

The River of God – Week 5

The River of God in the Gospel of
John

The River in John's Gospel

Recap

- River of Eden and of the New Eden
- River on ground or from above
- River and temples in the OT
- Connections: temples and Garden of Eden
- Deserts become gardens where the river flows

Other OT Texts

- Isaiah 32:2 – individuals like streams of water
- Isaiah 52:11b – individuals like gardens of Eden

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JOHN'S GOSPEL

- **John 1:14** – Jesus as the New Tabernacle
 - Filled with glory of God (Ex 40; 1 Kgs 8; Ez 43)
- **John 2:19-21** – Jesus as the New Temple
- **John 4** – Jesus as the Fountain of Living Water

JOHN 7:37-39

[a] Christ's Invitation (v 37)

- Come to the New Temple for living water

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- [b] Christ's Promise (v 38f) – streams will flow**
- Each Christian becomes a temple
 - 'as the Scripture said' – what scripture?
 - Thrust of OT - Rivers flow from true temples
 - Christians to be what we are – temples of God
 - This is how many become Christians
 - Example of this outflow in experience of the woman of Samaria (Jn 4:39)

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[c] John's Explanation (v 39)

- Glorification of Jesus, **then** the gift of Spirit
- Glorification of Jesus involves death, resurrection, ascension. See John 12:23; 17:5

What happens to the Temple at Calvary?

- Like Solomon's temple, destroyed because of idolatry; the glory departed
- The New Temple was polluted as God laid on him our iniquity (Is 53:6)
- Judged. Glory departed. Great Lament (Ps 22)

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The New Temple and the River

- In 19:28 'I thirst'. How can it be?
- River of the Spirit exhausted
- Temple had become a desert
- On third day – resurrection; temple re-built
- Ascended; exalted; filled with the glory of God
- Filled with the River
- The River poured out at Pentecost (Acts 2)
- Symbolised in John 19:34 'flow of blood and water'