

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Water

(Jerry Fite)

Water covers at least 70 percent of the earth's surface. From the beginning, one could look at earth and say, “water, water everywhere.” But such a statement carries even more significant weight after what we have experienced with Hurricane/Tropical Depression Harvey. In Houston and the surrounding area, Harvey churned up, and dumped 15 trillion gallons of water. This amount would keep Niagara Falls operating for 15 days. In our creeks, bayous, rivers and neighborhood streets water is indeed everywhere.

Water possesses unique qualities. It can be liquid, frozen or appear in gaseous forms such as vapor or steam. Water in the atmosphere forms clouds dispensing rain which nourishes the ground and flows down rivers into the ocean beds. The process of evaporation sends the chemical substance of water back into the atmosphere to begin the whole evaporation – rain - evaporation process all over again. Because of earth's closed atmospheric system, no new water is being created. It may be that in your lifetime you will be drinking the same water certain people in the

Bible were drinking in their days on earth.

Water preserves life and kills. The two molecules of hydrogen connected with the one molecule of oxygen replenishes our bodies which is 60 percent water. If we are to continue to live, we must drink water. While our lungs are over 80 percent water, water in the lungs will kill. In humans, the water which is comprised of oxygen will kill in the lungs, but will preserve fish who filter the water through the gills giving needed oxygen for life.

Water, as it runs over streets, decreases friction of tires on pavement. Two feet of running water can lift most cars carrying it wherever the stream is headed. Objects with its molecules crowded together in space form its density. When its density is heavier than that of water, the object will sink. If not, it will float. A marble will sink in water, a styrofoam ice chest will float. Because water in its frozen form is less dense than water in liquid form, ice cubes will float in your glass of water. When the car lifted by 2 feet water is carried away, it can become more dense than that of water and disappear from sight in 10 feet of water.

The Syrian captain Naaman was miraculously healed of leprosy by dipping seven times in the Jordan River. No, water does not cure leprosy, not even that from the Jordan River. But God used water as the dividing line between leprosy and the skin of a child for the inflicted Naaman. Only when he fully obeyed God's conditions, was he cured of leprosy (*2 Kings 5*)

Water was the dividing line between salvation and death for the Israelites as they were fleeing the Egyptians. When they believed God, and walked on dry land through the bed of the Red Sea, they soon saw the Egyptian army drowning in the same water that heaped up for their miraculous escape (*Exodus 14*).

God used flood water to destroy the unrighteous world in Noah's day, and save righteous Noah with his family (*Genesis 6-8*). Peter connects this event with baptism. Eight souls were saved by water in Noah's day, “*which also after a true likeness doth now save you, even baptism...*” (*1 Peter 3:21*). Based upon Jesus' death, including His resurrection, the water baptism saves us today from a world of sin and unrighteousness.