

Isaiah 33:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But there the glorious LORD will be unto us a place of broad rivers and streams; wherein shall go no galley with oars, neither shall gallant ship pass thereby.

Analysis

But there the glorious LORD will be unto us a place of broad rivers and streams (כִּי אִם־שָׁם אֲדִיר יְהוָה לָנוּ מְקוֹם־נְהָרִים וְאֲרָיִם רַחְבֵּי יְדִיִּים, ki im-sham adir YHWH lanu meqom-neharim ye'orim rachavey yadayim)—there the אֲדִיר (adir, glorious, majestic) Yahweh is to us a place of rivers (נְהָר, nahar) and streams (אֲרָי, ye'or) of רַחֲב (rachav, breadth, width). **Wherein shall go no galley with oars, neither shall gallant ship pass thereby** (בַּל־תֵּלֶךְ־בוֹ אֲנִי שָׂיִט וְצִי אֲדִיר לֹא יַעֲבֹרֶנּוּ, bal-telekh-bo oni shayit vetsi adir lo ya'avrenu)—no warship (אֲנִי שָׂיִט, oni shayit) or gallant ship will pass.

God Himself becomes the river—source of life, provision, protection. But unlike natural rivers that enable enemy invasion (Assyrians used Euphrates/Tigris for transport, Egyptians used Nile), God-as-river permits no hostile vessels. The paradox: all benefits of water (fertility, commerce, beauty) without the liability (military invasion). Psalm 46:4: 'There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God.' Ezekiel 47:1-12 and Revelation 22:1-2 depict river flowing from God's throne, bringing life. Jesus offered 'rivers of living water' (John 7:38-39)—the Holy Spirit.

Historical Context

Ancient cities needed water—rivers provided drinking water, irrigation, commerce. But rivers also enabled invasion—Babylon used Euphrates to attack, Egypt

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Interlinear Text

2

