

# The King's Highway

## An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

And an Highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness. Isa. 35-8

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### RIVERS OF WATER

By F. A. Anderson

In the Bible a great many writers speak of "Living Waters." Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, John the Revelator, and others all tell of it. The psalmist sings of it. Prophets declare its existence. Christ announces Himself the source of supply. It is said to be a Well, a Fountain, a River of Water, that is pure and clear as crystal. Trees growing near that drink of it are declared to be evergreen and fruitful. It proceeds from the throne of God, flows through the celestial city and bubbles up in the heart of the redeemed a living fountain of water, making him as a well watered garden. His soul knows no drought and hence no famine.

Most of the writers that tell of this living water speak of it as a promise one has made, but alas, what is a promise when men take oath without ever intending to keep it? Nations sign treaties by the score one day planning to break them the next, and everybody expects them to. What can a promise mean? Nothing from such individuals or nations, but it is not such that has made this promise. Listen to Isaiah as he speaks as the mouth-piece of God (44:2-3). "Thus sayeth the Lord . . . for I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground." Man makes his plans and is unable to carry them out; he promises and is unable to fulfill, but not so with the Lord. Before the beginning of time He made plans of Salvation to redeem the lost, and soon after the fall promised to provide the same. Pharaoh opposed the plans to his own destruction. Philistia stood in the way of them only to be slain by the sword. Herod the king set about to thwart them but to no avail. The Jewish priests, Scribes and Pharisees would have set them at nought, but failed. All the powers of darkness and hell put their herculean strength in plan after plan to defeat and break His, but in spite of men, nations and devils, in the hour when it seemed they were nearest success, He cried out, "It is finished." His plan to provide a Salvation was carried out. For whosoever will accept it by faith, it remains, proving that His word of promise is true. The earth may be moved out of its place. The glory of the Sun be veiled for eternity. The Heavens roll together as a scroll, and be laid away. The elements melt with a fervent heat, but His Word abideth forever. Time cannot change it, nor powers shake it. Hell in its fury cannot destroy it. It remains steadfast. Such is the Word, His Word, that gives us the promise of the living water. Let us draw nigh to the well-spring and drink, and as our thirst is slaked, let us turn to others with the words of the prophet: "Ho everyone that thirsteth . . . come ye to the waters."

What is this water, or these waters? Reading Revelation 22:1 and Ezekiel 44:9, one would say: "Life—And He showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, pro-

ceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb." "And everything shall live whither the river cometh" and indeed it is life. On its banks grow the tree of life. Where it flows the valley of dry bones becomes a valley of living warriors. It makes the desert blossom as the rose. Old things pass away, and behold all things become new.

When we listen to the psalmist sing (psa. 36:8) we decide it is a river of pleasure. "They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasure." Is it not so? Every soul that ever drank found pleasure and joy. Harps were taken from the willows, and the songs of Zion rang. This pleasure is eternal, for John in Revelation sees those who have tasted of this water, having cast their crowns a tribute at Jesus' feet, stand clad in white robes, with palms of victory and harps of joy, in their hands, and a new song of praise and honour and glory unto God on their lips. Have you found this pleasure? Have you found this joy? You may have it. The invitation is "Ho everyone that thirsteth." But note it is not just waters of pleasure but Thy pleasure, says the psalmist, not worldly pleasure, but God's water of pleasure for your soul.

When Isaiah speaks (48:18) we find his idea of this water is that it is peace. "O that thou hadst hearkened to My commandments! Then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea." How the world needs such a river. The din of the Great War still rings in our ears. Ethiopia's wail of woe echoes through her mountains. Spain is committing suicide. China is in turmoil, while from pole to pole is heard the rumblings of the strife between fascism and communism. Economic unrest is seen everywhere. Political strife is wrecking many countries; and homes are rent asunder by divorce as a result of domestic strife in a way unparalleled in history. There is little that speaks of peace. In fact one is made to wonder if there can be peace in such a world, yet there can be. If we meet that one condition, and hearken to His commandments our peace will be like a river—peace which the world cannot give nor destroy. Given by God and kept by His Spirit, for the psalmist says: "Great peace have they which love thy law." This peace may be yours.

Now let us listen to John, the beloved Apostle, and hear his view as to what this water is. Jesus had stood and cried on the last great day of the feast: "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. He that believeth on Me, as the Scriptures hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water," and John says concerning this statement of Christ. "But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive, for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified." But can it be that this water of life is at one and

the same time Life, pleasure, peace and the Holy Spirit? Indeed it is, but John has gone to the root of the matter. It is the Holy Spirit. The psalmist, Isaiah, Ezekiel, and John in his writings have spoken of the result of His coming into the heart. When He comes to perform in our hearts the work of Regeneration that makes us "Sons of God," we have life. The river of life flows within. Though dead indeed unto sin, we are alive unto God. We can sing with the poet, "Eternal life begun below now fills my heart and soul."

There is pleasure and joy. When He has come in regenerating power the smile of God's pleasure is upon us. Just as the sun steals through the clouds in Springtime to kiss the earth, making the grass to grow, the flowers and trees to bud, and the birds to sing, His love flows over the heart, dispelling the sin-clouds, causing the flowers of grace to appear, awakening the songs of joy and praise unto our God, who hath loved us and redeemed us unto Himself.

His coming brings peace. In the soul there is calm as on the Sea of Galilee when He said to the storm, "Peace be Still." The winds of doubt no longer blow, the waves of fear cease to roll, and peace, His peace, abides within. Life may bring its storms of sorrow and trouble, pain may rack the body, and grief tear at the heart, but the soul hath found Him who is "an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest, as rivers of water in a dry place; as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land," and there is peace.

When this same Holy Spirit comes to the heart in Sanctifying power the rivers of water overflow. Where there was life there is now abundant life. (John 10:10). Where there was peace it now passeth all understanding (Phil. 4:7). Where there was joy, there is now fullness of joy (John 15:11.) The cup of blessing overflows (Psa. 23:5). The ointment that anointed the head now flows to the skirt of the garment (Psa. 133:2) and when at one time we saw waters in the river that flowed to the ankles, the knees, the loins, we now find they are too deep and too broad to be passed over (Ezek. 47:1-5). We are lost in the immensity of it all. On the day this Holy Spirit of whom Christ spake came, Peter, inspired of God, in his remarkable sermon at Pentecost, declared, Acts 2:39, "for the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." Has He called you? He has. Yea, He does, and the promise is yours. Claim it and enjoy its blessings.

All of these blessings which are ours through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and which come to us by the Holy Spirit, are eternal. "For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and lead them unto living fountains of water." While endless ages roll, this river of waters will flow, and the redeemed can say then as now, "He leadeth me beside the still waters."

Mrs Geo Tedlie, Feb 28