

I wanted shelter and I found an abandoned house there, and I went into it and I spread out my sleeping bag ~~and~~ on the floor there and prepared to spend the remaining hour or two of the afternoon, and spend the night there. And soon a man came walking by and he ~~stepped in and~~ spoke to me/. I found he was a mining engineer who lived a little way up the road there, and we chatted in very friendly ~~frank~~ fashion, and just as he was going to leave me, I rather hesitantly asked him, I said, Say, this mountain stream here is all right to drink of course, ~~isn't~~ isn't it? Oh, he says, that stream comes out ~~thru~~ through some old mines, and he said, there's a little bit of arsenic and a little bit of mercury in it. He said, If you don't drink too much of it it won't kill you, but ~~he~~ he said, You might feel rather uncomfortable for a day or two. I'd recommend you don't drink it. And he told me where I could find another source of water.

Now, it is very important to us, if our lives are going to be worth while, what is the source of the stream from which we receive our sustenance? Is it the right stream? Is it bringing us something which may be a very good chemical in certain circumstances, but which is not what we need, or isn't the source that does indeed bring us what we need.

Now we do not find anything in the first Psalm that ~~he~~ speaks about the ~~first~~ source of this. He is like a tree planted by the rivers of water. ~~What~~ But we find very definite statements in Ezekiel and in Revelation 22 about the source of the stream which they describe. Ezekiel 47.1 said that "waters issued forth from under the threshold of the house eastward, for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house at the south side of the altar." It comes from the temple of God from the south side of the altar. Now Rev. 22 is perhaps a little bit clearer. It says, "He showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal (You see again why I wanted that second verse of the hymn, with the wording 'crystal waters flow'), proceeding out of the throne of God and of the lamb. Now both of these chapters describe a rather unusual place for the waters to start, and I think surely the reason for that is that they are not simply describing to us a specific literal event to take place in the future, but are ~~also~~ also giving us