

John 7:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

Analysis

Christ quotes Scripture (likely Isaiah 58:11 or Proverbs 18:4), though no exact OT match exists, suggesting a general theme rather than specific text. 'Believeth on me' makes Christ the object of faith, a claim to deity. 'Rivers of living water' (plural, abundant) contrasts with the woman at the well's request (4:15). The believer becomes a source, not just recipient—Christ's life flows through us to bless others.

Historical Context

John 7:39 explains this refers to the Spirit not yet given because Jesus wasn't yet glorified. The connection between believing, drinking, and overflowing illustrates salvation's progression: receive, be filled, overflow to others.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. Are 'rivers of living water' flowing from your life to others, or has your spiritual life become stagnant?

2. How does the promise of the indwelling Spirit transform believers into channels of blessing?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	πιστεύων	εἰς	ἐμέ	καθὼς	εἶπεν	ἡ	γραφὴ
G3588	He that believeth G4100	on G1519	me G1691	as G2531	hath said G2036	G3588	the scripture G1124
ποταμοὶ	ἐκ	τῆς	κοιλίας	αὐτοῦ	ρεύσουσιν	ὕδατος	
rivers G4215	out of G1537	G3588	belly G2836	his G846	shall flow G4482	water G5204	
ζῶντος							
of living G2198							

Additional Cross-References

John 4:14 (Parallel theme): But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

Isaiah 58:11 (Parallel theme): And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

Isaiah 44:3 (Parallel theme): For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:

Isaiah 12:3 (Parallel theme): Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

John 4:10 (Parallel theme): Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

Proverbs 10:11 (Parallel theme): The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.

Zechariah 14:8 (Parallel theme): And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.

Proverbs 18:4 (Word): The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, and the wellspring of wisdom as a flowing brook.

Isaiah 59:21 (Word): As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.

Deuteronomy 18:15 (Parallel theme): The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;