

THE MINISTRY OF LIFE 1 - RIVERS AND TREES

I. RIVERS AND TREES ARE SYMBOLISM FOR THE LIFE OF GOD

- **FROM THE VERY BEGINNING GOD'S DESIRE FOR US HAS BEEN TO FILL US WITH LIFE. OUR BEHAVIOR WAS TO BE THE FRUIT OF THE LIFE IN US.** *Because being full of life leads to better behavior more than knowledge does!*

Gen. 2:9 *And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. **The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden,** and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

Gen. 2:16 *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "**Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;**" ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

- **LIFE FLOWS FROM OUR CONNECTION TO THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND OUR SUBMISSION TO HIS WILL FOR US**
- **THE TREE OF LIFE AND THE RIVER OF GOD EXIST FOR ALL OF US TO RECEIVE THE LIFE OF GOD. THEY ARE PICTURES OF WHAT IS OURS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST. THEY ARE REAL THINGS WHOSE PURPOSE IS NOW FULFILLED IN CHRIST.**

Rev. 22:1 *And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. ² In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was **the tree of life,** which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. **The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations***

A. THE GLORY RIVER, THE RIVER OF GOD AND THE RIVER OF LIFE

1. **GLORY IS ALWAYS ABOUT THE PRESENCE AND REVELATION OF GOD - HIS WORKS, HIS PROVISION AND HIS UNFAILING LOVE**

Psa. 46:4 *There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. - RIVERS BRING JOY*

Psa. 65:9 *You visit the earth and water it, You greatly enrich it; **The river of God is full of water;** GOD IS ALWAYS FLOWING, ALWAYS MOVING, ALWAYS*

PROVIDING

- OREGON MEANS, “RIVER OF THE WEST”. PIONEERS- NEW LIFE
- 2. RIVERS ARE PLACES WHERE CITIES AND TOWNS SPRING UP BECAUSE THEY PROVIDE WATER TO SUSTAIN LIFE, COMMERCE AND PROSPERITY.
- EZEKIEL’S VISION- WATER TO ANKLES, KNEES, WAIST AND WATERS TO SWIM IN

EZEK. 47:8 Then he said to me: “This water flows [FROM THE TEMPLE] toward the eastern region, goes down into the valley, and enters the sea. **When it reaches the sea, its waters are healed.** ⁹ **And it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live.** There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes.

- 3. THE RIVER OF LIFE AND THE HOLY SPIRIT FLOW FROM THE PRESENCE
- OUR FAITH DEEPENS AS WE TRAVEL WITH GOD IN THE RIVER
- THE RIVER OF LIFE HEALS AND BRINGS LIFE TO DEAD THINGS
- B. THE TREE OF LIFE IS OUR ORIGINAL DESIGN - MADE FOR IT!
LIFE IS OUR HABITAT!

Prov. 13:12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick, But **when the desire comes, it is a tree of life.** - JOY/ FULFILLMENT/ CELEBRATION

Prov. 15:4 A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, - HOW WE SPEAK MATTERS

Prov. 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise. But perverseness in it breaks the spirit. LIFE ALWAYS BEARS FRUIT

Psa. 1:3 He [THE RIGHTEOUS MAN] **shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water,** That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. - NO BURN OUT, PROSPERS IN ALL CONDITIONS

Psa. 104:16 *The trees of the LORD are full of sap, The cedars of Lebanon which He planted... - THERE IS LIFE IN US THAT IS FULLNESS*

Jer. 17:8 *For he [THE RIGHTEOUS] shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit. - NO FEAR, NO ANXIOUS CARE, FRUIT IN ALL SEASONS*

Rev. 22:14 *Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. OBEY TO LIVE*

II. LIFE IS GOD'S PRIORITY - WEBSTER: "The meaning of LIFE is the quality that distinguishes a **vital and functional being** from a dead body"

A. THE GOAL OF SALVATION IS LIFE AND RELATIONSHIP

John 17:2 *as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. - KNOWING GOD / ONGOING RELATIONSHIP IS ETERNAL LIFE*

1. THE PRODIGAL FATHER CELEBRATED A LIFE RESTORED

LUKE 15:24 *for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry. - IT'S RIGHT TO CELEBRATE!*

1. JESUS IS THE SOURCE OF ALL LIFE

John 6:35 *And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. - PROVISION*

John 8:12 *Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, **but have the light of life.**" LIFE SEES*

John 11:25 *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. - JESUS IS*

RESURRECTION

2Tim. 1:10 but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior **Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel** - THE GOSPEL IS ABOUT LIFE

B. ABUNDANT LIFE IS TO BE FULL OF GOD

JOHN 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

- **IT'S ALL ABOUT FULLNESS**
- **IT'S ALL ABOUT ABIDING**
- **IT'S ALL ABOUT FLOWING**

John 7:37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, **"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink."**³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, **out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."**³⁹ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. COME DRINK - THEN FLOW

C. HEALTH IS THE FRUIT OF THE ABUNDANT LIFE

JOHN 6:57 As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, **so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.** - JESUS IS OUR TREE OF LIFE

1. **HEALTH COMES FROM GOD** - GOD ALWAYS CALLS WHAT HE DOES GOOD
2. **RECEIVE LIFE IN YOUR BODY** - IF GOD IS WILLING TO HEAL, HE IS WILLING TO GIVE US DIVINE HEALTH
3. **WHAT IS IMMORTALITY ABOUT? WHEN SHOULD WE GET STARTED? DON'T GIVE UP TOO SOON! Quality NOT quantity**

2 TIM. 1:9 NLT For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus.¹⁰ And now he has made all of this plain to us by the appearing of Christ Jesus, our Savior. **He broke the**

power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Good News.

ROMANS 2:7 NLT *He will give eternal life to those who keep on doing good, seeking after the glory and honor and immortality that God offers.*

III. ALL MINISTRY SHOULD BE RELEASING LIFE

1. SALVATION IS THE DOOR TO THE ABUNDANT LIFE

John 14:6 *Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

2. REVIVAL MEANS “TO RESTORE LIFE SO WE CAN LIVE AGAIN”

3. BE A TREE OF LIFE. BE A RIVER OF LIFE. BE A SOURCE - A GIVER, NOT JUST A CONSUMER