

מצרע

Metzora (The Leprous One)
Vayikra/Leviticus 14:1-15:33

In Parashat Metzora, the phrase "**living waters**" (mayim chayim) is used six times in connection with the uncleanness of man, a problem we have struggled with since sin and disobedience first occurred in the Garden of Eden. When Adam sinned, all of creation fell into an impure state with him. This created a problem, since man cannot approach YHWH in his impurity. Sin and impurity are not synonymous as one could become impure without actually sinning (example - childbirth or touching a dead body). However our subject matter, the **metzora** (leper) was symbolic of spiritual sickness and sin. Following are the verses referring to "**living water**" (your translation probably says "running water")

Vayikra 14:2 "This shall be the law of the metzora (leper) for the day of his cleansing: He shall be brought to the priest. 3 "And the priest shall go out of the camp, and the priest shall examine him; and indeed, if the leprosy is healed in the metzora, 4 "then the priest shall command to take for him who is to be cleansed two living and clean birds, cedar wood, scarlet, and hyssop. 5 "And the priest shall command that one of the birds be killed in an earthen vessel over **living water**. 6 "As for the living bird, he shall take it, the cedar wood and the scarlet and the hyssop, and dip them and the living bird in the blood of the bird that was killed over the **living water**.

The references to **living water** continue with the purification of the leprous house:

Vayikra 14:50 "Then he shall kill one of the birds in an earthen vessel over **living water**; 51 "and he shall take the cedar wood, the hyssop, the scarlet, and the living bird, and dip them in the blood of the slain bird and in the **living water**, and sprinkle the house seven times. 52 "And he shall cleanse the house with the blood of the bird and the **living water** and the living bird, with the cedar wood, the hyssop, and the scarlet. 53 "Then he shall let the living bird loose outside the city in the open field, and make atonement for the house, and it shall be clean.

The sixth time **living water** is referred to is in reference to the cleansing of a man with a discharge (Vayikra 14:52).

Why should this all matter to us? Because there is a strong connection between Yeshua, "**living water**," and salvation:

John 4:10 Yeshua answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of Elohim, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you **living water**." 11 The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? 12 "Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?" 13 Yeshua

answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, 14 "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a **fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.**"

John 7:37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Yeshua stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow **rivers of living water.**"

The **water** He gives us "**springs up into eternal life**"!! Only Yeshua has the ability to quench spiritual thirst. What is the source of this **water of everlasting life**? Let's return to the beginning:

Bereshith 2:10 Now a **river** went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads

Scripture does not give us a detailed explanation of this **river**, but it does appear again along with the **Tree of Life** at the very end of the book of Revelation:

Revelation 22:1 And he showed me a **pure river of water of life**, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of Elohim 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 health of the nations.

What's interesting about these two appearances of this **River of Life** is that in both contexts man is in a state of **sinlessness**. In Bereshith the setting is before the fall, and in Revelation 22 the setting is after the creation of the new heavens and the new earth. Thus between these two verses (Bereshit and Revelation) is the story of **SINFUL MAN** and his journey back to his Creator!! The concept of **water** will appear over and over again as helping man reconnect with his Creator. Could it be that all "**living water**" is somehow connected to the original **River of Life from the Garden**?

In our Torah portion, a metzora (leper) is regaining a state of purity by taking part in the commanded rituals, enabling him to once again participate in Tabernacle ceremonies where he would be near the Presence of the Almighty. Continuing on, we see even more reference to **water** as he attains purity:

Vayikra 14:7 "And he shall **sprinkle** it seven times on him who is to be cleansed from the leprosy, and shall pronounce him clean, and shall let the living bird loose in the open field. 8 "He who is to be cleansed shall **wash his clothes**, shave off all his hair, and **wash himself in water**, that he may be clean. After that he shall come into the camp, and shall stay outside his tent seven days. 9 "But on the seventh day he shall shave all the hair off his head and his beard and his eyebrows -- all his hair he shall shave off. He shall **wash his clothes and wash his body in water**, and he shall be clean.

The subject of **water** is HUGE throughout Scripture. **Living water** is still healing and necessary for us to be cleansed. As you read the Bible, notice how water, rain, rivers, wells, fountains, dew, etc, play a part in bringing us back to the Garden and into the Presence of the Almighty! I will conclude with several concepts and verses about water (no special order).

- Isaiah 12:2 Behold, El is my salvation (My Yeshua), I will trust and not be afraid; 'For YAH, YHWH, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.' " 3 Therefore **with joy you will draw water From the wells of salvation (Yeshua)**. 4 And in that day you will say: "Praise YHWH, call upon His name; Declare His deeds among the peoples, Make mention that His name is exalt
- Water has a special purpose as seen in the form of the mikveh (immersion or baptism). The mikveh is associated with a spiritual change in identity. In the purification process, water takes one from unclean to clean. When you're baptized you go from child of the world to child of YHWH.
- Zechariah connects a **fountain of water in the Millennium to sin and impurity**:
 - **Zechariah 13:1** "In that day a **fountain** shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, **for sin and for uncleanness**.
 - The **fountain** mentioned in Zechariah 13:1 however, is opened during the Millennium for purification, because during the 1,000 year period there is still sin.
- Perhaps the **Tree of Life** in the Garden of Eden had it's roots in the **River of Life**?
- In Rabbinic writings, the River of Eden is linked to the digging of **wells** by the Patriarchs. Abraham made a point of digging a **well of water**. Isaac re-dug the **wells**. Jacob found the **well** already prepared for him, and he sat down by it. Wives were found there.
 - Is the well water tapping into the underground River of Life? Is it a place to find the will of the Almighty?
 - Yeshua sits by the well as Jacob did, saying He is the true object of faith and that **His living waters** never fail.
- Isaiah 58:11 YHWH will guide you continually, And satisfy your soul in drought, And strengthen your bones; You shall be **like a watered garden**, And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.
- Devarim 32:2 Let my teaching drop as the rain, My speech distill as the dew, As raindrops on the tender herb, And as showers on the grass.
- Yeshua's first miracle had to do with water, in fact water specifically intended for purification - John 2:6 Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of **purification** of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece.
- He who is constantly occupied with the Torah is compared to a **"tree planted by streams of water"** - Psalm 1:2 But his delight is in the Torah of YHWH, and on his Torah he meditates day and night. 3 He is **like a tree planted by streams**

of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither.
Whatever he does prospers.

- As believers we are the stewards of Messiah's **living water** - John 7:38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, **out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.**"

Have **YOU** been immersed in the **Living Waters** and is **your heart flowing**?