

Title of the Presentation

**Re-Reading the Biblical Moses and his Exodus Ecological
Motif: Toward a Contextual Theology and Science of
Doing Indigenised Groundwater Management in
Southern Africa**

Defining/Approaching the Problem

- ❑ Most arguably, *Indigenous Theo-Scientific Eco-Knowledge* (ITSEK) has the potential to play a central role in interpreting/restoring/managing the debilitating groundwater resources in Southern Africa today, both at the regional and community levels.
- ❑ ITSEK can enable the identification, recognition and implementation of culturally appropriate *Theo-scientific* strategies for assessing changes in local groundwater resources, related impacts and the local adaptations to the projected changes.
- ❑ In this sense, there is significant opportunity for local groundwater resources management practices and policy to be informed by ITSEK, yet there are no systematic mechanisms currently in place for Southern Africa to engage a more impactful *Theo-scientific* groundwater management effort within the region.
- ❑ This inquiry therefore, investigates the potential for maintaining and utilising ITSEK by local communities and how this can be nurtured to inform formal and informal groundwater management in Southern Africa today.

Hypothetical Standpoint

- ❑ The interplay between *theology* and *science* possibly remains obscure and unprecedented, when it comes to realistically or practically do groundwater resources restoration in Southern Africa today.
- ❑ There is need therefore, to merge *indigenous theology* and *science* in an effort to interpret/model/manage local groundwater resources - both the *African Indigenous Theologians* and *Scientists* should have a single and mandatory role to care for the surrounding aquatic environment.

Modelling the Indigenised Groundwater Management Effort

- ❑ The current inquiry uses the '*See-Judge-Act*' methodology to analyse and model how modern Southern African citizens can learn from *Moses and his Exodus Ecological Motif* – where he “saw” the bitter situation in front of him and the Israelites, he “judged” it, and then “immediately acted” on the aquatic quagmire!
- ❑ The inquiry thus, analyses the *Contextual Biblical Study* of the book of Moses (*Exodus 15 vs 22-26*), which has the capacity to provide resources for modelling the coordinated and integrative effort to interpret/restore/manage the debilitating groundwater resources in Southern Africa today.

Modelling the Indigenised Groundwater Management Effort

- ❑ It is not strange that this current article proposes that we ‘turn-again to’ or ‘read-again’ this *Mosaic Theo-Scientific Eco-Experience* as we seek and endeavour to model credible groundwater resources management in Southern Africa today, considering that this biblical text has a ‘*Surplus of Indigenous Theo-scientific Ecological Meaning*’.
- ❑ It shows Moses interpreting/restoring/managing groundwater changes using ‘natural or scientific means’ combined with ‘spiritual bravado’.
- ❑ He prayed to God at Marah, he was shown a ‘log’ that he picked up and threw it into the water body, and the bitter water was restored to its original taste and quality.
- ❑ Such a Mosaic stance teaches us that a combination of *theology* and *science* is imperative for ‘indigenised’ groundwater management in Southern Africa today.

Modelling the Indigenised Groundwater Management Effort

- Therefore, this current *Contextual Biblical Study* contributes a 'Traditional Theo-Scientific Resource' that motivates and generates a wide ranging 'Indigenous Theo-Scientific Ecological Discourse' for groundwater management, that which provides a more 'localised interactive and inclusive eco-space' for practical earthkeeping and groundwater stewardship/ambassadorship in Southern Africa today and even tomorrow.

Conclusion/Recommendations

This presentation concludes and recommends that:

- ❑ A more 'indigenous', influence-oriented and advocacy-laden *Mosaic Theo-Scientific Ecclesiology* within a Southern African context of practical faith/public theology of Doing Groundwater Management is imperative - this form of ecclesiology will assist African societies in being practically involved in the desirable systematic planning, coordination and social integration in pursuit for change and achievement of groundwater management outcomes...
- ❑ Through the 'indigenous' *Mosaic Theo-Scientific Voice*, the Southern African communities should be able to persuade, convince, negotiate and engage in groundwater management dialogues –further enabling them to communicate, facilitate and ensure a '*Contextual Theology and Science of Doing Indigenised Groundwater Management*' in Southern Africa today...