

# Psalms 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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וַיַּצֵּא א	נוֹזְלֵי יָם	מִסֵּלֶּע	וַיִּרְדָּ	כַּנְהָרֹת
He brought	streams	also out of the rock	to run down	like rivers
H3318	H5140	H5553	H3381	H5104
וַיַּצְמֵחַ מַיִם:				
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.