THE RIVER OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

On Friday night as we had prayer cell, we were praying and enjoying an amazing sense of the presence of the LORD and Glenn had a vision. He saw a river and those of us that were at the prayer cell and other people from Christian Heritage were in the river. Our faces had the greatest smiles on them. This was a good place to be!

I came to the meeting still wondering what message I could start preparing for this morning when I went home, but this vision inspired me to prepare the message I will share with you this morning.

MESSAGE

**Genesis 2:8-14** The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. 9 And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. 10 Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads. 11 The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. 12 And the gold of that land is good. Bdellium and the onyx stone are there. 13 The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one which goes around the whole land of Cush. 14 The name of the third river is Hiddekel; it is the one which goes toward the east of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates.

I have always wondered about those 4 rivers. Why are they mentioned? What is the hidden treasure and purpose for those rivers to be mentioned by name? Let us take a deeper look and unlock some of that treasure...

**PISHON**

The name Pishon comes from *push*, meaning spring about, be scattered or meaning **to be strong, increase, spread**.

- And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads. The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium (a resin similar to myrrh) and the onyx stone
- The river surrounded the land of Havilah (literally meaning "Stretch of Sand") – we know in biblical terms, sand can refer to actual sand but it also means people – think of Abraham’s descendants multiplying as sand on the seashore...
The people who partake in and are surrounded by God's river of life will:

- Be strong and they will increase and spread - "Lord Increase our territory"
- The gold is good - valuable - sought after!
- Give off a beautiful fragrance - Bdellium (a resin similar to myrrh)
- Be precious - Onyx Stones

We are precious and valuable in the sight of God: Psalm139:17-18 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! 18 If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.

The message of the kingdom is like this river, it is strong and it increases and spreads and wherever it goes it is, valuable and precious and it leaves a beautiful fragrance.

GIHON

The name may be interpreted as "bursting forth, gushing".

- Gihon is the name of the only natural spring of water in the vicinity of Jerusalem:
  - this is the place where King Solomon was anointed by the priest Zadok and Nathan the prophet.
  - It feeds the Pool of Siloam – a place of healing where Jesus sent the blind man to wash the mud off his eyes and receive his sight.
  - Jesus

John 7:38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

The river of living water flowing, bursting forth, gushing within us is evidence of God’s blessings in our life as He grants us:

- Breakthrough and anointing!
- The anointing will break the yoke - Isaiah 10:27

We have just celebrated the feast of Pentecost – as God pours His Spirit out over our lives, may His river of life burst forth and gush in our lives breaking every yoke and anointing us to be mighty fruit bearing vessels in His kingdom.

HIDDEKEL

Hiddekel is the name of the third of the four rivers of Paradise. The word is interpreted as meaning “the rapid Tigris.”
• The original Sumerian Idigna or Idigina was probably from *id (i)gina "running water", which can be interpreted as "the swift river",
• **Rapid - strong** anything that gets into a rapidly flowing river will be carried off by it.
• If water is not flowing, its standing still, standing water stagnates and rots and stinks - that’s what our lives are like if we are not part of God's flowing, life-giving river!
• We sing the song - The River of God

   Down the mountains the river flows  
   And it brings **refreshing** wherever it goes  
   Through the valleys and over the fields  
   The river is rushing and the river is here

   The river of God sets our feet a dancing  
   The river of God fills our hearts with cheer  
   The river of God fills our mouths with laughter  
   And we rejoice for the river is here

   The river of God is **teeming with life**
   And all who touch it can be **revived**
   Those who linger on this river’s shore  
   Will come back thirsting for more of the Lord

   In God's river there is refreshing, there is life and there is revival - doesn't that make you want to get up and jump in right now?

**EUPHRATES**

In the original Hebrew, it is actually named Perath. This has been translated as Euphrates - it means (“the stream,” or “the great stream”); In Greek Euphrates (meaning “sweet water”).

This was the name of two different rivers, one created by God in the original paradise and existing up to the time of the worldwide Flood. After the Flood, a new river was given this same name, possibly by Noah or his family.

[The post-Flood river] is first mentioned **in connection with the covenant** which God entered into with Abraham (15:18), when he promised to his descendants the land from the river of Egypt to the river, a covenant promise afterwards fulfilled in the extended conquests of David. This is most likely a different river given the same name as the pre-Flood river.

• The Euphrates serves as a reminder of God's covenant promises to us, of victory, possessing the land and measuring the greatness of the length and depth of His blessings in our lives.

When we look at the interpretation of the name - **sweet water**, we are reminded that as we partaken in His river, we are pleasing to God and the water we partake of is sweet it is good!
• **Psalm 46:4** There is a river whose *streams shall make glad the city of God*, The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High.
• As we partake in God’s river of life, we will please Him - we will make Him glad !

Because the water of the Euphrates is comparatively salty, there is always the risk of salination in Babylonia. Yet, with the necessary care, the alluvial plain can be extremely fertile, and it is **often said that this is behind the Biblical story of the earthly paradise, the "garden of Eden"**, in which the Euphrates is mentioned.

The river Euphrates reminds us of God’s covenant promises to us, it reminds us that as we enter into His river, we will producing fruit and we will please God

**THE SOURCE RIVER**

These four rivers had their source in the river that flowed from Eden to water the Garden.

Let’s see where else this source river is found:

**Revelation 22:1-3** And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.

**Ezekiel 47** Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the front of the temple faced east; the water was flowing from under the right side of the temple, south of the altar. 2 He brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me around on the outside to the outer gateway that faces east; and there was water, running out on the right side. 3 And when the man went out to the east with the line in his hand, he measured one thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the water came up to my ankles. 4 Again he measured one thousand and brought me through; the water came up to my knees. Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross; for the water was too deep, water in which one must swim, a river that could not be crossed. 6 He said to me, “Son of man, have you seen this?” Then he brought me and returned me to the bank of the river. 7 When I returned, there, along the bank of the river, were very many trees on one side and the other. 8 Then he said to me: “This water flows toward the eastern region, goes down into the valley, and enters the sea. When it reaches the sea, its waters are healed.
9 And it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes. 10 It shall be that fishermen will stand by it from En Gedi to En Eglaim; they will be places for spreading their nets. Their fish will be of the same kinds as the fish of the Great Sea, exceedingly many. 11 But its swamps and marshes will not be healed; they will be given over to salt. 12 Along the bank of the river, on this side and that, will grow all kinds of trees used for food; their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine.”

God is calling us today to enter His great river, not ankle deep, not waist deep, but all the way so that you have to swim it and partake of the great Joy that Glenn saw on the faces of the people in the river in his vision.

- It is a place teeming with fish – I will make you fishers of men!
- Its waters are healing waters - everything that moves where the rivers go will live – it’s full of life!
- It is a place of great fruit bearing!

**CONCLUSION**

**Isaiah 55:1-3** (AMP) Wait and listen, everyone who is thirsty! Come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Yes, come, buy [priceless, spiritual] wine and milk without money and without price [simply for the self-surrender that accepts the blessing].

The LORD is calling us to partake of His river - to drink of the living water. He is calling us to jump into this rover of life with it's amazing promise. This river flows from the throne. It will be present in heaven and it is here for us in the spiritual realm right now!

How do we partake of this river? By giving our whole lives to God, accepting and confessing Jesus Christ as our Lord and saviour. We partake daily by living a consistent surrendered life to our Lord.

But this river can be missed... by living lives separate from God. Possibly you have never accepted Jesus, possibly you are a Christian by name only and you have been following the traditions like attending church but in reality, your walk with God has grown cold. The question is this: If we were to stand before God today and He asked me, "Why should I let you into My heaven?", What would our response be - would it be sufficient?

We all need the river of God, we all need to partake of the living waters. Let us first and foremost make sure that we qualify by being right with God and then let us partake in these amazing promises.