

## Life in the Sand, From Sand to Rock, Life in the Rock

### Vignette One - Life in the Sand

- His name meant “to lift out”
- He was born in a time when his people were looking for a deliverer
- But a price was on his head and every other boy born at the time
- His people were oppressed, made slaves by the ruling class—the Egyptians
- And they were outnumbering the Egyptians like sand on the seashore
- Moses grew up in Pharaoh’s court
- But he actually lived his life amidst the sands of Egypt
- Everywhere he looked, the Egyptians had built their temples, their burial sites—the pyramids with rock in the sand
- Life in the sand was all Moses knew—or for that matter, what any Hebrew or Egyptian knew
- Jesus was on to something very important when he said—anyone who builds on the sand is toying with disaster
- When the storms come, the winds blow, the waves come crashing in—whatever you built on sand will come tumbling down
- So, one day, after Moses had completed his training and walked out where the forced labor was taking place
- He saw how an Egyptian foreman was beating a Hebrew slave
- Moses couldn’t stand the injustice and so looking all around took matters into his own hands
- And stood up for the poor Hebrew slave and killed the Egyptian
- Quickly he buried and hid the dead man in the sand
- Life in the sand is at best shifting, always moving
- A pastor friend of mine owns a beach house along the Atlantic seaboard
- Every hurricane season he has whether a hurricane makes a direct hit or not—he has to invest in beach front erosion
- The beach is constantly shifting—that what life is like in the sand
- Matter of fact, the same week, Moses was again out near the forced labor camps
- And seeing another incident, this time with two Hebrews quarrelling, and began to intervene
- The one who started the fight spoke to Moses
- TEXT: Exodus 2:14 READ
- Word was out and Pharaoh wasn’t having any of it—Moses was going rogue and must be eliminated
- How many more lives had Moses snuffed out?
- Life in the sand is just like this even today
  - You think you’ve got it all figured out
  - Sand is no friend
  - Sand is it’s own master
  - It will not and cannot be mastered
  - When will we learn—life in the sand is no day at the beach
  - Far from it—the moment you think you have it all figured out—it slips from your grasp
- Been there? Are you there?

- Got news for you—God is ready to show you a better way

### **Vignette Two - From Sand to Rock**

- Moses had never gone this far into the wilderness with his sheep before
- He had now passed from the sand of the desert to mountain rock of Sinai
- And as he paused to let his sheep graze on some highland meadow grass
- He suddenly spotted a bush burning—fully engulfed in flame
- Cautiously he stepped closer
- As he did, a voice came forth from the flaming bush
- He heard his name being called twice—“Moses, Moses!”
- Moses responded—“Here I am.”
- “Take off your sandals—for you are standing on holy ground”
- Moses you have stepped from sand to rock—
  - Forty years since he had hid the Egyptian’s body in the sand
  - Forty years of walking and living in sand and then some rock
  - How Moses’ life has been shaped
  - He’s become a husband and a father
  - He’s has been a shepherd all these years
- Life in the sand is something he is ready to leave behind
- So, standing barefoot on the Rock, Moses listens...
- God speaks, “I Am the God of Abraham, Issac and Jacob”
- Moses shields himself and covers his eyes as he hears these words—the glory of God’s presence is right there in the burning bush
- You know, Jesus, the Son of God, in his pre-existent, pre-incarnation state is the one speaking from that bush
- Had He revealed Himself completely Moses would not have lived
- But Jesus moved Moses from sand to rock that day—and Moses would never be the same
- Jesus wants to move you and me from sand to rock
- All it takes is this—
  - A willingness to listen
  - A determination to obey
  - A desire to let Him lead
- ABC... it’s as simple as that to go from living in the sand to living in the rock

### **Vignette Three - Life in the Rock**

- Jesus said in Matthew 7:14—“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on the rock... .”
- Life in the Rock
- Pre-incarnate Jesus had told Moses that day at the foot of Sinai—you will bring my people here to this mountain to worship Me
- No one is holy like the Lord! There is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God (1 Sam. 2:2)
- God wants us all to experience life in Him, the Rock
- What is that like?

- Let's walk with Moses for a few moments as he journeys with Israel through the sandy wilderness
- Only a few days out from the magnificent deliverance at the Red Sea and Israel is out of water
- As each of us know here in the Southwest United States—water in a desert is life
- And the masses of Israelites, perhaps 2 million in number, are without water
- You can live only a short time without water—even less time in a dry sandy desert
- God sends Moses to the rock
- TEXT: Exodus 17:5,6 NLT READ
- And they drank and were refreshed
- This is symbol of how they and we are to live our lives—Life in the Rock
- It's not just a coincidence here that water comes from a rock
- The rock represents Jesus
- How do we know that?
- Fast forward with me to another dry day—when again the people of Israel are without water
- TEXT: Numbers 20:8 NLT
- Now, nearly another 40 years has passed and a whole new generation of Israelites exists
- But they are grumblers and mumblers just like their folks
- And Moses and Aaron have turned to God and here's what God says
- TEXT: Numbers 20:8 NLT READ
- And that's what should have been done—listen and follow (obey) what the Lord said
- But Moses stepped up to the rock and this is what happened
- TEXT: Numbers 20:10,11 NLT READ
- God then said to Moses, “you did not trust me enough to demonstrate my holiness to the people of Israel”
- And Moses would not lead Israel into the Promised Land
- God is serious about this life in the rock
- If you're coming to Him, the Rock, then He is to receive the honor and glory due Him
- When Jesus said to Peter, ...on this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
- He was saying, Peter, even though your name means rock, you must rest on me, the Rock
- Life in the Rock means:
  - We joined Jesus in His death (Romans 6:3)
  - We died and were buried with Christ by baptism (Romans 6:4)
  - We had no power over death and sin, but Jesus Christ the Rock has (1 Cor. 15:56,57)
- Let's live our lives in the Rock, what do you say?
- Prayer