

6/27/04

Subject: Rivers  
Text: Revelations 22.1

And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God the Lamb.

## INTRODUCTION

### IMAGES FROM TWO DIFFERENT LIFE'S EXPERIENCES - POEMS

#### OLD MAN RIVER AND

The Negro Speaks of Rivers by Langston Hughes -

"There is a river of joy flowing through the city of our God, the sacred home of the God above all gods." (Psalm 46: 4, LB)

"A river brings joy to the city of our God, the sacred home of the Most High. God himself lives in that city; it cannot be destroyed. God will protect it at the break of day... The Lord Almighty is here among us: the God of Israel is our fortress." (Psalm 46: 4-5; 7, NLT)

"Then the angel showed me the river of life-giving water, sparkling like crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of its street. On either side of the river grew the tree of life that produces fruit twelve times a year, once each month, the leaves of the tree serve as medicine for the nations." (Rev. 22: 1, NAB) This verse echoes a similar one in Ez. 47: 12.

ye shall be like a

(The people of God) "...are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season without fail. Their leaves never wither, and in all they do, they prosper." (Psalm 1: 3, NLT)

"The rivers of God will not run dry; they provide a bountiful harvest of grain for you have ordered it so." (Psalm 65: 9, NLT)

River refers to the presence of the Holy Spirit flowing, <sup>Heart to heart</sup> <sup>Breast to breast</sup> touching the Family of God

2. Rivers don't flow down in a casual way. They just don't flow straight down a mountainside but they twist and turn. But they have direction. God is not always predictable. But He follows a Plan. Geologically, a River's depth is in direct correlation to the curvature of its channels. The deeper we are into God, the more likely extraordinary manifestations will occur in our lives: healing, deliverances, financial provisions right before our faces. To the degree, we will enter the flow of the river and be submerged in it - we will experience the power of God.

depth  
&  
channels

3. The River always brings life - not an end by dumping itself into another river - River of God not an end in itself but leads to a much greater end.

(R) Brings healing, refreshment & brings new life nourishes, feeds -

4. A River well channeled and harnessed can become a Source of Incredible Power. When we allow the Holy Spirit to mold us and shape us.

A river cannot be framed, blocked, because it constantly flows - H.S. - Damn

5. River always brings cleansing from the Cross of Jesus

Murky, Muddy, Pollutant past can be cleared - The Throne of God - pure and beautiful. "Give Me a Clean Heart - so that I might serve thee - Lord fix my heart so that I may be used by Thee - For I'm not worthy of all these blessings - Give Me

Moses  
not clean  
Ezekiel  
turn face  
hid in a  
cave  
Holy, Holy

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# Genesis Eden - Revelation River

6/27/04

## RIVER AS A METAPHOR

not water -

- Image -

## RIVER - LIVING WATER

Double Meaning

JESUS at the well

Both K + Can mean Spirit, the Holy, creative power -  
Both = Motion - Water + the Spirit of God are Entangled.  
Well - Flat water goes in - ancient desert cisterns

Rivers - Forge valleys, canyons of cut stone,  
God spirit moving thru history, time & space  
seeking new paths, New hearts

## RIVERS OF THE BIBLE

Everytime I Feel the Spirit Moving

1. The Garden of Eden - River Pishon

2. Moses - Nile River Ex 2.3-6. Because I drew him out of the water

3. John the Baptist

Living Water Speaks - Voice

Rain on the roof  
Song of the ocean coming home  
Filling the tubs - Spring water  
gushes - pouring of H<sub>2</sub>O, Creek  
ruffles - tide

## The Character of the River

1. It's Source is its most important thing. The source must always be higher than the river itself. From the mountaintops - The river of God's joy flows to us in the valley, the place of need. The higher the mountain, the greater flow downstream; the deeper the valley, the greater the flow and the stronger the power of the current in other words, the more we allow God to flow His blessings upon us, the greater and deeper His presence is in us and upon us. Equally, the greater our needs, the power of the Holy Spirit will be upon us.

## 6. River is a reminder of God's Promise

### Conclusion

1. We are not mere Containers for God's Spirit
2. We are Not just Empty pitchers that passively fill + pour God's Love
3. Samaritan woman - reminds Jesus - He has no Buckets We are not Buckets - Ch
4. Nothing can contain the Spirit  
It springs on and up to Eternal life
5. Living with Flowing River - Motion of the Spirit  
Spilling, opening of new rivers - Live of People  
Jesus died that we become Living  
Flowing Rivers of Joy. streams, inlets, brooks
- God's Grace - Flow + Blood of Jesus  
is the H<sub>2</sub>O - valley. Cleans pollutants
- Must - Surrender - Be Baptized -  
commitment - Declaration

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### Revelations 22.1

And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God the lamb.

### Text: Psalm 46.1-4

God is our mighty fortress, always ready to help in times of trouble. And so, we won't be afraid! Let the earth tremble and the mountain tumble into the deepest sea. Let the ocean roar and foam, and its ragging waves shake the mountains

### RIVER AS A METAPHOR

Rivers refer to the Presence of the Holy Spirit flowing, touching the family of God, running from heart to heart and to and fro from breast to breast.

### Poetry as a Metaphor – Old Man River and Negro Speaks of Rivers

### OHIO RIVER – Allegheny and Mongahola –

Muskingan	→	Pa
Kanawha	→	West Virginia
Big Sandy	→	Kentucky
Sciota	→	Ohio
Little Miami	→	Ohio
Licking	→	Kentucky
Green River	→	Indiana
Wabash	→	Illinois

### 1. The Garden of Eden – River Pishon

The Character of the River

1. It's Source is its most important thing. The source must always be higher than the river itself. From the mountaintops – The river of God's joy flows to us in the valley, the place of need. The higher the mountain, the greater flow downstream; the deeper the valley, the greater the flow and the stronger the power of the current in other words, the more we allow God to flow His blessings upon us, the greater and deeper His presence is in us and upon us. Equally, the greater our needs, the power of the Holy Spirit will be upon us.

2. RIVERS (LIFE) don't flow down in a casual way. They just don't flow straight down a mountainside but they twist and turn. But they have direction. God is not always predictable. But He follows a Plan. Geologically, a River's depth is in direct correlation to the curvature of its channels. The deeper we are into God, the more likely extraordinary manifestations will occur in our lives: healing, deliverances, financial provisions right before our faces. To the degree, we will enter the flow of the river and be submerged in it – we will experience the power of God.

3. The River always brings life.

- Not Death

4. The River is a source of Power, channeled and harnessed,

5. River always brings Cleansing.

6. River is a reminder of God's Promise

#### Conclusion

- We are not mere Containers for God's Spirit
- We are not empty pitchers that are passively filled

- Illustrate – Woman at the well – No Buckets
- Nothing can contain the Spirit – It moves – must out outlets, spilling, opening new rivers, feeding lakes and ponds. ( Negro spirituals)
- Jesus died so that Sin's dams couldn't block the flow of the Spirit and His saving blood could flow through our veins.

### WHAT CARGO IS FLOWING ON YOUR RIVER?

A river and its streams brings joy to the city, which is the sacred home of the Most High

#### JOY

Is a reward, the results of previous activities

- Walking and Living by Faith
- Obedience to God's Will

JOY (abundance) is in direct proportion to the closeness and faithfulness of the believer. John 15.1 "These things I have spoken to you that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. (Good News

JOY is different from earthly pleasures that are bound to circumstances.

JOY is a blessing. JOY is a Gift

JOY enables you to enjoy all that God has given – health, friends, opportunities and Salvation

JOY is the fruit of the Spirit.



SIN -in a Believers life can rob them of joy

1. Give me a clean heart so that I may serve Thee
2. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right Spirit within me
3. Restore unto me the JOY of thy Salvation and uphold me with thy free Spirit/

*What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought  
Since Jesus came into my heart. I have light in my Soul for which  
long I have sought, Since Jesus came into my heart*

Floods of JOY o'er my Soul like the sea billows roll, Since Jesus  
came into my heart.

*Psalmist*

Psalm 46

God is the refuge of His people (1-3)

(4) There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God

Text: Psalm 46.1-4

God is our mighty fortress, always ready to help in times of trouble.  
And so, we won't be afraid! Let the earth tremble and the mountain tumble  
Into the deepest sea. Let the ocean roar and foam, and its ragging waves  
shake the mountains

A river and its streams brings joy to the city, which is the sacred home of  
the Most High

JOY

Psalm 15. Weeping may endure for a night but JOY cometh in  
the Morning.

CARGO .

God is a God of Joy Psalm 104.31

Moral Joy - Peace, serenity

Spiritual Joy - Rejoicing in hope