

The River of God – Week 3

The River in the New Eden of Canaan
and in Israel's Worship

The River in the New Eden of Canaan

- Promised Land often described as Edenic

(i) Genesis 13:10

- Suggests a reversal of Genesis 3 happening
 - For Abraham
 - For Israel

(ii) Numbers 24:6-7a – Balaam's vision

- 'like gardens beside a river'
- garden = Greek *Paradeisos*/ 'paradise'
- 'planted' see Genesis 2:8
- 'trees' – see Genesis 2:9
- The river not yet identified – river of God?

The River in the New Eden of Canaan

(iii) Deuteronomy 8:7-9

- Superabundant food provision (vv 8-9)
- Sustained by bountiful water supply (v 7)
- 'good land' – an allusion to Genesis 1?
- Source of the water? Gift of God?

(iv) Deuteronomy 11:8-17, esp. v 10

- Contrast with Egypt and its River Nile
- River of rain from above
- All of grace, yet dependent on Israel's response: obedience

The River in the New Eden of Canaan

(iv) Deuteronomy 11:8-17, esp. v 10 continued

- Similarly, curses and blessings in Lev 26:3-4; Deut 28:12, 24
- Elijah in 1 Kings 17 and 18

(v) Psalm 65:9-13

- Psalm 68:7-10 – used in Gaelic churches in anticipation of spiritual awakenings/ revival

The River in Israel's Worship

Psalm 46

- Imagery primarily spiritual
- Jerusalem has no 'river' [just Gihon Spring]
- The river is God? His Spirit?
- Bringing joy to the heart of the city/ people
- Acts 16:25; Eph 5:18f
- Revivals often associated with hymn-writing
- From Exodus 15; Psalm 40

The River in Israel's Worship

Psalm 36: 8-9

- Feast on the 'fat'
- Drink from river of your delights = 'Edens'
- Our experience of worship?

Psalm 42:1-2

- God is like 'streams of water' - longing

Psalm 63:1ff

- God like water in a desert - longing

Isaiah 55:1ff

A river of worshippers from the temple?