

Song of Solomon 4:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams
from Lebanon.

Analysis

The bridegroom describes his bride: 'A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon.' The imagery progresses: 'fountain' (mayan, מַיָּן) suggests fresh spring water; 'well of living waters' (be'er mayim chayim, בְּעַר מַיִם חַיִּים) indicates continually flowing, life-giving water (not stagnant cistern); 'streams from Lebanon' references mountain streams fed by snow melt—cool, refreshing, pure. Together, these images celebrate the bride as source of life, refreshment, and vitality for her beloved. The emphasis on 'living waters' contrasts with stagnant pools—she brings ongoing vitality and renewal. Spiritually, this prefigures Christ's promise: 'whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst... a well of water springing up into everlasting life' (John 4:14). Believers, united with Christ, become sources of living water for others (John 7:38).

Historical Context

In arid Palestine, water sources were precious—springs, wells, and streams sustained life. Lebanon's mountain streams were proverbial for purity and refreshment (Jeremiah 18:14). A bride compared to living water sources would be highest praise—she brings life, refreshment, sustenance. Ancient Near Eastern bridal poetry employed water imagery, but Israel's covenant theology gave it deeper meaning. Jesus identified Himself as source of living water, and invited the spiritually thirsty to come to Him (John 7:37-38). Early church fathers applied this to the Church: through Word and Spirit, she mediates Christ's living water to the world. The Reformers emphasized that believers are channels of grace, not its

source—Christ is the fountain; we are conduits. Modern readers see both marital ideal (spouses should refresh each other) and spiritual reality (believers mediate Christ's life to others).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. In what ways are you a 'fountain of living waters' for your spouse or community—bringing refreshment, life, and renewal?
2. How does union with Christ, the true source of living water, enable you to overflow with His life to others?

Interlinear Text

מַעַיִן	גַּן יָם	בְּאֵר	מַיִם	חַיִּים	וְנָזְלֵי יָם	מִן
A fountain	of gardens	a well	waters	of living	and streams	H4480
H4599	H1588	H875	H4325	H2416	H5140	

לְבָנוֹן:

from Lebanon

H3844

Additional Cross-References

John 4:10: 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.

John 7:38: He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

Jeremiah 2:13: For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

John 4:14: 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.

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