



Week 4 - Water of Life

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“The Scripture readings and BibleProject video for this week’s Church at Home will focus on the theme of water of life. We’ll look at moments where God meets his people in the desert, where all of life’s comforts and securities have been stripped away. These times are scary, but they also hold immense potential for our lives and our values to be transformed by God’s generosity and grace.”

Jeremiah 2:1-13

“Jeremiah accuses the Israelites of trusting in false gods and false sources of life, depicted as broken cisterns that don’t hold water and ultimately can’t give them what they need.”

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, “Go and proclaim in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord, “I remember concerning you the devotion of your youth, The love of your betrothals, Your following after Me in the wilderness, Through a land not sown. Israel was holy to the Lord, The first of His harvest. All who ate of it became guilty; Evil came upon them,” declares the Lord.’ ”

Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. Thus says the Lord, “What injustice did your fathers find in Me, That they went far from Me And walked after emptiness and became empty? They did not say, ‘Where is the Lord Who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, Who led us through the wilderness, Through a land of deserts and of pits, Through a land of drought and of deep darkness, Through a land that no one crossed And where no man dwelt?’ I brought you into the fruitful land To eat its fruit and its good things. But you came and defiled My land, And My inheritance you made an abomination. The priests did not say, ‘Where is the Lord?’ And those who handle the law did not know Me; The rulers also transgressed against Me, And the prophets prophesied by Baal And walked after things that did not profit. “Therefore I will yet contend with you,” declares the Lord, “And with your sons’ sons I will contend. For cross to the coastlands of Kittim and see, And send to Kedar and observe closely And see if there has been such a thing as this! Has a nation changed gods When they were not gods? But My people have changed their glory For that which does not profit. Be appalled, O heavens, at this, And shudder, be very desolate,” declares the Lord. “For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, The fountain of living waters, To hew for themselves cisterns, Broken cisterns That can hold no water.

- Who or what do you turn to when you are anxious and uncertain? What are some powerful self-made sources of stability you tend to trust in your own life?



- **Question for Reflection** - Take a moment to reflect on how all of life is dependent on God's power and generosity. Does this understanding change how you view those self-made sources of stability? What would it look like for you to choose to trust God's generosity, rather than your own "broken cisterns"?

Isaiah 43:16-21; 44:1-5

"In the past, God delivered his people by the Exodus through the sea and then provided water in the wilderness. The "new thing" God will do to deliver his people is to provide a better water in the wilderness—his own Spirit—which will grow a new garden of Eden people who will flourish."

Thus says the Lord, Who makes a way through the sea And a path through the mighty waters, Who brings forth the chariot and the horse, The army and the mighty man (They will lie down together and not rise again; They have been quenched and extinguished like a wick): "Do not call to mind the former things, Or ponder things of the past. Behold, I will do something new, Now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, Rivers in the desert. The beasts of the field will glorify Me, The jackals and the ostriches, Because I have given waters in the wilderness And rivers in the desert, To give drink to My chosen people. The people whom I formed for Myself Will declare My praise.

"But now listen, O Jacob, My servant, And Israel, whom I have chosen: Thus says the Lord who made you And formed you from the womb, who will help you, 'Do not fear, O Jacob My servant; And you Jeshurun whom I have chosen. For I will pour out water on the thirsty land And streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring And My blessing on your descendants; And they will spring up among the grass Like poplars by streams of water.' This one will say, 'I am the Lord's'; And that one will call on the name of Jacob; And another will write on his hand, 'Belonging to the Lord,' And will name Israel's name with honor."

- In what ways do you resonate with the image of living in a dry and desolate desert? What kind of "water" or relief do you find yourself longing for?
- **Question for Reflection** - Is your current connection with God satisfying to you? Set aside some time to share your feelings about your current circumstances with God or trusted others.

John 4:1-26 and 7:37-39

"Jesus tells the Samaritan woman that the well water gives short-term life that cannot ultimately quench our thirst. He is offering water that never runs dry and generates eternal life. In John 7, we find out that this water is the Spirit."

- How does it affect you to know that Jesus is offering water that never runs dry, eternal life in the Spirit?
- **Question for Reflection** - What are the places in your life where nothing seems to satisfy or quench your thirst? What do you think it would look like for God's Spirit to be like living water in those areas of your life?