

January 2022 Living Faithfully Bible Study: *Wellsprings, Part Three*

*There is a river whose streams make the city of God happy,
The holy dwelling places of the Most High. – Psalms 46:4*

*“They feast on the abundance of Your house, and You give them drink from Your river of delights.
For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.” –Psalm 36:8-9*

Background/Introduction

*This is a topical study (vs. studying a book in the Bible) of the wellsprings of living water—a theme encountered throughout scripture. Since the content requires much background and deep reflection, the study will be divided into three parts. **This is Part Three, focusing on End Times water descriptions and ways to pray using water imagery verses.** Part Two focused on Jesus, our source of Living Water and Part One addressed water images from the Old Testament.*

God’s lifegiving waters transcend time and space, so let’s “immerse” ourselves 😊.

A *wellspring* is an underground source of water (it’s literal meaning). The word is often used figuratively in reference to a never-ending source of something good! What better word for this study, as we explore God’s abundant living waters that bring forth and nourish life.

From the Creation through the Revelation, peaceful and powerful sources of waters are depicted. Almighty God is an artist, and His water scenes are beautifully crafted in visions and prophecies as well as in the words of Jesus. God uses imagery to provide a more concrete picture of Who He is. I believe He knows we need to visualize the glories of His kingdom to better understand them.

This study explores how biblical references to water depict how Almighty God impacts and touches humanity. Sources of water spring forth truth and stream throughout all forms of terrain to impart life. From hidden underground springs of water to powerful and destructive floods, we can understand our Lord more deeply by connecting to descriptions about the flow and purposes of God’s design of lifegiving waters. Consider just a few water images as examples:

- When confronting evil, God’s judgement is as destructive and swift as a flood of rushing waters. His powerful rivers of truth can also change the course of our hearts, convicting humanity of sin and providing a mighty source for cleansing.
- And yet, the mercy and grace offered us through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ is as inviting as cool, clear water drawn from a well. Redemption for our souls is deeply refreshing, baptizing us into a new life: a rebirth of hope and deliverance from evil.
- Likewise, the power of Holy Spirit is a hidden gem to be discovered in the depths, like an underground spring making its way to earth’s surface as a flowing river to nourish new growth and produce nutrient-rich spiritual fruit.

Ponder and Pray:

Get your Bible ready, as we will explore many verses! And this study will conclude with numerous scriptures you can claim as you pray for the waters of life to bless those you love and those in need of hope. Remember that every water image in scripture somehow relates to Jesus as our source of living water—the water that provides powerful cleansing, needed refreshment, and a steady source for renewal of life.

WATERS OF THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

At the outset of this section, I admit that I am no expert in the study of the end times. The focus here is on scriptural imagery of living waters. But to do this, we need to explore verses in Revelation that depict the flow of living waters at Christ's second coming (the second Advent).

Task 1: From the Wellsprings of Living Water, Part One, review the section on Ezekiel's vision of the temple waters.

Visualize a precisely constructed and beautifully designed temple for Almighty God set high upon a mountain. From underneath the altar in the tabernacle, a hidden, but ever-increasing stream of water emerges. Recall that these waters grow deeper and wider as they empty into the Dead Sea, where they bring life to all that has been polluted from the salt of the Dead Sea. Now, envision the abundant fruit of the trees that line the clear river, cleansed of impurities. Recall that the leaves and fruit of these trees are designed to bring healing, nourishment, and life! Rest for a moment in the beauty of that picture.

Task 2: Now, read Revelation 21:5-7 and Revelation 22:1-2.

This is the vision given to the disciple, John, transporting him to heaven's throne room. After many prophetic messages regarding God's ultimate victory of sin and evil, the vision's proclamation concludes with a description of the new heavens and earth. Can you imagine how John must have felt at this point, having been granted the ability to envision the final destruction of Satan's anti-Christ interference? I'm sure John was experiencing tremendous awe (which can include fear, right?) In God's mercy to counteract the fear, the vision culminates with unfathomable glory as John sees a New Jerusalem, a city of unimaginable beauty descending from the heavens. And then, the One seated on the throne speaks,

"And he who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.' Also, he said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.' And he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning, and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.'" – Rev. 21:5-7

How interesting it is that the final words spoken by the one sitting on the throne include reference to the eternal wellspring of life! (Can I get a "Hallelujah"?) ☺

Then, like Ezekiel's vision of Israel's temple, John is shown the wellsprings—the river of life flowing from the throne of the Most High God at the center of the city.

"Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. – Rev. 22:1-2

Let's compare Ezekiel's vision with John's revelation. Ezekiel saw a new temple (house of God) at the center of a new Israel, where people loyally served God. John saw a new Jerusalem at the center of a new earth, where everyone served God. In the new Jerusalem, there was no physical temple. A physical temple is no longer needed because Christ's sacrifice was the ultimate and eternal offering for sin. Jesus gave His life to open access to the throne for all who believe. Indeed, the new Jerusalem IS the dwelling place of Almighty God among God's people. We are there with Him in unity and fellowship. We will actually see His face, and His name will be written on our foreheads! (see Rev. 22:4). Can you imagine?

While these visions are different in terms of description of a temple, **both visions describe wellsprings of living waters imparting life from God's throne.** In Ezekiel's vision, an underground trickle of water emerged from the inner sanctuary of the temple, gradually increasing in volume as it flowed through the desert into the Dead Sea. Wherever the river went, it brought life in the form of fruit-producing trees. John's vision of the new Jerusalem also describes an eternal flow of water imparting life and fruit. But in John's vision, the river flows from a visible and glorious throne (no longer hidden in an inner sanctuary). The river is not a trickle, but a steady stream flowing through the main street of the new Jerusalem. Oh, the freedom! Oh, the glory!

Let's briefly look at two more verses in Revelation:

Task 3: Read Revelation 7:15-17.

Back up in the Revelation vision to find the disciple John initially being supernaturally transported to the 3rd heaven where He begins to witness scene after scene of God's ultimate judgement. As souls who have endured the Great Tribulation are presented in their white robes, one of the 24 elders seated around God's throne explains how Jesus, the Lamb of God will receive them into God's eternal kingdom.

*"Therefore, they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and **he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.**" –Rev. 7:15-17*

Here, John has not yet witnessed the new earth and new Jerusalem. But he is assured that those who have faithfully endured persecution's severity in the worst form will be given rest, shelter, protection, and tears wiped away. Tears will be washed away by springs of living water. (Another cleansing and a Hallelujah! 😊)

Task 4: Read Revelation 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 desires take the water of life without price." – Revelation 22:17

This verse concludes John's vision. There are only three more verses that follow and those are basically John's testimony that his vision is true. Therefore, Revelation 22:17 is the final call to COME AND DRINK! The words "Come" or "coming" are used seven times in this final chapter. But in verse 17, the promise of Christ's second coming is decreed and God's invitation for redemption is extended one last time. When the thirsty come to Jesus, he will satisfy them with the free gift of water's wellsprings, producing abundant and fruitful life. The deep, internal thirst for righteousness is eternally quenched. It truly is the ultimate baptism of immersion in the goodness and glory of Christ. (Now, give me a praise filled Amen! 😊)

SOME OLD TESTAMENT END TIMES PROPHECIES with WATER IMAGERY

I remind you that I am no expert on End Times eschatology, but let's explore just a few verses from the Old Testament that proclaim the glory of our Father's redemptive plan. The following two verses both reference the mountain of the Lord, God's holy dwelling place, higher and more powerful than anything we can imagine.

Isaiah 11:9-10

*"They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD **as the waters cover the sea.** In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious."*

(NOTE: the Root of Jesse is Jesus, as His lineage is of King David. Jesse was King David's father, and Jesus's lineage traces back to King David)

The prophet Isaiah reminds us that on that glorious day, the whole earth will fully know, have full knowledge of, the unfathomable attributes of Almighty God. Indeed, we will be immersed, bathing in His presence. All because of Jesus! No longer will we be confused or conflicted. All will be revealed. This gives me great assurance, and ignites a heart of prayer and worship, *Come, Lord Jesus! Reveal Your glory!*

Micah 4:1-2

*“And it will come about in the last days that the mountain of the house of the Lord will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, **and the peoples will stream to it.** Many nations will come and say, “Come, let us go to the mountain of the Lord and to the house of the God of Jacob, so that He may teach us about His ways, and we may walk in His paths.”*

These verses tell us that in the end times, the nations STREAM to the root of Jesse. I like to picture two rivers flowing in opposite directions. One river flows from God's presence to impart life to creation (as we've already addressed). But now we see a second stream flowing TO God's presence. It is a stream of people! In other words, there will be so many seeking to know Him that it will appear like a river of souls running to the throne for redemption. Think of it like the ultimate altar call. These verses give us the assurance of our never-ending hope that what we've prayed for will happen. The lost peoples of the world will seek to know Jesus! They will STREAM to the hill of the Lord to receive this knowledge. We must keep praying with confident assurance that God will redeem all who seek Him.

Process and Apply

1 – RE-READ THE SECTION ABOVE REGARDING EZEKIEL'S VISION OF THE TEMPLE COMPARED WITH JOHN'S REVELATION VISION. CREATE A CHART THAT COMPARES AND CONTRASTS THE TWO TEMPLES (WHAT'S THE SAME AND WHAT'S DIFFERENT)?

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2. PONDER THE VERSES ABOVE ABOUT THE NATIONS STREAMING TO THE ROOT OF JESSE TO FIND THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD. JOT DOWN YOUR CONCERNS ABOUT THE STATE OF OUR WORLD TODAY AND PRAY FOR THE LOST PEOPLES OF ALL NATIONS TO TURN AND STREAM TO THE LIFE-GIVING WATERS OF JESUS CHRIST:

Click or tap here to enter text.

3. TAKE SOME TIME TO PRAY AND REFLECT ON THE INVITATION TO COME AND DRINK IN REV. 22:17. NOTE THAT THE VERSE INCLUDES THE PHRASE, “LET ALL WHO HEAR SAY, ‘COME’” AS A HEARER OF GOD'S WORD, WHAT DOES THIS CALL MEAN FOR YOU?:

Click or tap here to enter text.

PRAYING USING WATER IMAGERY VERSES AND PASSAGES:

In all honesty, I don't know how to bring this study to a close because there are so many scriptures about water. In searching for them specifically, I discovered that water is referenced a total of **722 times** in the Bible. This tells me waters are tremendously significant to God's kingdom, and we should pay close attention. From fountains, to waterfalls, to springs in the desert, to rain, the references are plentiful.

This final section of the Wellsprings study includes a few of my favorite references from scripture followed by a related prayer you can pray for yourself, and people God lays on your heart. We all need to be immersed in God's living waters, so let's be diligent to pray. Additional scriptures (without an accompanying written prayer) are also provided to bless you. You are encouraged to meditate upon those scriptures too. Use the strategy of visualization as you read. God provided us with the imagery of waters for a reason, so let's imagine the fountains, the waterfalls, the streams, and even the powerful sea and rushing rivers of judgment. These metaphors help us understand our Creator more deeply and intimately. So, let's immerse ourselves in the depths of our sovereign Lord.

Verses with accompanying prayers:

"As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for You, O God." – Psalm 42:1

PRAYER: Almighty God, grant us a hunger and thirst for Your presence, Your truth, Your righteousness. Guide us to the places where we can drink deeply of the wellsprings of living water. We look to You, our Creator, for sustenance, nourishment, breath, and life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

"For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water." – Jeremiah 2:13

PRAYER: Precious Lord, forgive us for choosing counterfeit sources of water—sources that will never satisfy. Help us to see You as the true source of all our needs. For those who have forsaken You, draw them back to the fountain of living waters, and we praise You for cleansing and nourishing our souls with eternal and pure waters of life.

"Then the lame will leap like a deer and the mute tongue will shout for joy. For waters will gush forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert." – Isaiah 35:6

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, for all who are confused and for the hearts that have grown dry and hardened from the scorching trials of life, we ask You to send forth Your gushing waters to bring refreshment, causing the thirsty to shout for joy and leap like a deer. We look for this in the world to come, but we ask for Your grace to impart healing and joy in this fallen world as well.

"With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation." – Isaiah 12:3

PRAYER: Thank you, Jesus, for the gift of salvation and for Your sacrifice for all who invite You to be Lord of their lives. Teach us to fully experience joy. In Your presence is fullness of joy, and we drink in Your presence at the wells of salvation. Guide us, continually, to that wellspring. Lead us and we will follow, Jesus, our Shepherd, Jehovah Raah (the Lord our Shepherd).

“When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue is parched with thirst, I the LORD will answer them; I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys. I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.” –Isaiah 41:17-18

PRAYER: Lord God, we thank you for carrying the poor and needy of this fallen world, for providing for them and for hearing their cries. You never forsake those who come to You. We ask You, Jehovah Jireh (the Lord, our Provider) to open the storehouses of heaven and release a floodgate of living waters. Waters that cleanse, heal, purify, and nourish. For all in the valley or the wilderness, we ask You to make a way for them to find the plentiful abundance of Your living waters of life.

“Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ‘Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.” – Isaiah 43:16-21

PRAYER: Almighty God, we ask You to make a way, a path, for victory over evil. Drown the enemy with waters that judge, and bring forth the new thing You are doing. May there be rivers in the desert and waters in the wilderness. Give drink to Your children, Oh Lord, that we might declare Your praises.

“For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. They shall spring up among the grass like willows by flowing streams. This one will say, ‘I am the LORD’s,’ another will call on the name of Jacob, and another will write on his hand, ‘The LORD’s,’ and name himself by the name of Israel.” –Isaiah 44:3-5.

PRAYER: Father God, we pray for future generations, for the youth of this world, for our descendants. We ask for Your living waters of life to carry them along the streams of Your promise of life for their future. May they, indeed, name themselves as belonging to You, and may they seek You with their whole heart. Pour out Your Spirit and Your waters of blessing upon them. We ask in the name of Jesus.

“For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will [most certainly] cause righteousness and justice and praise to spring up before all the nations [through the power of His word.]” --Isaiah 61:11, AMP

PRAYER: Lord God, this metaphor is such a blessing. I pray for the people of this fallen world to be that watered garden, drinking in the goodness of Your refreshing waters. Bring the righteousness, bring the justice this world so desperately needs. Rain down the works of Your kingdom upon the dry and barren ground of this world.

*“Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like wick: ‘Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. **Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.** The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, **for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.**” – Isaiah 43:16-21*

PRAYER: Jesus, thank you for fighting for me against the forces of darkness. Thank you that I am your child and that You are always doing a new work in my heart, even in the wilderness moments of life. I can always come to You to drink of living waters. May all who feel like they are in a dry and barren wilderness, experience the revelation of Your gift of salvation and grace. I give You praise, oh Lord, my God.

“Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” –Acts 2:38

PRAYER: Jesus, thank You for the gift of baptism that allows Your children to make a public proclamation of faith. As in Acts 2, may those who hear the Gospel message cry out, “What shall we do?” And may they desire this baptism of repentance and this immersion of faith. I pray specifically for _____ to also understand and make the choice to ask You to cleanse away sin and be Lord of his/her life. Pour out those living waters that will nurture the soil in his/her heart, opening his/her eyes to see You at work, and his/her ears to Your voice. May the flow of life-giving waters purify his/her heart and draw him/her near to Your goodness.

Process and Apply

AS THIS WELLSPRINGS OF LIVING WATERS STUDY CONCLUDES, COMMIT TO USING THE ABOVE SCRIPTURES TO PRAY FOR THOSE GOD BRINGS TO MIND. PRINT OUT THE SCRIPTURES AND WRITE NAMES NEAR THEM AS YOU DEVELOP THIS DISCIPLINE OF PRAYER. REMEMBER, YOU ARE CLAIMING GOD’S PROMISES OF LIFE AND ABUNDANCE TO BLESS THOSE YOU PRAY FOR.

Additional Scriptures with Water Imagery:

“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you without money, come, buy, and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost!” – Isaiah 55:1

“Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, and marked off the heavens by the span, and calculated the dust of the earth by the measure, and weighed the mountains in a balance and the hills in a pair of scales?” –Isaiah 40:12

“Saying to those who are bound, ‘Go forth,’ to those who are in darkness, ‘Show yourselves.’ Along the roads they will feed, and their pasture *will be* on all bare heights. They will not hunger or thirst, nor will the scorching heat or sun strike them down; for He who has compassion on them will lead them and will guide them to springs of water.” – Isaiah 49:9-10

“But now, thus says the LORD, your Creator, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel, ‘Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine! When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you.’” – Isaiah 43:1-2

“And the LORD will continually guide you, and satisfy your soul in scorched and dry places, and give strength to your bones; and you will be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water whose waters do not fail.” – Isaiah 58:11

“Rain down, O heavens, from above, Let the clouds pour down righteousness [all the blessings of God]; Let the earth open up, let salvation bear fruit, and righteousness spring up with it; I, the LORD, have created it” –Isaiah 45:8

“In that day there will be an opened fountain for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for impurity.” – Zechariah 13:1

“The words of a man's mouth *are as* deep waters, *and* the wellspring of wisdom *as* a flowing brook.” – Proverbs 18:4

“Understanding *is* a wellspring of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools *is* folly.” – Proverbs 16:22

“Deep calls to deep at the roar of your waterfalls; all your breakers and your waves have gone over me.” – Psalm 42:7

“Singers and dancers alike say, ‘All my fountains are in you.’” –Psalm 87:7

“You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills; they give drink to every beast of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst. Beside them the birds of the heavens dwell; they sing among the branches. From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.” – Psalm 104:10-13

“Truth springs from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven.” – Psalm 85:11

“For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.” -- Psalms 36:9

“He opened the rock, and water gushed out; it ran in the dry places like a river.” --Psalm 105:41

“For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward.” --Mark 9:41

“Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.” – John 3:5

Wrapping Up:

I hope you've been blessed by this study on the Wellsprings of Living Waters. I pray you have a deeper understanding of the eternal, ever-flowing nature of the power of God's living waters to cleanse and to nourish. My concluding verse comes from Hebrews 10:22, and it is my prayer for you:

“Let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.” –Hebrews 10:22

PRAYER: Thank you, Lord Jesus, for cleansing us from evil. Thank you for the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit and the purifying cleansing of living waters. Because of Your great gift of salvation, we can draw near to You, walking along still waters with a hearts full of faith and the assurance of Your goodness. I pray that those who don't yet know You will be drawn to the wellspring of life and drink fully of the new life You offer them.

I appreciate any feedback you are willing to provide. Let me know what benefitted you and what additional thoughts/questions you would have wanted to see. Email me at maggiedalene@aol.com. NOTE: The Going Deeper section provides you some independent study and to go deeper with a few of the concepts presented.

Going Deeper:

1. While it is always important to read single verses of scripture in their context, you may find these websites helpful for further study of scriptures related to water. The following links will bring up single verses that mention water images. Again, be sure you read each verse in full context as you reflect on God's living waters:
<https://www.openbible.info/topics/water>
<https://stillfaith.com/topics/water/>
<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Water>
2. For fun! Review all the verses of these well-known songs/hymns about the river of life. Pay attention to the lyrics of the lesser known verses (verses 2 and 3). Sing it to God, giving praises to Him for His wellsprings of Living Water.
 Find the lyrics for *I've Got a River of Life* at this link: <https://www.hymnal.net/en/hymn/ns/37>.
 Find the lyrics for *Like a River Glorious* here: <https://www.hymnal.net/en/hymn/h/719>
3. **An interesting personal experience and application:** At the writing of this study, I was prompted to learn the Strong's Concordance Greek and Hebrew words which correlate with the number of the coming year, 2022.

*NOTE: This was done by Pastor Tom Hamon for the year 2021. He noted that The Hebrew word corresponding to the Strong's number 2021 is the word, **hotsen**, and its meaning is "to be sharp and strong, as a weapon of war; like a chariot advancing." Similarly, Strong's number 2021 in Greek is the word, **epicheireo**, which means "to take in hand, to undertake, or put the hand to." He interpreted these correlations to mean that 2021 was a time we must be strong and sharp, fearlessly wielding spiritual weapons of war.*

Well, I now share the Strong's Concordance Greek and Hebrew words that correlate with the number 2022 (for the year 2022). The HEBREW word is **har** (a mountain or range of hills, sometimes used figuratively, hill, mountain, promotion), and the GREEK word is **epicheó** (ep-ee-kheh'-o), meaning to pour, to pour upon, to pour in. I can't help but wonder if 2022 could be the year where living waters pour from God's Holy Mountain and flow throughout the land to cleanse, nourish life, and bring forth fruit to heal the nations. Wouldn't that be glorious? Shall we pray in this manner?