

# Moravians Women's Association

Devotional Paper

October 2017

## The Power of Living Water

Genesis Ch1, Ch2 v 1-4 (only if necessary as you will be familiar with the creation story)

Joshua Ch 1v 9 and Ch 24 v 25

The world had a watery start according to the story of creation. We read in Genesis Ch 1 that “the power of God was moving over the water.” Throughout the Creation Story we read that all that God made was good. His power, His spirit was present in the sea, the sky and the earth. It was present in the plants, the animals, birds and sea creatures. God’s word, this living water, was therefore central to His whole creation, the Garden of Eden and to human beings starting with Adam and Eve. But did Adam and Eve listen to God’s word? No. And the rest as they say is history.

Scientists tell us that over 70% of our bodies are made up of water but then God “breathed life giving breath” into the first man suggesting that 100% of our being contains God’s spirit and His living water, not just 70% as with physical water.

A stream meandered through Eden to water the garden and then flowed into four main rivers; The Pishon, Gihon, Tigris and Euphrates. The Bible stories flow on recounting the disobedience, not only of Adam and Eve but the discord between Cain and Abel and then the escalating evil lifestyle of the peoples that followed. This made God sad and he decided to use water to show His power once more. He sent the great flood destroying all things except the people and animals that had been protected through Noah and his **obedience** to God’s word.

The Old Testament continues through Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, and beyond constantly pointing out that despite the disobedience of man at no time does God abandon His people and His overall plan of caring for His creation. There is always a strong leader to act as mediator. These four books record the life of Moses who spent his life reminding the people of their relationship with God. Even as a baby Moses had a close encounter with water as he was left in a basket in the river and as we know this saved his life. When the Israelites were set free and Moses was leading them out of Egypt God’s power miraculously parts the Red Sea enabling them to pass through. Soon after this, as they are thirsty in the desert, God shows his power once more by turning the bitter water into acceptably drinking water (Exodus Ch 15 v 22-25). Again when thirsty in the desert the people complain to Moses and he prays to God for help. Help comes when he strikes the rock and drinking water gushes forth (Exodus Ch17 v 1-6). Water is often used to show God’s power. Even though the Israelites were discouraged, afraid or rebellious God’s faithful, persistent care never left them. God never failed to showed his mercy and love for individuals or groups, when they realised the error of their ways and were sorry. There was always hope for the future whether it be in the form of a rainbow or the covenant made with Abraham.

In the Book of Joshua God’s word flows on under new leadership. One of Joshua’s first jobs is to cross the Jordan River and conquer the land of Canaan – a task indeed! But God says to Joshua “Don’t be afraid or discouraged, for I, the Lord your God, am with you wherever you go”. (Ch1 v 9) Later in Ch 24 v 25 we read that again God made a covenant with Joshua on behalf of the people.

God’s word that started as a stream in the Garden of Eden is now set on its course sometimes gushing over one rock after another and at other times lapping gently round

stones in a calm pool, being passed through the generations strengthening, comforting, leading and guiding those willing to follow its teaching. We can receive that hope today. We can receive that word today - that “living water” - offered unconditionally by a loving caring God. Are we willing to accept it?

For Discussion

1. Do you ever feel the task ahead is too great? How do you react?
2. I sometime find it hard to pass on this “living water” to others. Do you?
3. What was in your music collection this month?

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