

## Isaiah 44:3-5

### FLOOD ON DRY GROUND: PENTECOST

- I. The rich figure.
  - A. The figure is of plentiful rain making dry ground yield rich vegetation (pasturage) and creating rivers with willows alongside.
    1. The Israelites knew that dry ground grew nothing – it was baked earth, parched and dry, producing no fruit.
    2. By nature we are spiritually like the dry ground.
  - B. God comes with promises of life-giving power to the captives, who see themselves as barren.
  - C. As lush vegetation results from a saturating rain, so spiritual fruits result from the Spirit's work.
- II. The rich fruit of the rain-giving Spirit (Pentecost), after Jesus completed His work of earning all of salvation.
  - A. For the eternal God the reality of salvation always is; it never became.
  - B. But in time there was time before and time after Jesus did His work on earth.
  - C. The signs at Pentecost indicate the fullness of the blessings in Christ.
  - D. Now there is a greater richness of the Spirit-given relationship.
    1. The greatest evidence of God's love for us can be pointed to as an accomplished fact (Rom. 5:8).
    2. Now we know God as Father (rarely used for God in the O.T.).
- III. The experience of this blessed reality is most wonderful.
  - A. As willows flourish by a river, so the Spirit makes believers flourish in faith, repentance, and love, though still in a dry world.
  - B. When we do not flourish it is because we grieve the Spirit (Eph. 4:30) or tried to quench Him (I Thess. 5:19).
  - C. We flourish when we know, appreciate, and walk in the knowledge of our true identity in the Spirit of Christ: "I am Jehovah's."
  - D. We even "subscribe his hand unto Jehovah," i.e., tattoo the name of our master on our hand.