

My Loved Ones:

God says in Psalm 46:4, "There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, / The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High."

The Ohio River Valley provides incredible lushness for all of the plants as well as water for the abundance of wildlife, and the people who live here. I'm always fascinated with the trees that grow right beside the Ohio River to keep the soil on the bank from eroding, but also at how incredibly large they grow. And yes, the Ohio River provides such a lush, garden-like environment, that the humidity is something to contend with when it runs down your back like Niagara in the summer!

Ps 46:4 contrasts with Ps 46:3 which mentions flood waters that are destructive and threaten existence. God's point is that in contrast to the destructive and difficult situations that we all face sometimes every day, He provides for His people a refreshing source of water for our very souls.

It reminds us of the Garden of Eden which had four rivers converging around it to keep the place lush.

This idea of a river providing refreshment and all that we need for growth is also found in Ps 1:2, 3. The Lord says that if our delight is in God's Word, and if we meditate in His Word, we will be like trees planted by rivers: we will be bearing fruit for God (a reference to fruit of the Spirit and other fruit for the Lord), that we will not be in lean withering times, but will prosper. Even if it doesn't rain for quite some time, the tree planted by the Ohio River is going to still prosper like it's supposed to.

This truth reminds us of the contrast in Je 17:5-10 which mentions the desert scrub brush contrasted with the trees planted by the river. It's an illustration of a deeper truth that passage says. Those who do not trust in the Lord are like the desert scrub bush: lean, brittle, and tossed by the wind. Those who trust in the Lord are like the tree by the water: strong, stable and nourished.

The Bible also says in Revelation that there is a river in the New Jerusalem that flows there by the Tree of Life.

Loved ones, in our lean times of difficulty, we must be meditating on God and His Word which teaches us to trust Him to provide all that we need. When we do this, we find that we will be secretly nourished and built up, even though everything else around us may be dry and barren. We don't have to allow the Covid-19 circumstance to dictate how we really are on the inside. God Himself can sustain us and make us glad in Him.

May we meditate on His Word, see Him in the Word, and trust Him as a result today.

We love you very much and are praying for you today.