

# Psalm 78:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He brought streams also out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers.

## Analysis

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**He brought streams also out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers**—the Hebrew *nāhār* (rivers) emphasizes abundance, not mere survival water. God's provision exceeded necessity, flooding the desert with overflowing supply. This extravagance reveals grace's character—'pressed down, shaken together, running over' (Luke 6:38).

Isaiah 48:21 recalls this miracle as proof God will repeat exodus-scale redemption: 'waters gushed out' when 'he split the rock.' Ezekiel's temple vision (47:1-12) shows rivers flowing from God's throne to heal the earth, fulfilled in Revelation 22:1-2 where the 'river of the water of life' flows from the Lamb's throne. Christ offers this overflowing abundance: 'streams of living water' to those who believe (John 7:38).

## Historical Context

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The wilderness of Sinai averages less than 2 inches of rainfall annually. God's provision of 'rivers' in this wasteland sustained approximately 2 million people plus livestock for forty years, requiring continuous supernatural intervention.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. Does your experience of God's provision feel like a trickle or like 'rivers' of abundance?
2. How might you be limiting God's river-from-rock provision by demanding only what seems reasonable?

## Interlinear Text

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בָּנָה וְתַּחַת אֹתָהּ יָמָן כֹּזֶל יָמָן מִמֶּנּוּ לְעֵד וְתַּחַת יְמָן כֹּזֶל יְמָן  
He brought streams also out of the rock to run down like rivers  
H3318 H5140 H5553 H3381 H5104

וְיָמָן  
and caused waters  
H4325

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 8:15** (Parallel theme): Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint;

**Numbers 20:8** (Parallel theme): Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.