

The Hebrew Corner

Water is essential to life, so much so that scientists who search for extraterrestrial life examine planets for evidence of water. In the Tanach, one of the God's earliest acts of creation was to create water. In fact, Genesis 1:2 indicates that water was present before God created light:

“And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the waters.”

The Hebrew word for water is mai (מַי, MY), which always in scripture is found as the plural mayim (מַיִם, MAH-yihm). So sometimes it is translated as water, or as in this passage, waters. Hebrew often uses words in a plural form to refer to a singular object or person. One name for God, elohim (אֱלֹהִים, eh-loh-HEEM) is such a word. When elohim refers to God it is singular, but when it refers to false gods it is plural. Sometimes pluralizing a word in Hebrew is done to add intensity to the word. An example of this is the word dam (דָּם, DAHM), which means blood, but the plural form damim (דַּמִּים, dah-MEEM) means bloodshed. It is possible that the use of the plural form mayim may indicate the importance and emphasis placed on water as a sustainer of life.

There are several passages in the bible that refer to living water, and so further extending the connection between water and life.. One such passage is Jeremiah 2:13:

“For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me

the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.”

Here God is referring to himself as the one who provides the living waters. Living water in Hebrew is mayim chayim (מַיִם חַיִּים, MAH-yihm chay-YEEM, *ch pronounced like Bach*).

Continuing with Jeremiah 17:13, we have the prophet also referring to God in connection with water:

“O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters.”

In the B'rit Hadesha, when Yeshua talked to the woman at the well, he spoke of water that a person could drink of and not be thirsty anymore (John 4:9-14):

“Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, asketh drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou would have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? Jesus answered and said to unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the

water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”

The water that Jesus is referring to is water that gives life. Jesus makes it clear in a later verse that he is referring to the Holy Spirit as the living water (John 4:22-24):

“Ye worship ye know not what: we know who we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

The prophet Ezekiel, in his description of the temple of the millennial kingdom, refers to a river that brings life (Ezekiel 47:7-9):

“Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other. Then he said unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed. And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing that shall live whither the river cometh.”

We can see from these passages that it is the desire of the Lord to be a fountain of life for us. We as believers in Jesus, our Yeshua, should be as rivers of life, a steady stream to those that are in darkness. Jesus gives us the abundant life, a continuous stream of

life that lasts forever. May the waters of your life be calm this month. Shalom and blessings to you.