

Psalms 46:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.

Analysis

Contrast to the threatening floods: 'There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God.' Jerusalem had no river--this is theological geography describing God's life-giving presence. The 'streams' (peleg) suggest channels of blessing flowing from divine presence, making glad the 'holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.'

Historical Context

Jerusalem's water source, the Gihon spring, was modest compared to rivers like the Nile or Euphrates. This verse creates theological contrast: other cities depend on natural rivers, but God's city is sustained by His presence.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What is the 'river' that makes glad God's people today?
2. How does God's presence provide what natural resources cannot?

Interlinear Text

נָהָר	פְּלֵגֵי יוֹ	יִשְׂמְחוּ וְ	עִיר	אֵלֶּה יִם
There is a river	the streams	whereof shall make glad	the city	of God
H5104	H6388	H8055	H5892	H430
קֹדֶשׁ	מִשְׁכַּן יְיָ	עֲלִיּוֹן:		
the holy	place of the tabernacles	of the most High		
H6918	H4908	H5945		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 87:3 (References God): Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. Selah.

Psalms 48:8 (References God): As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God: God will establish it for ever. Selah.

Psalms 23:2 (Parallel theme): He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

Isaiah 60:14 (Holy): The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee; and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet; and they shall call thee, The city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 48:18 (Parallel theme): O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea:

Psalms 65:9 (References God): Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it: thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, which is full of water: thou preparest them corn, when thou hast so provided for it.

Psalms 91:1 (Parallel theme): He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Psalms 48:1 (Holy): Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness.

2 Chronicles 6:6 (Parallel theme): But I have chosen Jerusalem, that my name might be there; and have chosen David to be over my people Israel.

Revelation 21:10 (Holy): And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

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