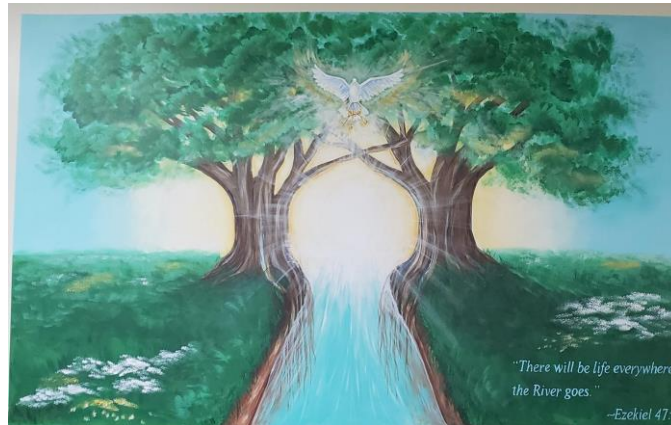


GRACE IS A RIVER



There Will Be Life Wherever the River Flows

Amy Rylander

***Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!***

Grace is a River.

***Then he showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal,
flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of
the street of the city;***

***also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of
fruit, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree were for the
healing of
the nations.***

Revelation 22

The River of Grace has been flowing from the throne and from the Lamb since the beginning of time.

Everywhere it flows it brings life.

It heals.

It forgives.

It restores.

The River flows in.

***On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed,
"If anyone one thirst, let him come to me and drink."***

John 7

Jesus is the River.

His words are living water.



Jesus is the Door

Anyone who is thirsty for this water can come to him and drink.

And the River flows into their soul as living words from the mouth of the Lord.

This River of living words fills the soul with life from God.

It lifts the soul into God's world---God's kingdom.

It heals.

It forgives.

It restores.

It empowers the soul to walk with God.

The River flows out.

***"He who believes in me, as the scripture has said,
'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'"***

John 7

Now the River begins to flow out as life from God.

As living words.

As redemptive deeds.

That heal,

Forgive.

Restore.

Empowering those who receive it to walk with God.

But what if the outflow is blocked?

If the River flows in but finds no outflow, everything dries up and becomes a desert.

The word of the Lord to believers whose River has become a desert:

***The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.
"I know your works; you have the name of being alive, and you are dead.***

***Awake, and strengthen what remains and is on the point of death, for I
have not found your works perfect in the sight of my God.***

***Remember then what you received and heard; keep that, and repent. If
you will not awake, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what
hour I will come upon you."***

Revelation 3

Grace is a River.

It always flows.

Whenever its flow is blocked it finds another channel.

But the flow never stops.

Jesus is the source of all grace.

Wherever you use the word "grace" you can substitute the word, "Jesus", and you get a clearer picture.

Jesus' death absorbs our sin into itself.

Jesus' resurrection opens the door to life in the Spirit.

Jesus' words are Spirit and life, empowering us to walk with God.

If we come with our thirst, he fills us with living water.

If we walk with him in faith, the River flows out of us with all the power of heaven.



It forgives. It heals. It restores. It empowers the soul to walk with God.

If the River of grace flows into us, but never flows out, we can sing Amazing Grace till our dying day

.... But we have become a desert.

Lord Jesus, open us up!

Cause living water to flow from us, as it flowed from Ezekiel's Temple.

Ezekiel's Temple

When Israel had become barren, a nation of captives in Babylon, Ezekiel received the vision of a new Temple.

The most glorious thing about this magnificent Temple was not its structure, but a tiny stream of water flowing from its entrance.

A trickle which became a mighty River of Grace.

Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and behold, water was issuing from below the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east); and the water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar.

Then he brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me round on the outside to the outer gate, that faces toward the east; and the water was coming out on the south side.

Going on eastward with a line in his hand, the man measured a thousand cubits, and then led me through the water; and it was ankle-deep.

Again he measured a thousand, and led me through the water; and it was knee-deep. Again he measured a thousand, and led me through the water; and it was up to the loins.

Again he measured a thousand, and it was a river that I could not pass through, for the water had risen; it was deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be passed through.

And he said to me, "Son of man, have you seen this?"

Then he led me back along the bank of the river. As I went back, I saw upon the bank of the river very many trees on the one side and on the other.

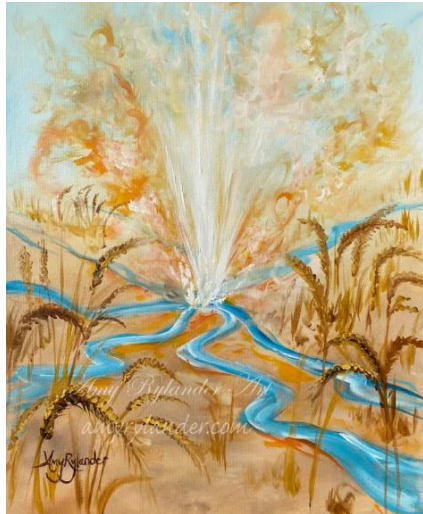
And he said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah; and when it enters the stagnant waters of the sea, the water will become fresh.

And wherever the river goes every living creature which swarms will live, and there will be very many fish; for this water goes there, that the waters of the sea may become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes.

Jesus is Ezekiel's Temple.

Each of us is a manifestation of that Temple.

The tiny trickle that flows out becomes a mighty River.



Streams to Fountains

A River of Grace.

May it flow from us forever!

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Featured Art: Courtesy of Amy Rylander www.amyrylander.com

Prayer- Lord, Holy Lord, give us a deep, deep thirst for your living water... keep us seeking you with the passion of our hearts. As your living water, your river, flows into our souls, filling us with your life, lifting us into your Kingdom.... may it pour into us healing, forgiveness, and restoration... and empower us to walk with you God. And dear Lord, may we let it flow out, not allowing it to dry up or become blocked. Keep us from looking alive, but really being dead. Wake us up Lord, open us up... even if there is just a trickle of life... turn that trickle into a mighty river that brings life wherever it goes. May it pour out as redemptive deeds... bringing healing, forgiveness, and restoration... and empowering many souls to walk with you, Precious Lord. And yes, yes may your River of Grace flow from us forever.

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WHO WAS SLAIN
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN