

The Gospel of John: Light in the Darkness Living Water; John 7:37-39, John 8:12

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. The one who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'"

God speaks to the people of ancient times through the means and methods that best communicates who He is through who they are.

Early human history and the early history of Israel is an agrarian culture, pastoral culture, spending much of their time farming and ranching, along with basic tasks of finding and collecting water, finding grazing lands, making products from their labors such as wool.

If God had called a people say from Oxford's physics department in 2022, I believe He would use very different means and methods of communicating. The message itself would be the same but the analogies, parables, symbols, and illustrations.

When water is sometimes hard to find and is so critical to life, water also functions as a means to communicate truths that transcend our daily experience.

Water as symbolic in the scriptures

2 Samuel 14:13-14 The woman said, "Why then have you planned such a thing against the people of God? For in speaking this word the king is like one who is guilty, in that the king does not bring back his banished one. For we will surely die and are like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up. Yet God does not take away life, but makes plans so that the banished one will not be cast out from Him.

Psalms 1:1-3 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

Psalms 63:1 O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Jeremiah 2:13 "For My people have committed two evils: They have abandoned Me, the fountain of living waters, to carve out for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that do not hold water."

Jeremiah 17:5-6 This is what the Lord says: "Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength, and whose heart turns away from the Lord. For he will be like a bush

in the desert, and will not see when prosperity comes, but will live in stony wastes in the wilderness, a land of salt that is not inhabited.”

Jeremiah 17:7-8 “Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose trust is the Lord. For he will be like a tree planted by the water that extends its roots by a stream, and does not fear when the heat comes; But its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought, nor cease to yield fruit.

John 4:9-10 Therefore the Samaritan woman said to Him, “How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”

Feast of Tabernacles: Five days after the Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

Water as part of the Feast of Tabernacles: Procession on each of the seven days from the temple to the pool of Siloam, a pool fed by the Gihon Spring. Since it was fed by natural spring the water was called “living water.” On the seventh day, seven times around the altar, as a mark of completion.

Jesus is the completion of the Feast of Tabernacles, the provision by God for the needs of Israel and for all people.

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John 7:39 But this He said in reference to the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.