

Key scriptures:

- John (4:14); 7:37-38
- Ezek 47:1ff
- Rev 7:17; 21:6; 22:1; 22:17

Introduction:

- IN THE SCRIPTURES, WATER IS OFTEN USED AS A SPIRITUAL SYMBOL - WATER REPRESENTS SOMETHING OF THE CHARACTER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD...
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1. Characteristics of Water

A. Fluid:

- I. ANYONE WHO HAS TRIED TO BUILD A DAM WALL, OR CUP THEIR HAND TO DRINK WATER, WILL KNOW JUST HOW FLEXIBLE AND ADAPTABLE WATER IS:
 1. IT ALWAYS FINDS A WAY THROUGH
 2. IT MOVES AROUND OBSTACLES

b. Perseverant:

- I. THROUGH CONSTANT, UNWAVERING AND FOCUSED PERSISTENCE, WATER CAN WEAR A CHANNEL IN HARD ROCK

c. Penetrative

- I. EG CAPSIZING IN A BOAT, AND ALL THE THINGS PACKED IN THE BAG GETTING SOAKED, AFTER JUST A FEW MOMENTS IN THE WATER
 1. WATER GOT INTO EVERYTHING – NO SPACE WAS SPARED OR KEPT DRY



60
8th March

d. Essential

1. THERE ARE MANY THINGS IN OUR LIVES WHICH ARE IMPORTANT AND HELPFUL, BUT ARE NOT AS ESSENTIAL AS WATER - WE CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT WATER

II. PRIMARY VERSUS SECONDARY

1. SO OFTEN, WE TEND TO FOCUS ON THE PERIPHERAL MATTERS IN LIFE, RATHER THAN ON THE ESSENTIAL

A. LOST SENSE OF ESSENCE AND SIMPLICITY

B. LOST SENSE OF WONDER

C. LOST SENSE OF STEWARDSHIP

2. SO IT IS WITH THE SPIRIT

A. THE ANOINTING IS VITAL TO EVERYDAY LIFE, AND YET WE SO OFTEN CAN TAKE THIS FACT FOR GRANTED

I. THE FACT THAT WE BORN OF THE INCORRUPTIBLE, DUNAMIS OF GOD

E. Powerful – angry and awesome

I. DURING FLOODS, WE GET TO SEE THE AWESOME POWER OF WATER:

1. BRIDGES ARE DESTROYED LIKE MATCH-STICKS

2. CARS ARE WASHED AWAY LIKE DINKY TOYS

II. BIG WAVES POUNDING UP AGAINST CLIFFS IS A PICTURE OF THE POWER AND ANGER OF WATER

F. Humble

i. (See Philippians 2:6ff)

II. WATER ALWAYS FLOWS DOWN-HILL

1. AS IMPORTANT AS WATER IS, WE NEVER SEE IT FLOWING UP TO THE TOP OF A MOUNTAIN AND BEATING ITS CHEST IN PRIDE

“WATER”



60th March

2. WATER ALWAYS FLOWS TOWARDS THE LOWEST POINT
3. RIVERS MAKE THEMSELVES AVAILABLE, THE FULL LENGTH OF THEIR JOURNEY
 - A. NO MATTER WHETHER IT IS APPRECIATED, ABUSED, POLLUTED OR IGNORED, THE RIVER MAKES ITSELF AVAILABLE TO ALL WHO WOULD HAVE NEED OF IT – CHILDREN PLAYING; QUENCHING THIRST; INDUSTRIAL USE ETC
4. SOFT
 - A. WATER CUSHIONS A FALL, ABSORBS, AND INVITES PEOPLE INSIDE
5. GIVING – LIVES ON BEHALF OF OTHERS
 - A. BRINGS JOY AND DELIGHT
 - B. GIVES RELIEF AND REFRESHING
 - C. WASHES

G. Multi-varied

i. Consider/ imagine...

1. THERE CAN BE THE TRANQUILITY OF A TRICKLING STREAM
2. THE MAJESTY OF A TOWERING AND TUMBLING WATERFALL
3. THE ANGER OF A RAGING OCEAN POUNDING AGAINST HARD CLIFFS
4. THE AUSTERITY OF TURQUOISE, TRANSPARENT WATERS
5. THE SOAKING OF GENTLE RAIN
6. THE AWESOMENESS OF A HEAVY DOWNPOUR
7. THE TRANSFORMING POWER AS DEAD AND DRY LAND COMES BACK TO LIFE AFTER THE RAIN



60
8th March

2. This word is not so much about water, as it is about the Spirit...

- A. EZEKIEL 47:1 “THEN HE BROUGHT ME BACK TO THE DOOR OF THE HOUSE; AND BEHOLD, WATER WAS FLOWING FROM UNDER THE THRESHOLD OF THE HOUSE TOWARD THE EAST, FOR THE HOUSE FACED EAST. AND THE WATER WAS FLOWING DOWN FROM UNDER, FROM THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE HOUSE, FROM SOUTH OF THE ALTAR...”
- B. JOHN 4:14 “...BUT WHOEVER DRINKS OF THE WATER THAT I WILL GIVE HIM SHALL NEVER THIRST; BUT THE WATER THAT I WILL GIVE HIM WILL BECOME IN HIM A WELL OF WATER SPRINGING UP TO ETERNAL LIFE.”
- C. JOHN 7:37-38 “NOW ON THE LAST DAY, THE GREAT DAY OF THE FEAST, JESUS STOOD AND CRIED OUT, SAYING, "IF ANYONE IS THIRSTY, LET HIM COME TO ME AND DRINK. "HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME, AS THE SCRIPTURE SAID, 'FROM HIS INNERMOST BEING WILL FLOW RIVERS OF LIVING WATER.'”
- D. REV 7:17 “...FOR THE LAMB IN THE CENTER OF THE THRONE WILL BE THEIR SHEPHERD, AND WILL GUIDE THEM TO SPRINGS OF THE WATER OF LIFE; AND GOD WILL WIPE EVERY TEAR FROM THEIR EYES.”
- E. REV 21:6 “THEN HE SAID TO ME, "IT IS DONE I AM THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA, THE BEGINNING AND THE END I WILL GIVE TO THE ONE WHO THIRSTS FROM THE SPRING OF THE WATER OF LIFE WITHOUT COST.”
- F. REV 22:1 “THEN HE SHOWED ME A RIVER OF THE WATER OF LIFE, CLEAR AS CRYSTAL, COMING FROM THE THRONE OF GOD AND OF THE LAMB..”
- G. REV 22:17 “THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE SAY, "COME " AND LET THE ONE WHO HEARS SAY, "COME " AND LET THE ONE WHO IS THIRSTY COME; LET THE ONE WHO WISHES TAKE THE WATER OF LIFE WITHOUT COST.”

3. Questions

- A. CAN YOU THINK OF ANY OTHER CHARACTERISTICS OF WATER THAT CORRESPOND TO THE SPIRIT?
- B. WHY DO YOU THINK THAT WATER IS USED SO PREDOMINANTLY AS A SYMBOL OF THE SPIRIT?
- C. HOW DO WE RE-INSTILL A SENSE OF WONDER/ APPRECIATION/ VALUE IN OUR LIVES FOR THE ESSENCES OF LIFE (EG WATER; THE SPIRIT)?

4. Those who are thirsty, let them drink...