

Two Rivers

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The word river is derived from the Greek word *potamos* (4215) and it means a drink, drinking bout, carousal or from the Hebrew word, *naha*, which is a drink, or prosperity. Consequently, the rivers under consideration here is not physical but spiritual. It refers to the source of a man's joy, prosperity. To put it in local jargon, it is what gives a man a kick.

The bible shows us two rivers. These are the river of life and the river of Babylon. One in the book of revelation 22 and the other in Psalm 137. While Rev 22 give us a blueprint of the finished picture in our spiritual growth and attainment, what you could call the ultimate in sonship and co-heirship with Christ; Psalm 137, a popular song even in the secular world, tells us of a people whose vision of a glorious relationship with God has been truncated by riotous living. It tells of a people who have been sold to the world because of the cares of life, but suddenly realize that they had a better deal with God than they are experiencing.

The brethren in Psalm 137 are rich in the material things of the world, but have become poor in the things of the spirit because they have wasted their spiritual substance. They are in captivity to the half truth and errors of this world. The glory of the lord is there subsumed, buried in the so much activities that glorifies the flesh. Underneath, there is a feint memory of the expectations of the Lord.

Suddenly, there is an impulse. An impetus that flows from the heavenly throne. They realize that the glory of Babylon is but a transient glory, the heart yearns for God until they can no longer bear it and cry out for help. Psalm 137 therefore is a cry and prayer for help and deliverance from the world. A cry for the revelation of God in a people who have always belonged to God but went astray. Their systems reject what they are. The wealth that have magnetically pulled them from God before now fades into insignificance. The heart groans. And there is weeping, when Zion is remembered! Now is the time to forsake all. Importunate prayers flow because all about is emptiness of a wasted spiritual life.

The new testament equivalent of Psalm 137 is the parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11. A growing son took the little anointing he has by grace and goes into a far country. He journeys away from the vision of oneness with God and waste his substance in riotous living. Because of lack, he ends up feeding with swine, a forbidden animal. The book of Leviticus 11: 1-7, cautions us against animals that do not divide the hoof and chew the cord. Though the swine has hoof divided, referring to ability to tell the difference between right and wrong, it does not have the capacity to meditate on the word received in order to have the full benefits of the mind of God for the day. Consequently, such ends up in error and falls away. The famine that hit the prodigal son was so sever that he could only feed on the husk left by the swine that he kept for a citizen of the far country he sold himself to – unholy partnership entered into and sustained for the belly!

However, he came to himself and took a bold step. I will arise and go unto my father and God recovered him. Even while he was still far away, the father sighted him and had compassion on

him.

But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: [23] And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: [24] For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry (Luke 15:22-24).

The cry of the brethren in psalm 137 was for deliverance from bondage to the flesh. They asked for punishment for all that hinder their flow in God (Psalm 137: 8-9) *O daughter of Babylon, who art to be destroyed; happy shall he be, that rewardeth thee as thou hast served us. [9] Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones.*

. And I know that God answered their prayers then and today. Then, when Israel was delivered from babylonish captivity, through prayers of men such as Daniel. Even so God will answer our prayers when we cry to him for help. The bible in I John 5:14 says that this is our confidence in him that if we ask according to his will, he hears us. It is not the will of God that any should perish out of the way. Thus he will not break the bruised reed nor quench the smoking flax.

God is inviting us to be part of his glory. We are not to conform to this world. Our joy shall not flow from what we see, hear, feel, taste, smell, etc. We shall not be sustained by this world because we are no part of this world. The pull is towards the holy of holies where there is no artificial light, but just the shekinah glory of the Lord.

Rev 21:22-25

22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

(KJV)

Rev 22:1-5

1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

(KJV)

