

The Kingdom of God #14: Living Water

Rev. 22:1-5

A pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb

Tree of life on the banks of the river

Yields 12 kinds of fruit, and bears every month

The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations

No more curse

The throne of God and of the Lamb are in it

His servants shall serve him; shall see his face; His name shall be in their foreheads

No night, no need of sun or other light because God's glory lights all

They (the redeemed) shall reign forever

The Bible has several references to a river or fountain, apparently literal, with "streams of living water"

1. In the Millennium
 - a. Ezek. 47:1-12 – waters issue out from the house of the Lord, ever deepening; flows into the sea, whose waters are "healed"; trees along the river with leaves and fruit by month, for healing the nations
 - b. Joel 3:18 – a fountain shall come forth out of the house of the Lord
 - c. Zech. 14:8 – living waters shall go out from Jerusalem, half to Dead Sea, half to Mediterranean (shows this refers to the Millennium, because the new earth has no sea),
2. In the New Earth, New Jerusalem
 - a. Rev. 22:1-2 – not that the water itself is alive, but that it is water that produces life wherever it flows.

This water can also be seen in other, symbolic ways (not literal, but figurative).

1. **Water out of the rock in the wilderness.** This was a miracle that has "typical" significance. A "type" is some literal thing in the OT which serves as a symbol or prefiguration of something to be revealed more fully in the NT. e.g., the tabernacle (construction and layout), the various sacrifices, the life of Joseph, etc.
 - Num. 20:7-11 – Moses struck the rock in the wilderness, and water came out for the whole congregation
 - 1 Cor. 10:1-4 – they did all drink the same spiritual drink, for they drank of that spiritual rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.So the lesson is that Christ was represented in the rock (many places refer to God as our Rock), that He was stricken, and that as a result, living waters flow out to His people.
2. Jer. 2:13 - 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 (see also 17:13)
Important factors – the **source** of the water, the **flow**, and the water's **nature** ("living")
The "broken cisterns" are men's religious systems. They were built to contain whatever truth they had, but without an active flow it becomes polluted, and leaks out.
3. Jn. 4:9-15 – Jesus is the giver of living water, which **shall be in us, a well of water** springing up into everlasting life. (our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit)
4. Jn. 7:37-39 – If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, **out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.** (speaks of the Holy Ghost)

Related Concepts

1. **Jesus is the "true bread** from heaven" - Jn. 6:31-35, 48-58 – Manna was typical of Jesus, who came down from heaven as the Bread of Life (the provider and sustainer of life)
2. **Jesus is the "Vine"** and we are the branches - Jn.15 (the source of life to the branches)