

# Introduction - Some Significant Texts

- Ps 65:9 – only reference to ‘River of God’
- Genesis 2:10f – river of Eden
- Ex 17; Num 20 – ‘rivers’ from the desert rock (see Ps 78:15f; 105:41)
- [Deut 8:7 – a land of streams, pools and springs]
- Ps 46:5 – river making glad the City of God
- Ezekiel 47 – river from the temple
- John 7:37 – river flowing from Christians
- Rev 22:1f – river from the throne of God

# Introduction - Personal Interest

- Barvas (1) John 7:38
- Barvas (2) – Luke 19:9
- Barvas (3) – perplexing: the thin blue thread
- Galatians 3:1-4
- Inverness Teaching Weekend 98? illumination
- Rev Dr Geoff Bingham, *The River of God*  
<http://www.newcreation.org.au/books/covers/371.html>

# The River Flowing from the Beginning of Creation – Genesis 2:10f - I

## Preface

- God fashions and animates Adam
- Hebrew word '*adam*' = (i) Adam, (ii) humanity
- Placed in the garden; 'garden of God' (Ez 28:13)
- Garden = Heb. *gan* = Grk. *paradeisos* – Paradise
- Grk *paradeisos* from Persian *pardes* 'walled/ hedged' – applied to royal parks: privacy and security.
- Place of pleasures / delights (Ps 36:8 'your river of delights = Edens')
- Garden – God's provision for humanity in Adam
- V 9 Trees – aesthetic and nutritional value

# **The River Flowing from the Beginning of Creation – Genesis 2:10f - II**

## **The River (v 10)**

### **(i) The River Waters the Garden**

- Gave life to the garden/ renewed/ refreshed it
- Sustained the Tree of Life – not just physical
- Renewed and refreshed the life of humanity
- Drinking/ bathing/ swimming/ washing

# The River Flowing from the Beginning of Creation – Genesis 2:10f - III

## (ii) The River Flows from the Garden

- Bringing the life of Eden with it as it went
- Four headwaters – universality?
- The River of Eden gives life to all the world

## (iii) River from the Primal Sanctuary/ Temple

- God's personal garden where he meets with his children made in his image (Gen 1:26-28)
- Parallels between garden and temples: trees, Tree of Life, cherubim, precious stones, entrance in East

# The River Flowing from the Beginning of Creation – Genesis 2:10f - IV

## (iii) River from the Primal Sanctuary/ Temple (ctd)

- V 15. ‘work’ and ‘take care of’ – tasks of the priests in tabernacle and temple
- Humanity has priestly function in Eden
- River of God’s Spirit flows out from temples
  - Genesis 2:10; Ezekiel 47; John 15:26 ‘Spirit goes out/ proceeds from the Father’
  - **We** are temples of God: individually; collectively
  - John 7:36: ‘streams of living water’ flow from believers in Jesus
- All because of the Cross: ‘I thirst’ (Jn 19:38)