

RIVERS AND STREAMS



Rivers and streams can be found in most cities and towns. Many cities and towns were built around rivers so that they would have a good supply of water at all times. In modern days we have learned how to bring water to areas that do not have a good water supply but in the past people had to be near rivers and streams.

Rivers usually begin high up in the hills and mountains. From there they travel downhill and get larger and more powerful. After traveling many miles, rivers finally empty into the ocean where they begin life all over again.

What can we learn from God's creation of rivers and streams?

Rivers teach us about the life of Jesus our Savior. Just as rivers begin high up in the mountains, Jesus, the Son of God and True God, came from high up in heaven to live on earth as a real man. Like the river which travels many miles and grows larger and more powerful, Jesus traveled many miles while preaching and His message grew larger and more powerful as more and more people believed in Him. Just as the river finally joins the giant ocean, Jesus returned to heaven where His kingdom is beyond measure and eternal.

Rivers also teach us about the spread of the gospel of salvation. The teaching of the gospel began with small groups of people who then spread the

good news of Jesus and His salvation for all people. The gospel spread all over Israel and then all over the world. Many people have believed in Jesus and have received eternal life because they have heard the gospel message of salvation.

The gospel is like water that gives us life and happiness and rivers and streams give us a good picture of this. Psalm 36:7-8 tells us, "How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights." God's love for us is shown in Psalm 65:9, "You (God) care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain."

When you believe in Jesus as your Lord and Savior you will live a new life secure in the knowledge that there is a loving God watching over you and who has prepared a place in heaven for you. We have a pretty picture of this in Jeremiah 17:7-8, "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose

confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." We may have problems in life but God will always provide for us even in the worst of times.

Rivers and streams also teach us about baptism. Just as the river washes away dirt and garbage, our baptism washes away our sins. When Paul became an apostle he was told, "Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his (Jesus) name." This is found in Acts 22:16. In Psalm 51:7 we see how clean we are made by our baptism and the forgiveness of our sins, "Wash me and I will be whiter than snow." Just as the river can wash away a great deal of dirt and garbage, baptism washes away a great deal of sin and makes us clean before God. Jesus made this all possible for us by living a perfect life and then sacrificing His life on the cross to pay for our sins. Now, we can be made clean again because of this great sacrifice.

We can learn a lot from rivers and streams!

