

figure is a comparison simply with something that is just in the spiritual world today, or ~~whether~~ whether it is a comparison with something which is physically and literally to exist upon this earth in the ~~future~~ future, in either case, Ps. 1:3, is describing something which exists today. That is to say, there is here today something in the spiritual realm which can be aptly illustrated by the figure of a river exactly like the river described in Ezekiel 47 and in Revelation 22. ~~Our~~ Our present purpose is neither to affirm nor to deny the river literally in the future, but to say that ~~is~~ is a good figure of ~~something~~ something that exists today, which can be better understood if we take the comparison of it to a great river, exactly as described there. Now this is very important to us if our lives are to be such that God will be pleased with them. If we are to be the righteous ones who he desires to have in this age, the ones who will serve Him effectively, we must have the first Psalm illustrated in our lives, and this 3rd verse here is I think a very important verse in this Psalm. We must be like trees planted by the rivers of water, so immediately we ask ourselves, what about these rivers of water? Can we learn more about them by looking at these other passages and by considering this passage carefully. The first thing I'd like to look at about it is the question of the source of the stream. What river is it that we should be planted by? Well, does it matter what river it is we are planted by? One day I was out in Colorado many years ago, and I walked over a ridge of mountains and I came down into a little valley. Up in the high mountains it was, this valley in the mountains with two ridges on both sides, and I came down into this valley, and walking up there where there was no water at all, and I got down here and I was rather thirsty, and there was a good size stream ~~flowing~~ flowing down, and a few houses down here. It was an old ghost ~~town~~ town, mining town used years ago, and practically abandoned, a few people living, but hardly.... And so I stepped up to the water, and put my cup down, and took it up, and started to take a drink, and I found it tasted rather bitter. And I thought, now that's strange. Usually a mountain stream is fresh and clear, but I tasted a little, and I thought I'll hold my thirst in check a little bit, and see if there is some other place I can get water. Well, I found ..., ~~if~~ it looked very much like rain, so ~~I found a shell~~