



(Photo of Jordan River taken in 1969 after the 6 day War and during the Vietnam War)

1-1: "Rivers of Living Water" Excites our Imagination and Bible Knowledge.

Been there and done that, when we first read John 7:38 all kinds of exciting images, possibilities, and Scriptures flow through our mind.

Immediately since we are reading the *Gospel of John* already, we think of the incident in the life of Jesus when He spoke to the woman of Samaria at Jacob's well, telling her as recorded in John 4:10 of the "living water" that Jesus could give to all Jews or *Gentiles* that would ask. Yes, Jesus did contrast the quality of the water that Samaritans like this woman could get out of Jacob's well with the living water from Jesus in that the first had no permanent thirst quenching potential while the second from Jesus with a deep two step process drinking, believe and believing, would lead to a "never thirst again". And we do love the sound of the words, "But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." (John 4:14) However, this is not the same as in

John 7:38, because this living water of John 4:14 goes into the inward man while the living water of John 7:38 comes out of the heart of the inward man.

Yes, they are related: the living water must first go into the heart of a man or woman before it can flow like a river of prophesy out of the heart; and that is the very gist of this book, that the continuing of "believing" must take place before both full salvation, and no matter how democratic in the church prophesy became after the Coming of the Holy Spirit on the first day of Pentecost after the Ascension of Christ, there can in no local church be the "if all prophesy" of I Corinthians 14:24, without the all taking the second step in salvation of "believing".

1-2: You Must See in John and the Rest of the Bible This 2 step process.

Ho hum, we think, "another book on John and how to believe", OR "believe in Jesus, that is old stuff"; and we might miss the twin themes of this book that at least half of our present church members, that is a total of at least half of so-called Christians have never gone beyond the first step of believe to the second step of believing; and the reason so many churches in America today are now making such significant contributions to the historical and once in the history of a nation Falling Away is because they have never made, for many reasons remaining to be discussed in this book, that giant step forward into the believing for full salvation and consequently for the ability to have flowing out of their hearts "rivers of living water".

1. You will notice the two-step process of believe and believing in the stated purpose of the Gospel of John in John 20:31: (1) the "believe" in John 20:31a with the words of "these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God"; and then the "believing" in John 20:31b with the words to follow immediately, and by the way so close that you sometimes do not realize that salvation is a two step process, "and that believing you may have life in His name."

2. After years of spreading the Gospel of Jesus, many of those years as a Pastor at Ephesus, and no doubt the last of the living Apostles of Jesus, the Apostle John near the end of the first century wrote another book, and once again with a very clearly stated purpose recorded in the book like the John 20:30,31 gist of the Gospel of John, where he and the Holy Spirit made sure that you would not miss the second step of believing.

“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.” (I John 5:13)

That says it all in the “continue to believe”!

1-3: Most of our church members are in the “Den of Thieves” category.

One of the prime reasons that it can be stated so confidently that more than half of our church members are in the “Den of Thieves” from Jesus and Jeremiah or HIDEOUT FOR BAD HABITS category of II Timothy 3:1-8 is because at least half of our church members have not progressed from the believe to the believing process of salvation; and inevitably as we pass from the third stage of the Falling Away of II Timothy 4:3,4, that is from the vast now present “heaping up of Bible teachers with itching ears” {by the way the same as the proliferation of false prophesy and false prophets that Jesus predicted in Matthew 24 as a true sign of the Falling Away}, into the fourth and final fifth stage of the Falling Away, the turning away from truth in the churches and the being turned by God into fables, then the number of “Den” members in the church will increase significantly. How else can it be? How in the world can we go from the present condition where millions of church members across this country and the world profess to be followers of Christ, to the Falling Away clearly taught in II Thessalonians and II Timothy 4:3,4 without God’s own people in the churches turning away from truth and turning into fables.

1-4: The Minority Message to a Few of Each Church.

Even as it is so hard to faithfully preach the demand of Christ and the Bible on marriage as a lifetime commitment without any justifiable cause for divorce except one and simultaneously faithfully lead divorced church members to confess divorce as a past sin and put it behind them as forgiven by God, so it is hard to simultaneously preach the present condition of churches at the same time presenting words of encouragement and specialized security of the believer to a few. However take note that in the specialized messages of Revelation 2 and 3 to the seven churches of Asia Minor, in each case, there was a large message for the majority that had absolutely gone bad and then a minority message at the same time to encourage the few overcomers.

1. The message of Christ to the majority in each church.

(1). The local church at Ephesus (Revelation 2:1-6), You have left your first love; and unless you repent rapidly as a church body, Christ is going to come quickly and remove your lampstand from its place in the sight of God and in the kingdom of God.

(2). The local church at Smyrna (Revelation 2:8-11) ...well, there can always be two out of seven churches about whom Christ has nothing bad to say. Of course, our problem today is that every church member and every church thinks they are that one; that the bad five do not exist today; or certainly that it could never be their own church since their pastors have told them for years that they are the elect of God, the "called" if not the "chosen".

(3). The local church at Pergamos (Revelation 2:12-17), you are already in a mini-Falling Away, because you have far too much unsound doctrine in your church; and unless you straighten it out yourselves in your own church, then Christ is going to start a fight with you based on the Sword of the Word of God.

(4). The local church at Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29), you have in your church a very influential female prophetess that is causing unsound doctrine of Christian living; and without repentance in your church, calamities of judgment from God will come immediately on all those supporters of such a prophetess and her also, not to mention the inevitable and eternal consequences of such lack of continuing faith.

(5). The local church in Sardis (Revelation 3:1-6), while you have the reputation in the community and denomination, of all Christianity, as a First Baptist Church, a past reputation and name that you are "alive", in the sight of Christ and God you are now dead; and Christ will come against you like a thief to take care of the Den of Thieves in you.

(6). The local church in Philly (Revelation 3:7-13), well really two churches out of seven are good and faithful, and notice how this one is faithful in that it has perseverance with a continuing faith for salvation and prophesying.

(7). The local church at Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22), would we be too critical of your church if we called it "lukewarm" like Laodicea, a fact that you really know already; or would you prefer the use of the Word of God in Revelation 2 and 3 as well as much other of the Word of God that you will find in the following chapters of this book, to point out why: (1) well over half of your members are lukewarm because they over a period of years did not pass from initial "believe"

into "believing"; and (2) they are well past the historical point where from all of them democratically flows the rivers of living water of prophesy as taught in I Corinthians 14.

2. The Message of Christ to the Few of the Minority in Each Church.

(1). Revelation 2:7, for the few only in the church at Ephesus, the few who have the ear to hear the sound doctrines of the Holy Spirit, these few only in this church will be considered as overcomers, overcomers who will have eternal life and the privilege of eating from the tree of life; alias those who continue to believe all the way to salvation, that continue to prophesy with rivers of living water.

(2). No minority message here because things are okay in this and one other church of the seven; however in Revelation 2:11 that is a more majority message, one to all the churches, as the challenge is presented to overcome in order not to be part of the second death where hell, death, and Satan are cast into the lake of fire and brimstone.

(3). By now you have noticed that the message to the minority, like here in Revelation 2:17 and to the church at Pergamos, is to all the churches, once again pointing out how many churches then and today Christ must call in order to select a few "chosen" for all the churches; and here the few overcomers among the many otherwise, are promised: (a) hidden manna to eat; (b) a white stone with a personalized name from Christ that no one else has or knows.

(4). "to the rest in Thyatira" (Revelation 2:24), the minority who do "not have this unsound doctrine" or this minority who has not known this depth of Satan, this burden of "Den of Thieves" and HIDEOUT FOR BAD HABITS should not be on you, should not be placed on you, indeed is not placed on you in spite of the waywardness of the majority in your church: (a) hold fast to the security of the believer that you have; and (b) you overcomers will receive in the New Earth power over nations.

(5). "You have a FEW names even in Sardis"--no church is perfectly bankrupt with Den of Thieves and with BAD HABITS (Revelation 4-6), who have undefiled wedding garments of the called and chosen; and these few shall walk and live with Christ in eternity in pure robes of white.

(6). Yes, they are all overcomers in the church at Philadelphia. They all have continued to believe, they have continued to prophesy with rivers of living water coming out their mouths, and with understanding as in I Corinthians 14. Would that we had today in America one church out of the many completely dominated and consisting of overcomers; but where is it?

(7). Once again as always in the seven churches, there is a message for the minority of overcomers to the local church at Laodicea , Revelation 3:21,22, with a promise to rule and reign with Christ on the New Earth.

1-5: Bottom Line of Prophecy of all Members in I Corinthians 14.

The bottom line of I Corinthians 14, then when Paul wrote it to deal with the same problem of tongues in this local church at Corinth, and now when the violations of proper worship and prophesy are more widespread with the initial message and message of I Corinthians 14 on "Prophecy and Understanding" is that we have not taken our brains to our worship service.

1. Tongues in the Bible, especially in Acts 2, are primarily other languages, except for gibberish where many try to simulate a coming of the Holy Spirit, and on rare occasions like where Paul was caught up to the third heaven, are emotional expressions meant to be only between an individual and God, not in public worship.
2. Prophecy is speaking publicly in an assembly of Christians, and prophesy is meant to be addressed to believers.
3. When all in a church body speak together prophesy, one by one by the way, and in agreement, unbelievers are convinced and convicted, which is the same as what Christ meant in John 16 when He prayed that all might be One in order that the world would know that real disciples of Christ were in that assembly.
4. The subject of I Corinthians 14 is more about "Prophecy and Understanding" than about any other subject including tongues.
5. When problems continue in a church or denomination like those forbidden with commandments from Paul of Scripture like in I Corinthians 14, it is most generally because that same church or denomination has the same bad attitude of the Corinthians that Paul writes on in the middle of the chapter, I Corinthians 14:36, that the Bible came to their church or group only or that they originated the Word of God.

1-6: And so much more, This Book is About the Rest of the Story!

We still can not get it in our heads that like in the other *Great Falling Away* of God's people in the wilderness, that the majority of God's called people today--alias Christianity and the body of Christ--are wrong simple because of the historical event in which we now find ourselves of the *Second Great Falling Away* clearly taught in II Thessalonians as required before the *Second Coming* of Christ. {Previously was discussed all the efforts of Scofield notes and fundamentalists to falsely rescue all living Christians from this last and great *Falling Away*.} God's called people of Jeremiah could not, or would not, also wrap their head around this very fundamental concept of the Bible that there is a vast difference between the called of God's people and the "chosen" for eternal salvation on the new earth of God's people!

1. No generation, including now and in America, wants to admit that it is "the generation of the His wrath" (Jeremiah 7:29), even as God's people of Jeremiah refused to admit it until overwhelmed by an almost infinite series of calamities, finally leading to the calamity of death or captivity for 70 years.
2. It is just where we are in history, and let us face up to it as Christian believers in the Bible: we are now in the third stage of the five stages of the *Falling Away* (II Timothy 4:4,5)--intolerance toward sound doctrine and teachings, Christians and churches driven more by their own desires and wants than by Christ and the Holy Spirit, the vast heaping up in all channels of communications of Bible teachers, preachers, and prophets with itching ears, a wholesale "turning away from truth" by Christianity, and finally a being turned into fables by God; and we are dangling on the precipice of Bible based backsliding where there is no turning back, as American churches fall over the edge of a common falling away from truth and falling into fables.
3. To both define how this present and historical *Falling Away* of Christians from the real truth of the Bible, also from the true God and the true Christ, relates to "believing", the second step of salvation, is the rest of the story; of course, after from the Gospel of John and supporting Scriptures, the twin process of "believe" and "believing" are defined from the Bible.

1-7: Living Water of John 7:37-39 is the Holy Spirit and Everlasting Life.

While always Bible piddlers want to "wrest the Scriptures to their own destruction", with itching ears looking for some weird something especially as related to the one baptism {clearly the one baptism is the one salvation} and the Holy Spirit, the meaning of John 7:37-39 is straightforward: the rivers of living water which flows out of the life of any believer continuing to believe-"believes" in John 3:38 and "believing" in John 3:39--is life, abundant life, salvation, and everlasting life.

1. If you miss the real exegetical meaning of John 7:37-39, the place of this passage will seem somewhat disjointed or just simply like a historical insert to identify what Jesus preached on the "great day" of the Passover Feast. Yet it is very much in the context of continuity of the Gospel of John, consistent with the purpose of John as stated in John 20:30,31.

"And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book. {More of them you can read in the synoptic gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke and with help, if needed, from "A Harmony of the Gospels" by A.T. Robertson since those other 3 gospels so well parallel each other; while the Gospel of John is more a commentary on both those Gospels and the Life of Christ with the specific purpose of (1) generating initial faith or belief in Jesus as the Christ-Messiah and the Son of God, and (2) generating a continuing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ which can lead all the way to this life of "rivers of living water", or "life", abundant, of salvation, and of everlasting life.}; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." (John 20:30,31)

2. John as he writes near the end of the First Century, and from the study of the church at Ephesus {likewise the end of a long life as the last living Apostle and the care provider for Mary the mother of Jesus as appointed to do so by Jesus Himself}, wanting to do the very best he can before his demise and of course lead by the Holy Spirit, at this very juncture of the book--7 chapters out of 21 or approximately one-third of the book, wants to insert what is historical truth in the narrative of the life of Christ anyway.

(1). It was the time for God's people of Israel to remember in the Passover feast the rescue of God from Egypt and death in the God through Moses instituted feast of the Passover, a memorial to the time in history when God passed over the

houses of the Israelites, or any others, who sprinkled the blood of the lamb on their door posts. And since this very Passover is a prediction of salvation through the blood of the Lamb, that Lamb of history being the Christ who provided himself on the cross, an event toward which the history of John like the other gospels moves and around which like salvation it centers, it is only natural that John would place this insert at this point.

(2). While the insert may surprise you, the subject matter of thirst, living water, the thirst which Christ can supply like He has already mentioned bread, is definitely in the main flow of Christ providing abundant life and everlasting life to meet the most basic of all needs for humanity, the need to live well and long.

(3). Part of the uniqueness of the Gospel of John, as John sits in his study at Ephesus reading over the previous 3 gospels, is what it includes that while not left out of the other 3 gospels, was not emphasized: (1) the necessity of "continuing faith" for salvation; and (2) the place of the Holy Spirit in history, in the creation of this everlasting life, in the one baptism of the one salvation, and at the center of all Christian doctrine in the new birth.

3. The Apostle John was not only the life-long provider of care for Mary as appointed by Jesus from the cross, but also the longest Apostolic interpreter and explainer of the life of Jesus; and one both to introduce right here one of the major doctrines, subjects, or teachings of Jesus--that is, the subject of the Holy Spirit and continuing salvation and life, also to once again make the connection between the one baptism of the one salvation with the new birth. As you see these continuities of the Gospel of John, John 7:37-39 will seem less as an insert and more of a continuity of flow.

(1). The new birth, often called "born again" or regeneration, was taught early in John 3 when John recorded the historical encounter of Jesus with a religious leader of the Jews, Nicodemus; and as Jesus told him both (1) that he like all believers must be born again as an adult, (2) that this new birth was a long process of believing, conversion and new birth which like physical birth itself required 9 months {again the believing as going beyond just belief of a short time}, and (3) as Jesus made the contrast between physical and spiritual birth, he was providing like John in the Gospel an introduction to Paul's elaboration, also under the guidance of the Spirit and after more teachings from Jesus, on the "old man" versus the "new man" (Ephesians 3:20-24). Therefore "the rivers of living water" and Holy Spirit

introduction of John 7:37-39 is just a continuation of both the new birth doctrine from Jesus and the pre-requisite from the human side of this internal re-creation, the matter of continuing faith. In short, even as the Holy Spirit continues in history after the glorification and ascension of Christ, so also believers that continue in believing continue in history and beyond, through the new life provided by the Holy Spirit and Christ.

(2). Jesus always aware of the most basic needs of humanity for abundant life and everlasting life, and with God the Father, uses all analogies, parables, and metaphors and illustrations such as "thirst", "living water", "bread", "meat", "shepherd", and more to describe both the basic needs of man and how Christ was ordained by God the Father as the means of meeting those basic needs.

(3). The Holy Spirit, as the third member of the Trinity, was appointed by God to provide a continuity to the work of Christ on earth, coming almost immediately after the Ascension of Christ and on the first day of Pentecost after the resurrection and ascension of Christ, to continue the work of Christ on earth until His withdrawal from earth near the end of the Falling Away. (II Thessalonians 2:7)

a. The Holy Spirit, third member of the trinity was present at Creation just like Christ, the former as the spirit brooding on the face of the deep (Genesis 1:2) and the latter as the mediating cause of Creation, "all things were made through him" (John 1:3).

b. The Holy Spirit is the "alter ego" or other self of Christ, thus later in John Christ teaches in the most exhaustive teachings from Jesus we have in the Bible of John 14-16, that it was better for all disciples and apostles that Christ went back to heaven; because once in heaven and at the right hand of God the Father, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to take His place on earth, and the Spirit could be every place at once and would continue unabated in both His work and the binding of Satan until removed by God the Father near the end of the Falling Away {which by the way is what loosed Satan for the final work of the falling away as the Spirit would no longer be on earth to convict the world of sin, or righteousness, and of judgment}.

c. You can pretty well number the period of the "last days" of the Bible, starting with the historical coming of the Holy Spirit in great power and presence

on the first day of Pentecost after the Ascension of Christ, and going to the withdrawal of the Holy Spirit from earth with the subsequent release from bondage of Satan to do his final dirty work, with this Coming and Withdrawal of the Holy Spirit from earth. After this, there is only a little time left! "

(4). Jesus, as John also records earlier than John 7 and in John 4, previously taught about the "living water".

a. As a gift from God. (John 4:10)

"...you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water".

b. As unlike ordinary water, is a water that quenches the eternal thirst forgo and personal life with God, now and eternally (John 4:13,14).

"...the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life..." (John 4:14)

1-8: The "With the Holy Spirit" in this book, like in John, not incidental.

Perhaps it has not been stated sufficiently enough, but the gist of this book on BIBLE REPORTS FOR BELIEVING has always been and continues to be a gist of "with the Holy Spirit". Even as Scarborough has written the well-known book of WITH CHRIST AFTER THE LOST, so this much lesser known book of BIBLE REPORTS FOR BELIEVING has been "with the Holy Spirit" in seeking believers to continue to believe; for it is only by continuing to believe that the reciprocity of God is for the Spirit, the real new birth, and salvation with everlasting life. It is not also incidental that very prevalent distortions and misunderstandings on the new birth as a 9 month process also come with misunderstandings on the work and functions, even history and place, of the Holy Spirit. {The biggest distortion is by those who would make a baptism of the Spirit as a third step and as independent of the act of believing, failing to recognize the consistent teaching of the Bible that the "one baptism" of the Bible is the one salvation, that which comes with a real new birth and from believing. It is no second blessing, only the first and lasting, continuity of believing; although it may require 9 months.}

The gist of this book on BIBLE REPORTS FOR BELIEVING with the continuous supplement of "With the Holy Spirit" is actually a better description of Bible

teachings on evangelism than the WITH CHRIST AFTER THE LOST; or at least it is a more thorough description of evangelism according to the Bible, as to be with Christ in the passing out of BIBLE REPORTS FOR BELIEVING is the same as to be working with the Holy Spirit, especially when you consider that the Holy Spirit was sent by the Father and the Son to take His place and do His work here on earth until near the end of the Falling Away.

1. John, always so precise in the listing and description of his purpose for writing a Gospel, is equally as faithful to reflect the teachings of Jesus on the work and purpose of the Holy Spirit on earth with precision in John 14-16. And John does not leave us dangling in John 7:37-39 about the "rivers of living water", mentioned in John 7:38, then explained as an internal work of the Holy Spirit in John 7:39, "But this He spoke concerning the Spirit..."

2. Jesus prayed in the Garden that all disciples would have another Helper or Comforter, an alter ego or other Christ, to be with them and help them after His Ascension. (John 14:16)

3. This Holy Spirit abides with believers and in believers "forever". (14:16)

4. This Holy Spirit is the "Spirit of truth" even more so that Satan is the spirit of the lie. (14:17)

5. Only believers can "receive" and "know" this Spirit of Truth, never the world, the children of the world, which is another way to describe unbelievers. (14:17)

6. The work of the Holy Spirit is a triple location of work: (1) inside any believer that continues in belief (John 14:17); (2) beside the continuing believer as a Helper or Comforter; and (3) to work with the rest of the world to convict of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment (16:8-11).

7. With great detail, John tells of the teachings of Jesus on "with the Holy Spirit" in John 14:26 as again he calls the Holy Spirit "the Helper", then telling how He will (1) teach believers all things {the spreading breakdown in "sound doctrine" of the Bible today is due to both a lack of reliance on the Spirit for teaching and a lack of even the initial presence of the Spirit in believers with a real long range 9 month new birth}; and (2) bring to remembrance in the mind and heart the teachings and commandments of Jesus, and once again the increasing failure of this to happen in the lives of church members, whereby they more habitually take

the name of God in vain rather than to remember the teachings of Jesus against blasphemy of the name of God, is because the Holy Spirit does not continue to abide with them and in them!

8. You can tell by what continually flows out of the mouth of a church member whether the Holy Spirit with life is continuing to flow like a river of living water out of their heart; for even as Jesus also taught, "it is what comes out of the heart of man that defiles him" (Matthew 15:11), so Pastor James in the book of James echoed teachings of Jesus when he wrote of how both "bitter and sweet" should not come out of the same mouth of believers, the bitter whereby they take the name of God in vain and disrespect and the sweet whereby they falsely claim to be Christians or believers. And the more habitually the taking of the name of God in vain, the less flows the rivers of living water!

9. Since the job of the Holy Spirit in the wider world of all people in the world was appointed to be and has been since the first day of Pentecost after the Ascension, to convict the world of sin and righteousness and of judgment (John 16:8-11); and since this is what has bound Satan since that beginning of the "last days", to be released from this bondage near the end of the Falling Away (II Thessalonians 2:7), then near the end of the Falling Away and simultaneously with a visible on the man of Sin, perhaps Osama Bin Laden, we will see a spike on top of the continuing rise of the tide of lawlessness and sin, a spike on the rising tide of the "mystery of lawlessness" of II Thessalonians 2:7). Goodness, do we not see that spike already; and except for all these Pentecostals that still speak in unknown tongues, we would be inclined to think that already we are seeing that spike, the man of sin, the final days of the Falling Away, and the withdrawal of the Holy Spirit from earth. {How foolish are those fundamentalists who claim a rapture independent of the final Second Coming of Christ, and a foolish doctrine that the Holy Spirit is withdrawn from earth with that rapture!}

10. Christians of continuing faith today have more benefits and advantages than the first disciples and apostles in that it is better to have the help of the Holy Spirit, the other Christ, than of Christ Himself like the first disciple had. (John 16:7)

11. Even as the "intolerance toward sound doctrine" in churches today and among Christians, especially the taking of God's name in vain and bad doctrine on marriage and divorce, is a bad sign of how deep American churches are presently

into the Falling Away, so also faithfulness to the truth by a few overcomers in churches today is a sign, although perhaps already withdrawn from His work in the world on earth, that the Holy Spirit is still present in a few Christians on earth to "guide you into all truth". (John 16:13)

12. Again called "the Spirit of truth", truth and spiritual reality in churches and among Christians is directly proportional to the presence and control in some number of church members of this Holy Spirit; and to be inversely reflected in the "turning away from truth" of backsliding and the final stages of the Falling Away. "He will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13).

13. The Holy Spirit, like Christ did while on earth, speaks truth according to the authority of God and consistent with the teachings of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (John 16:13).

14. The harder sayings of the Bible (John 16:12) later revealed through the Holy Spirit to the writing apostles of the Bible, and like Prophets before them, and which through this inspiration of the Holy Spirit brought us the Scriptures as a standard of both the authority and teachings of God, came with the work of the Holy Spirit in the writing of the Bible. The authority of God, the authority of Christ, and the authority of the Spirit or the authority of Truth, is in the authority of the Bible.

15. Things to come, or eschatology, was also the work of the Holy Spirit, as for example in the book of Revelation, the Holy Spirit and the Ascended Christ worked to record many of those prophetic predictions (John 16:13). While Revelation is complete, the writing of the 66 books of the Bible through the Spirit of truth, and therefore truth of God and from God is complete, there is much left to do in individual lives and churches of "illumination" of this truth.

1-9: The "As the Scripture has said" of John 7:38 refers to Jeremiah.

In other words, "rivers of living water" were predicted in Jeremiah and explained in Jeremiah. At least 4 of the approximately 7 times "fountains" or "rivers of living waters" is mentioned in the Bible, it is found in the book of Jeremiah. You may wonder why you will find this same chapter or message or Bible Study in both BIBLE REPORTS FOR BELIEVING and "Bible Studies in Jeremiah and Prophecy";

well, the answer is that it is part of the message and prophecy of both books, the Gospel of John (John 7:37-39) and the book of Jeremiah.

1. References of "Living Water" in other Old Testament books.

(1). Song of Solomon 4:15.

"A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon."

(2). Zechariah 14:8.

"And in that day {the ONE day of the LORD and Lord of the Bible, at the Second Coming of Christ} it shall be that living waters shall flow from Jerusalem {the new Jerusalem lowered down from heaven}...in both summer and winter it shall occur {in other words "forever"}. And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be--'The LORD is one, and His name one.'"

NOTE: This positive statement of God and doctrine about God, especially the "King over all the earth" will resound in your ears as shortly we look at a similar positive statement of faith in God as the river or fountain of living waters from Jeremiah 10:10.

2. Truth and Truths on "Rivers of Living Water" from the book of Jeremiah.

(1). God calls Himself 'the fountain {or river} of living waters" (Jeremiah 2:13); identifying that the people of two generations, that of Jeremiah and the one near the end of the falling away have forsaken Him as that "fountain of living waters", most generally called "backsliding" in Jeremiah although also the last two stages of five of the Falling Away; and that God's own people make for themselves "broken cisterns", alias many substitutes for salvation, true religion, and everlasting life, that "can hold no water", or as we would say in the jargon of today, other gods which "will not hold water"; further that if you would summarize the two evils of God's own people, by the way on only the two generations in history of Jeremiah and at the end of the Falling Away, it would generalize as two major evils: (a) the forsaking of this fountain of living waters; and (b) substituting other gods of broken cisterns for the only God.

"For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns--broken cisterns that can hold no water." (Jeremiah 2:13)

(2). A very positive statement of faith in the One, Living, and True God, as of course contrasted to idols, is made in Jeremiah 10:10, introduced and prefaced with the customs and traditions of many people of the world today and even of God's people whereby they go through the process of a life style that substitutes over idols of loyalty and control for the One God. You perhaps have read the prefacing story of how a man cuts down a tree from the forest, how he warms himself and feeds himself with the fire, and then uses the leftovers of the tree to fashion out a god that can not speak, that he can control and worship. Hardly do we stop to think that the admonition of the first commandment is not only to "have no other gods before Me" but also not to make any false or graven image of the real and true God, which would include a mental or a physical false image of God.

"But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth will tremble, and the nations will not be able to endure His indignation." (Jeremiah 10:10)

(3). The third use of God in Jeremiah as "the fountain of living waters" both echoes the primary theme of Jeremiah, of how God's own people have forsaken and backsliding from Him, and further expands on how (a) "He is the LORD", (b) the only hope for Israel or any peoples, and (c) how any that forsake this One true God like God's people of Jeremiah and the end of time, shall be "ashamed", "ashamed" very generally as you know in the rest of the Bible as synonymous with a lack of faith.

"O LORD, the hope of Israel, all who forsake You shall be ashamed. Those who depart from Me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters." (Jeremiah 17:13)

(4). The last and fourth mention of "living God" is without living water, and is primarily about perversion of the Word of God, or "oracles of God"; however, it is more about the living water coming out of the mouth as well as the heart as the living water of faith and believing turns into the democratic prophesy predicted by John 7:38, Joel 2:28-32 and Acts 2:16-21, and the prophesy very adequately described in I Corinthians 14 {by the way contrasted to the words, dreams, special

revelations, and oracles of the religious professionals of today and of Jeremiah where all the official prophets and priests were defunct and deceitful, also only "healing the hurt of the people slightly"}.

"And the oracle of the LORD you shall mention no more. For every man's word will be his oracle, for you have perverted the words of the living God, the LORD of hosts, our God." (Jeremiah 23:36)