

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
**I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.***

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

#03-09173

A Sea Change #4

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Again, a sea change refers either to “**a change brought about by the sea,**” that is, a change by a literal body of water called the sea, or “**a great change, transformation, or alteration,**” regardless of the source or cause.

In the previous issue, I shared on a seventh sea change, not involving a literal sea but involving the glory of God that will fill the earth as the waters cover the sea. Glory is a tremendous sea change; however, it is a reflection or a mirror of the greatest sea change of all that is coming in God’s Day. It is the consummation of all sea changes; it is the sea change of **LIFE**.

(1) Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, (2) in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. (3) There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; (4) they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. (5) And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever [the eons of the eons]. (Revelation 22:1-5 NASB [CV])

There is much that could be discussed in these verses, but I will leave it for the series on New Jerusalem. However, even a cursory understanding of John’s vision reveals that he saw a tremendous sea change.

At first blush, one might counter that the change comes about by a river, not a sea. This is true, for the Greek word for *river* is *potamus*, which might be derived from another Greek word that means “to imbibe or to drink.” As we will see, this sea change is about drinking in the very life of God who is spirit and love and light. John saw a spiritual sea change unlike any before.

Now, here is my interpretation of this great change or transformation: The river of the water of life represents the spirit life of God and of His Son going forth to flood mankind so that all will imbibe in God Himself. This river is not only about New Jerusalem, which represents the holy temple of the Lord, the dwelling of God *in spirit* (Ephesians 2:21-22), but it is about and for all the nations of the new earth. It is for all of mankind to take in, to drink in, or to imbibe.

The river of the water of life will come forth from the throne of God and of the Lambkin to engulf all the earth. In other words, the whole earth will be filled with the life of God and of the Lambkin (i.e., Christ and His wife), just as His glory will fill all creation. Glory and life go hand-in-hand; they are inseparable. The earth itself will become like one great sea. The river will flow out and spread like a great sea until it touches all mankind in the consummation of the eons when God the Father is truly all in all new, and the curse is fully removed, when all forms of death are abolished. See my book *That God May Be All In All New*, January 2009.

We get a glimpse of the river of the water of life becoming a mighty sea change in Ezekiel’s prophecy of the water flowing from under the house of the Lord (Ezekiel 47:1). In the vision given to the ancient prophet, the river became deeper and deeper the further it flowed from the house, until it could not be forded.

(7) Now when I had returned, behold, on the bank of the river there were very many trees on the one side and on the other. (8) Then he said to me, “These waters go out toward the eastern region and go down into the Arabah; then they go toward the sea, being made to flow into the sea, and the waters of the sea become fresh. (9) It will come about that every living creature which swarms in every place where the river goes, will live. And there will be very many fish, for these waters go there and the others become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes. (10) And it will come about that fishermen will stand beside it; from Engedi to Eneglaim there will be a place for the spreading of nets. Their fish will be according to their kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea, very many. (11) But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt. (12) By the river on its bank, on one side and on the other, will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither and their fruit will not fail. They will bear every month because their water flows from the sanctuary, and their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing.” (Ezekiel 47:7-12 NASB)

One would have to be spiritually blind not to see the similarity between the visions of Ezekiel and John. Ezekiel described it as if it were a literal and physical change on earth. However, we must take what is revealed to us according to the old covenant and see it in the light of the new covenant; that is, we need to see it by the spirit of God, **combining spiritual** (thoughts) **with spiritual** (words) (1 Corinthians 2:13).

Ezekiel saw the river of life enlarging and giving life to all that comes in contact with it. Everything will live where the river goes. Notice that this river even flows into the sea to make it fresh. There will no longer be a Dead Sea in which nothing can live due to its salinity. This means that death is no more for all that come in contact with the water of the river of life. The river engulfs the Dead Sea and brings forth a tremendous sea change. This speaks of resurrection life.

The river will produce fish of every kind; there will be very many fish. This brings to mind, the story of the disciples casting their nets, as directed by the resurrected Christ, and their netting of 153 fish (John 21:11), which signifies those who have the life of the Son of God (Matthew 13:47-49). See issue #02-08153, December 30, 2008, *The Number of the Sons of God—153*.

The river will produce all kinds of trees for food. No crop will ever fail to come forth from these fruit trees. Fruit will be plentiful every month of the year because of the water that flows from the sanctuary. The fruit will be for food and the leaves of the trees for healing.

Thus, the river of the water of life that John saw will do likewise. It will engulf all of mankind—engulfing the sea of the dead and bringing forth life for everything that comes in contact with it. The very life of God’s Son will be sustenance for all the nations, for He is **the Bread of Life**. The very life of God’s Son will be healing for all the nations. Also, He is **the Olive Tree** that anoints all with His light, for He is **the Light of the World**. Light itself is the very source of life.

There is only one word to sum up this glorious sea change: **LIFE!** It represents abundant life, the abundant life of the Son of God. Jesus came that all may have life, and have it abundantly (John 10:10). The river of the water of life signifies abundant life.

John was undone by what he heard and saw.

(8) I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. (9) But he said to me, “Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God.” (Revelation 22:8-9 NASB)

How about us? When we consider this sea change, does it undo us? Does it cause us to worship God? Does it cause us to rejoice that Christ is the Savior of all mankind, not exclusively of believers?

And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost. (Revelation 22:17 NASB)

May all imbibe in God and His Son! To God be the glory forever! Amen!