

# SYMBOLS OF WATER IN THE BIBLE

By Stephen Xu

## 1. The World Made of Water

- "For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed **out of water and by water**, through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water." (2 Peter 3:5-6, emphasis added)

- "The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over **the surface of the waters.**" (Genesis 1:2, emphasis added)

## 2. God's Word

- "Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born of water** [that is, born of the Word of God] and **the Spirit** [that is, born of the Spirit of God] he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.'" (John 3:5, emphasis and notes added)

- "Jesus answered and said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of **the water that I will give him** [that is, the Word of God with the dwelling of the Holy Spirit] shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him **a well of water springing up to eternal life** [the Word of God gives us eternal life].'" (John 4:10-15, emphasis and notes added)

- "... So that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by **the washing of water with the word** [of God]." (Ephesians 5:26, emphasis and notes added)

## 3. God's Salvation

- Baptism through immersion into water symbolizes **cleansing of hearts and conscience:**

"Let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts **sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water** (Hebrews 10:22, emphasis added); "... baptism now saves you -- not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but **an appeal to God for a good conscience** -- through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 3: 20-21, emphasis added)

- "This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not **with the water** [to cleanse us] only, but with the water **and with the blood** [to save us]. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: **the Spirit and**

the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement." (1 John 5:6-8, emphasis and notes added)

#### 4. Spiritual Needs & Refreshment

- "As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for You, O God." (Psalm 42:1, emphasis added)

#### 5. God's Blessings and Nourishment

- "Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will shout for joy, for **waters** will break forth in the wilderness, and **streams** in the Arabah. The scorched land will become a **pool** and the thirsty ground **springs of water**; In the haunt of jackals, its resting place, grass becomes reeds and rushes." (Isaiah 35:6-7, emphasis added)

- "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. 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.**" (Ezekiel 47:8-9, emphasis added)

#### 6. God's Promise & Unfailing Love

- "God said, 'This is **the sign of the covenant** which I am making between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all successive generations; I set **My bow** in the cloud, and it shall be for **a sign of a covenant** between Me and the earth. It shall come about, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that **the bow** will be seen in the cloud, and I will remember **My covenant**, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and never again shall the water become a flood to destroy all flesh. When **the bow** is in the cloud, then I will look upon it, to remember **the everlasting covenant** between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.'" (Genesis 9:12-16, emphasis added)

#### 7. Other Uses of Water:

- **Cleansing of Body: Leviticus 11:32; 16:4; 17:15; 22:6; Numbers 19:7; Exodus 30:18; 40:7**
- **Cleansing of Sacrifices: Exodus 29:4; Leviticus 1:9; 6:28; 14:5**