

# ZOOM STUDY: IMPORTANT BIBLICAL SYMBOLS

## WATER

1.) What two properties and uses does water naturally have?

**Genesis 2:8-10** Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters.

**Exodus 17:3,5-6** The people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?” ...The LORD answered Moses, “...Take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.” So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel.

**Ezekiel 36:25** “I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols.”

2.) Jesus Christ is the heart of all Scripture and the one mediator between God and humanity. What mystery does Paul reveal to us about his role in the Old Testament?

**1 Corinthians 10:1-4** For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.

3.) How does the prophet Zechariah picture Christ’s redeeming work? When was this fulfilled?

**Zechariah 13:1** “On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity.”

4.) What does Jesus invite all people to do? What miracle does he work in us? How is that a comfort and source of encouragement for you?

**John 7:37-39** Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.

**John 4:13-14, 23-24** Jesus answered [the Samaritan woman], “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life. ...A time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

5.) What does God accomplish for us through the sacrament of baptism? How is baptism comparable to the Flood?

**Ephesians 5:25-27** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

**1 Peter 3:20-21** God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

6.) What role will water play in eternity?

**Zechariah 14:8-9** On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half to the eastern sea and half to the western sea, in summer and in winter. The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name.

**Ezekiel 47:1,9-12** The man brought me back to the entrance of the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). ...Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. ...Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.

**Revelation 7:17** The Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

**Revelation 22:1-2** Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

*Closing Prayer: Good Shepherd Jesus, daily lead me to the life-giving waters of your holy Word. Remind me that through the flood of baptism I am God's cleansed and holy child, safe from all condemnation, and set apart to live for him. When I am weary, hold the refreshing rest of heaven before my eyes and thereby strengthen my faith and renew my hope so that I may live with renewed dedication to righteousness. In your name I pray. Amen.*