**Living Waters**

**Introduction:**

Western Cowboy Song: “Cool, Clear Water” by Bob Nolan (1936)

**Cool, Clear Water**

All day I’ve faced a barren waste

Without the taste of water, cool water

Old Dan and I with throats burnt dry

And souls that cry for water

Cool, clear, water.

How vital water was in the dry lands out west. It meant life to those who found it.

**Body:**

1. **Old Testament Background** – “Living Water”
2. Jehovah describes Himself as “fountains of living waters.” (Jeremiah 2:13) “For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountains of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns – broken cisterns that can hold no water.” NKJV He is called “fountain of life.” (Psalm 36:9) “For with You is the fountain of Life; In Your light we see light.” NKJV
3. Prophet Isaiah several times describes God as the source of spiritual life – salvation.

* Isaiah 12:2-3 “Wells of salvation” “ ‘Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For Yah, the Lord, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.’ Therefore with joy you will draw water From the wells of salvation.” NKJV Note the apostle John’s use of this concept in Revelation 7:14-17. “And I said to him, ‘Sir, you know.’ So he said to me, ‘These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And he who sits on the throne will dwell among them. They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’ ” NKJV A pure river of water of life flows from the throne of God. (Revelation 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.” NKJV
* Isaiah 44:3-4 “Spring up” – a revival for God’s people. “For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, And floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, And My blessing on your offspring; They will spring up among the grass Like willows by the watercourses.” NKJV **1st** – There was a restoration of Jews to the promised land after the Babylonian captivity. This would put them in the chosen place [Bethlehem] for the coming of the Messiah. **2nd** – This was a renewal for God’s people under the New Covenant, in the spiritual body of Christ.
* Isaiah 55:1-3 “Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price. Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance. Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you – The sure mercies of David.” NKJV The prior chapter talked about enlargement of the Kingdom of Christ. This chapter gives the invitation for all to come and receive the blessings. We must “incline, hear, and come.” We must accept the invitation. (Revelation 22:17) “And the Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.” NKJV David’s descendent, Jesus, would sit and rule on the spiritual throne.

1. **New Testament Fulfillment**
2. John 4:5-14 “So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob’s well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, ‘Give Me a drink.’ For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Then the woman of Samaria said to Him. ‘How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, 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.’ The woman said to Him, ‘Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself as well as his sons and his livestock?’ 13-14 Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.’ ” NKJV John 4:13-14 “Never thirst” – Living water quenches thirst and longings of all who drink at the fountain’s source, Jesus.
3. 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.” NKJV Jesus makes it possible to have eternal life for the soul. He is the source of and means of obtaining eternal life. (John 20:30-31) “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” NKJV Jesus’ words to Martha when Lazarus died. (John 11:25-26) “Never thirst” “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?’ ” NKJV Jesus fully satisfies the deepest needs of the soul. Spiritual void can’t be filled with money, jobs, power, prestige, philosophies, . . . Only Christ can fully supply what we need most – love, forgiveness, peace, hope.
4. John 7:37-38 “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. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ ” NKJV

Comments on John 7:37-38: “Again John said Jesus “cried,” or cried out with a loud voice so that all could hear. This occurrence was on “the last day, that great day of the feast.”

Each day, during the feast a priest carried a golden pitcher to the pool (of Siloam), filled it and returned to the court of the temple, accompanied by throngs of people rejoicing greatly and poured it on the altar. Immediately, the Hallel, consisting of Psalms 113-118 was chanted by the Levites and the people repeated each line after the priests. It was a ceremony of much joy and satisfaction. Ancient rabbis are quoted as having said that he who had never witnessed this ceremony did not really know what rejoicing meant. At the close of the singing of the Hallel there was a pause in the activities and it was evidently at this moment that the voice of the Lord rang out. . .”

Jesus contrasted the literal water from the pool with the living water or spiritual blessings that He offered. This was similar to some Old Testament passages. (Isaiah 32:2) “A man will be as a hiding place from the wind, And a cover from the tempest, As rivers of water in a dry place, As the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.” NKJV (Isaiah 55:1) “Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price.” NKJV (Isaiah 58:11) “The Lord will guide you continually, And satisfy your soul in drought, And strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water; whose waters do not fail.” NKJV Thirst is one of the strongest of human desires, and is well-suited to describe the longing of the soul for the Truth that sets us free. (Matthew 5:6) “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.” NKJV (John 8:32) “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” NKJV To come to Jesus and drink is to believe on Him and follow His teachings. Those who believe that He is the Messiah will become a blessing to others. The reference to “belly” is figurative meaning from the inner man or spirit. “Rivers” indicates an abundance of blessings, and “Living water” is contrasted with the stagnant pool.” Unknown

**Invitation:**

John 6:40 “And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.” NKJV This is an obedient faith.

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