telling them about hope.
 - Keep helping them see that Jehovah will always keep His promises.



- This is a test!
 - Psalms 81:7 In distress you called, and I delivered you; I answered you in the secret place of thunder; **I tested you at the waters of Meribah.** Selah
 - God tested Abraham, et. al; Jonah failed his test (but that wasn't God's fault)
 - Not to make them sin, nor put them in a no win situation.
 - He wants to see our hearts in action.
 - Easy to trust God when everything is going well
 - But when bad things happen, repeatedly, we begin to wonder.
 - Who are you going to be?
 - One who grumbles against God?
 - Or one who trusts God?



- Who are you going to be?
 - One who grumbles against God?
 - Or one who trusts God?



- Jehovah will test you.
 - Psalms 11:4-5 (ESV) 4 The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD's throne is in heaven; his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man. 5 The LORD tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence.
- What is the difference between me testing God and God testing me?
 - Israelites doubted Jehovah; Jehovah was trying to help their faith to grow.
 - Struggles are an opportunity to Grow.



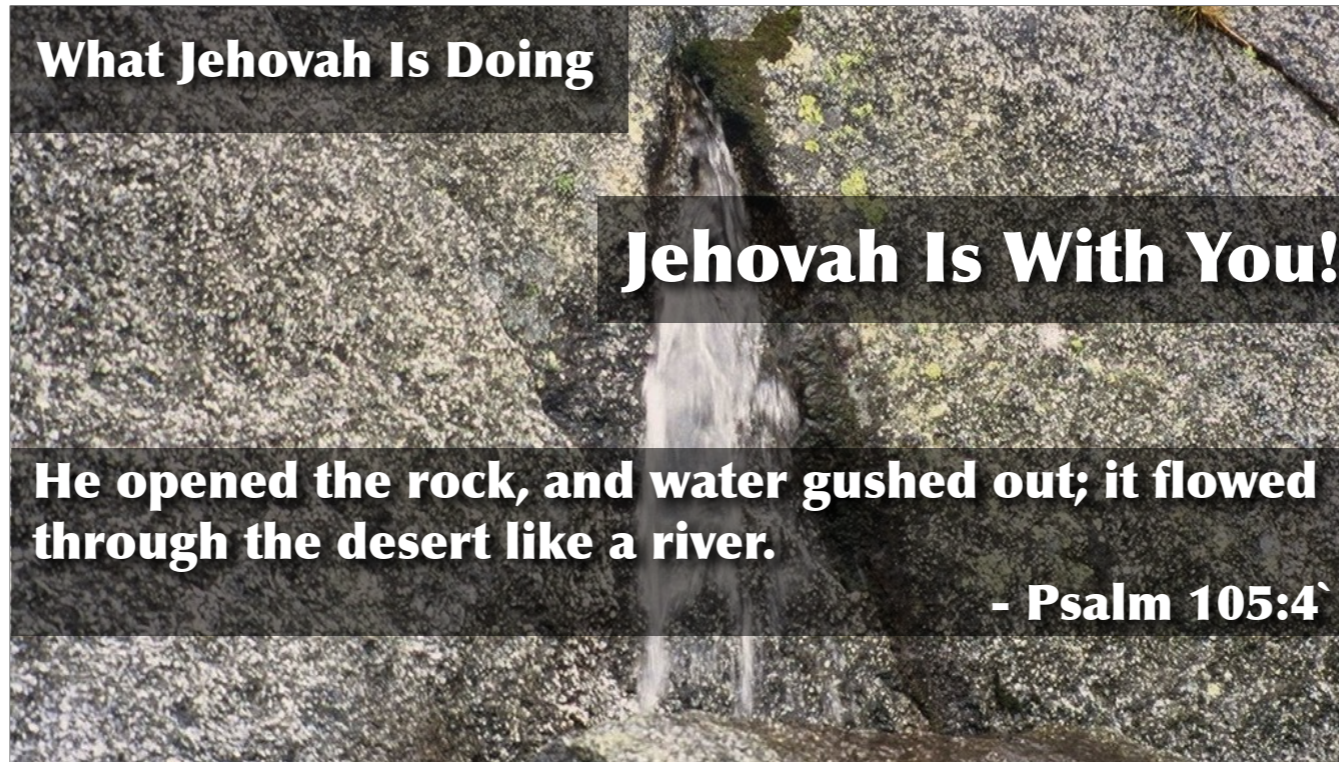
- God doesn't forsake his people in the wilderness
 - But that doesn't mean following him will always be easy
 - God allows us/forces us to face difficult situations purposefully.
 - Not to harm us
 - But to help us learn to trust him more.
 - He repeatedly shows us that he is faithful.
 - Will I keep trusting in him or not?



- I Will Stand Before You on the Rock
 - Exodus 17:6 Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.
 - They had questioned his presence and his leadership.



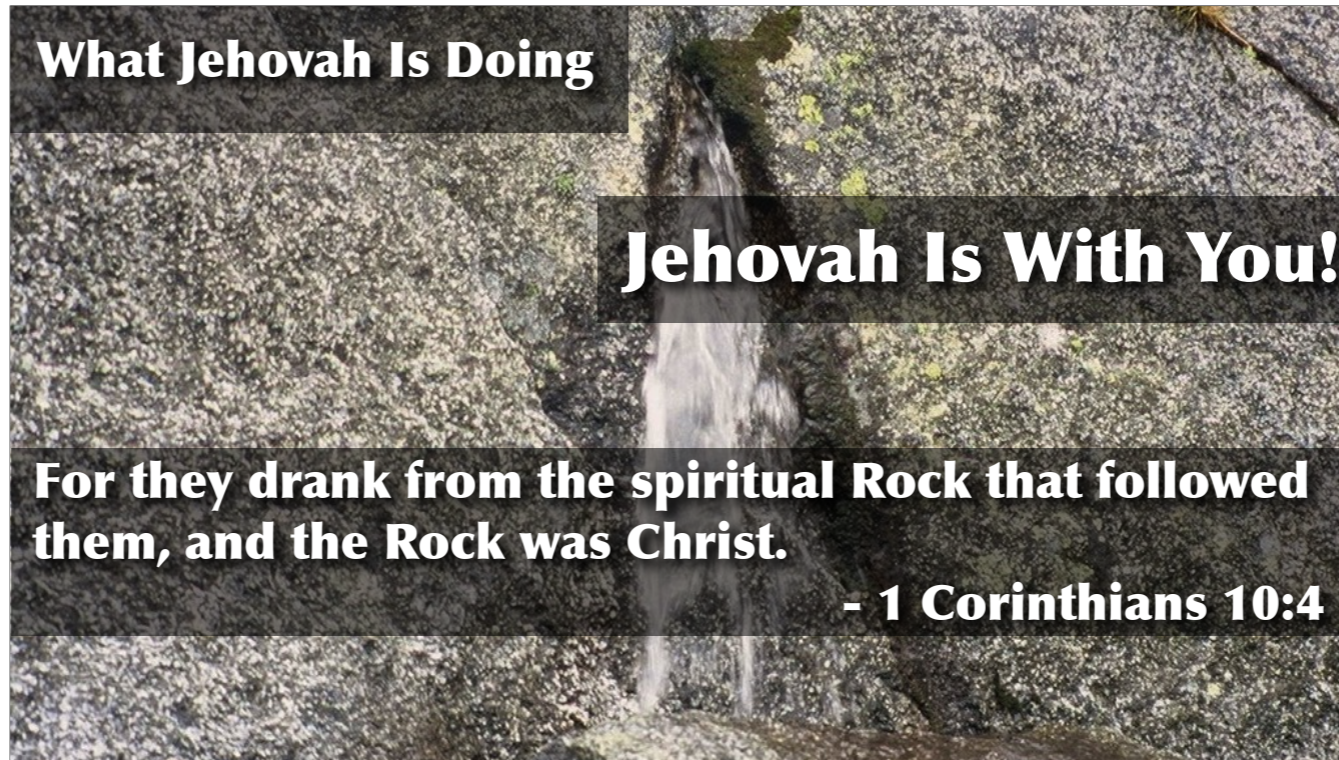
- Here's his answer: but they are not all going to get to see this happen
 - Take "some" of the elders
 - Strike rock with staff used to strike Nile in Egypt
 - good water was turned to blood!
 - Now good water will come from a rock.
 - How is this possible?



- I will stand before you on the Rock!
 - God is with you.
 - He supplies your needs
 - Psalms 105:41-42 (ESV) 41 He opened the rock, and water gushed out; it flowed through the desert like a river. 42 For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham, his servant.

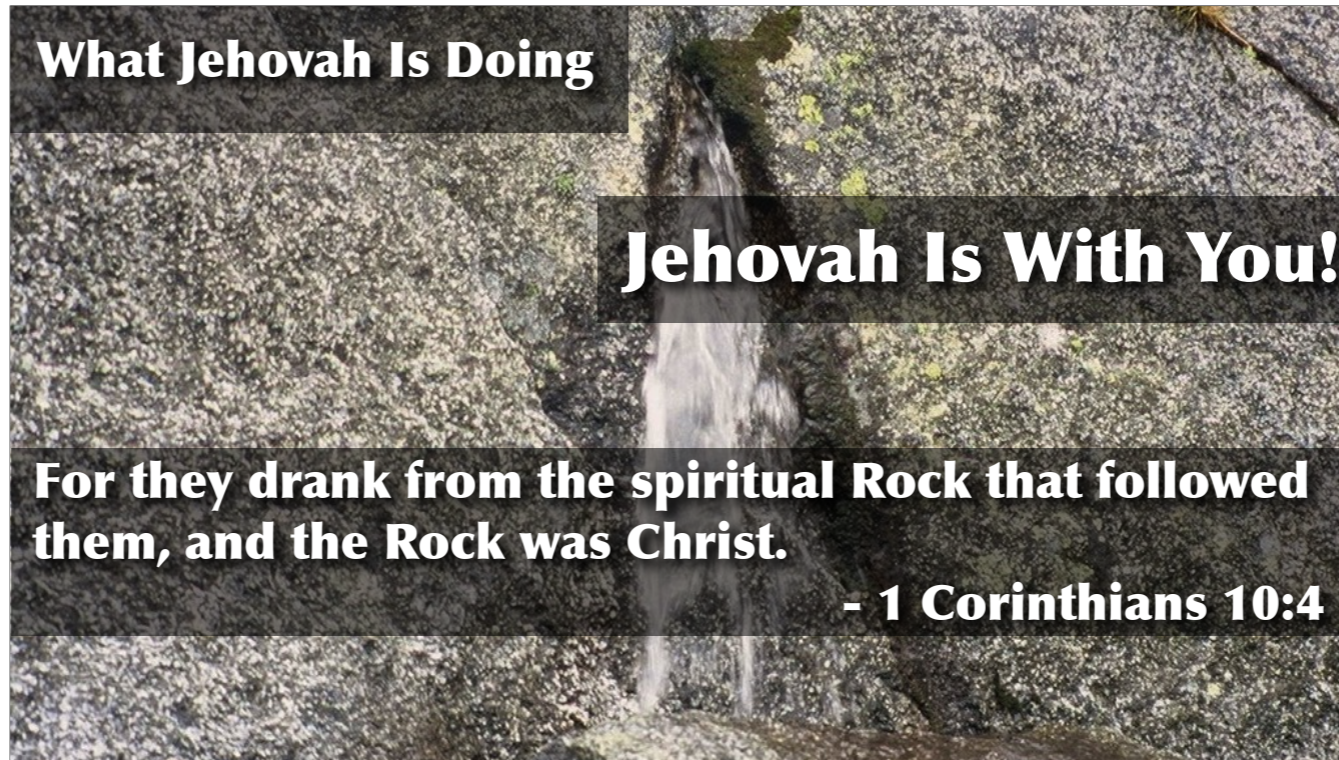


- He gives you more
 - Psalms 107:35 (ESV) 35 He turns a desert into pools of water, a parched land into springs of water.

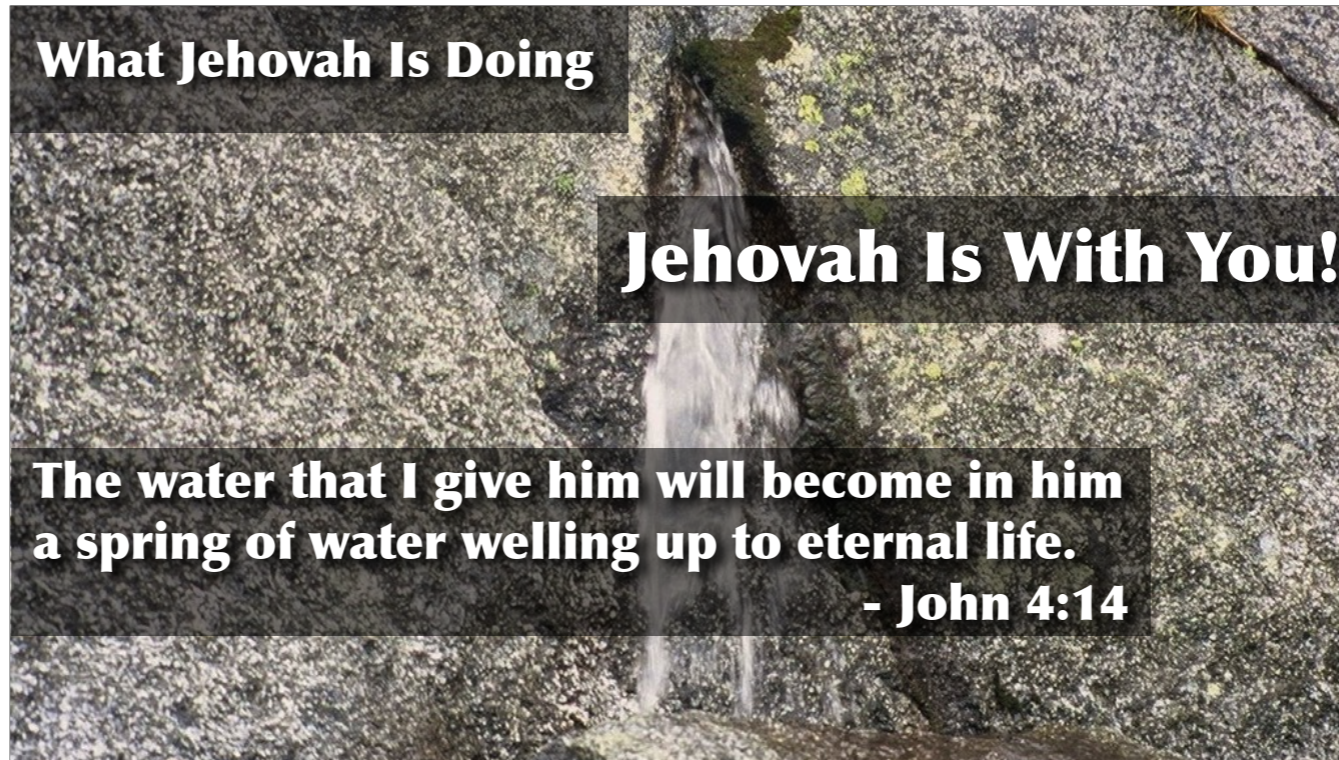


- Jesus is the rock

- 1 Corinthians 10:1-5 (ESV) 1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 and all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. **For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.** 5 Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.



- More was happening here than just traveling through a desert and being thirsty.
- This test was about much more than whether God could do something.
- God is with his people, not just physically to provide physical needs.
- God is with his people providing spiritual nourishment, meeting our spiritual needs.



- Jesus

- John 4:10 — Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.”
- John 4:13-14 — 13 Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”



- God wants a relationship with you.
- Sometimes you will go through a desert, a wilderness
 - Sometimes it will be hard.
- Sometimes you may wonder if God has forsaken you
- Sometimes God will test you



- How will you endure?
 - Trust God and wait for him to act?
 - Grumble, Quarrel, Test Jehovah?
 - Become hard hearted and go astray?
- Who do you choose to be?
 - Don't be the whiny victim, complaining that life's not fair or God has forsaken you.
 - Be the child of God who knows to trust Him even during the darkest moments.
- God's blessings are abundant
 - Drink the spiritual drink!
 - Matthew 6:33 — But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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Is Jehovah Among Us or Not? Part 2: What Jehovah Is Doing

Exodus 17:1-7

Synopsis: God tests the hearts of his people when he leads them to a place in the wilderness where there is no water. What is He doing? In this lesson we discover that Jehovah knows what we are going through, that we are his people, and he has a purpose for us. This is a test that reveals our heart and we must remember that Jehovah is with us.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”