

WATER OF LIFE







The Bible uses the imagery of water and thirst to point us to a deeper spiritual reality of our spiritual longings that can only be satisfied by God.



Psalm
42:1-2

As the deer pants for streams
of water, so my soul pants for
you, my God. My soul thirsts
for God, for the living God.
When can I go and meet with
God?



Psalm
63:1

You, God, are my God,
earnestly I seek you; I thirst for
you, my whole being longs for
you, in a dry and parched
land where there is no water.



Genesis
3:6

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.



Jen Pollock Michel

(Teach Us to Want)

We simply can't ignore desire. Like a heartbeat, desire pulses steadily in the backdrop of our lives. We may not always be aware of the work desire is doing, and yet it provides much of the necessary energy on which we rely. We get out of bed, go to work, get to the gym, marry (or not), have babies (or not), write books—follow Jesus—because in some measure, we want to. Desire is primal: to be human is to want. ... Every sin is a form of spiritual adultery, and this reveals that desire is at the center of

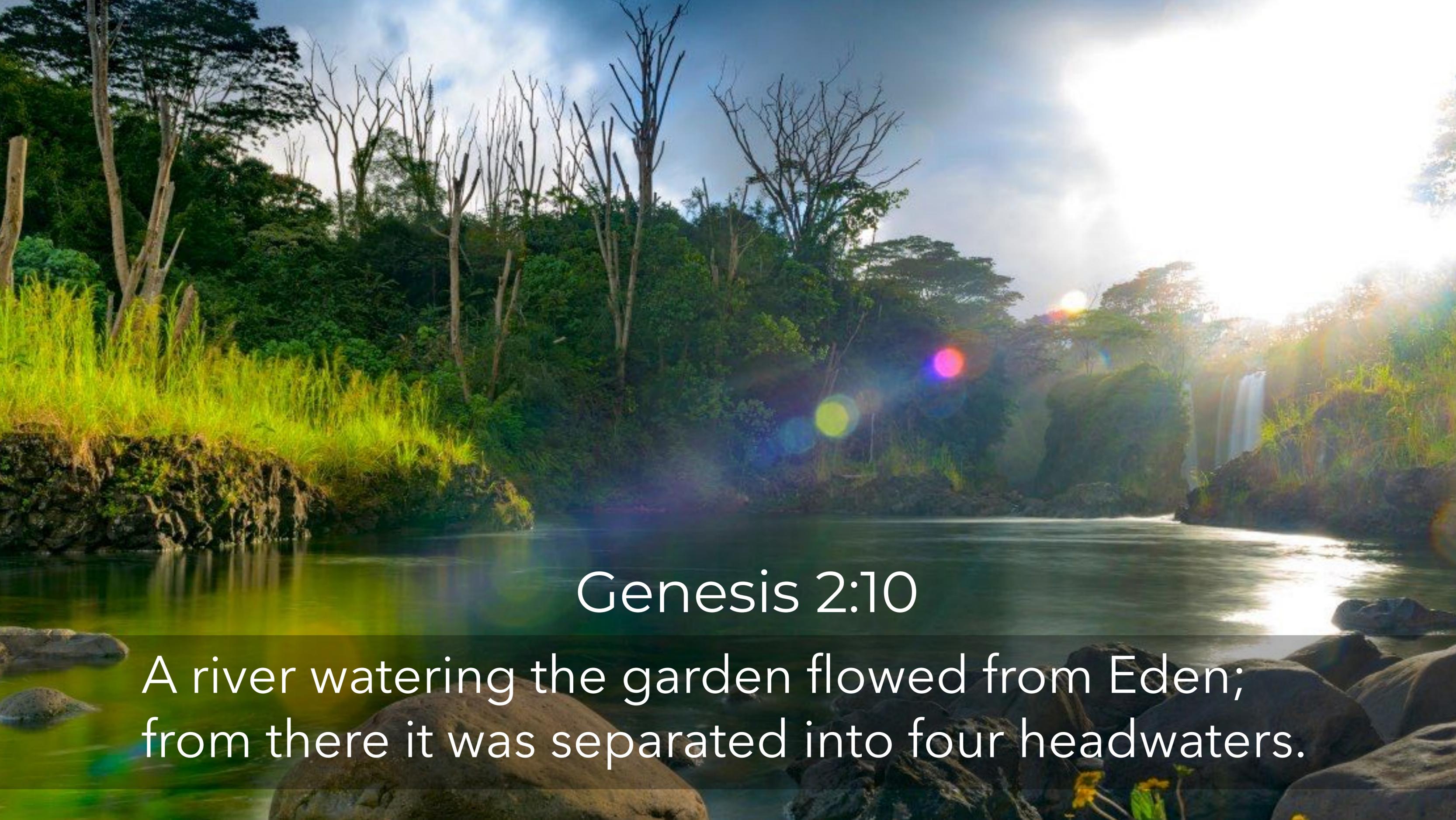


Jen
Pollock
Michel

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our spiritual formation and transformation. We are not merely cognitive beings whose greatest need is to think rightly about God. Change is not determined merely by having the right information. This fails to explain what it means to be human. ... We orient our lives not according to our belief systems or worldview, but according to our desires. Every decision, big and small, is value-driven, and consciously or subconsciously, we are pursuing what we love and value.

If our thirst represents the unquenchable longing in every human heart, then water symbolizes the abundant life of satisfaction that God alone provides.



Genesis 2:10

A river watering the garden flowed from Eden;
from there it was separated into four headwaters.



Psalm
1:1-3

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers.









Ezekiel
47:7-9,12

When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river. He said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, where it enters the Dead Sea. When it empties into the sea, the salty water there becomes fresh. Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this



Ezekiel
47:7-9,12

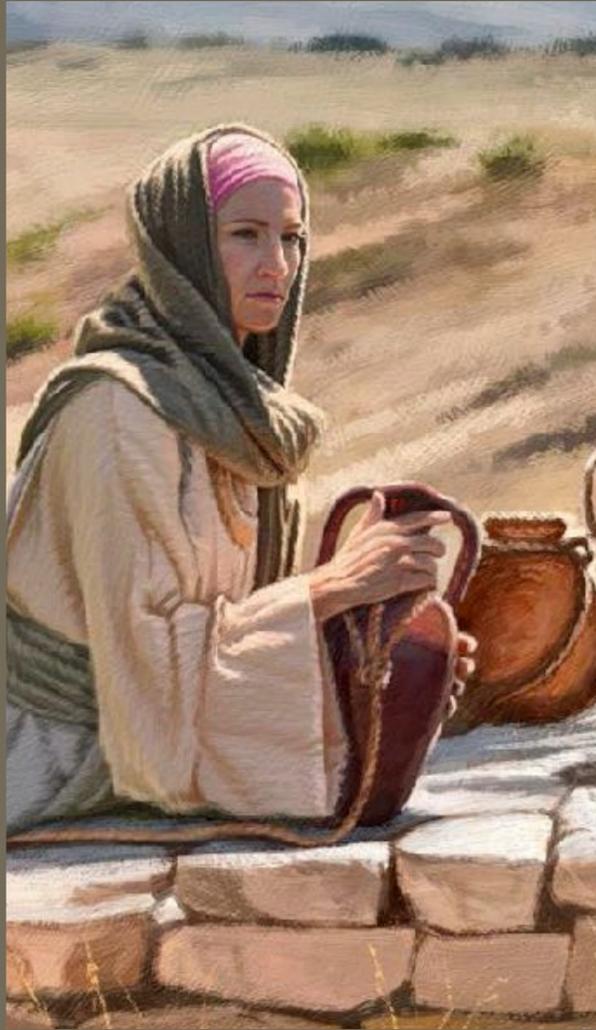
water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. ... Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing."



John
4:9-10

The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."



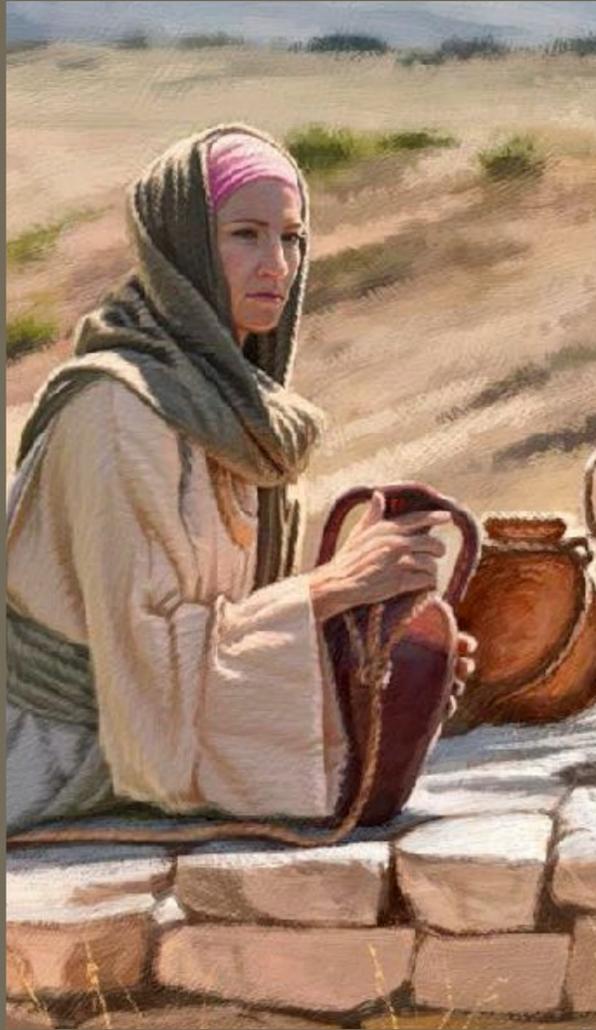
John
4:11-12

"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"



John
4:13-14

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."



John
4:15

The woman said to him,
“Sir, give me this water so
that I won’t get thirsty and
have to keep coming here
to draw water.”



John 4:16

He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."



John
4:17-18

"I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."



John
4:21-24

“Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers



John
4:21-24

the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."

John
7:37-39

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Tim
Keller

(Counterfeit Gods)

Every human being must live for something. Something must capture our imaginations, our heart's most fundamental allegiance and hope. But, the Bible tells us, without the intervention of the Holy Spirit, that object will never be God himself.

Galatians
5:16-18,
22-25

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Galatians
5:16-18,
22-25

... But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.



Amy Simpson

*(Blessed Are the
Unsatisfied)*

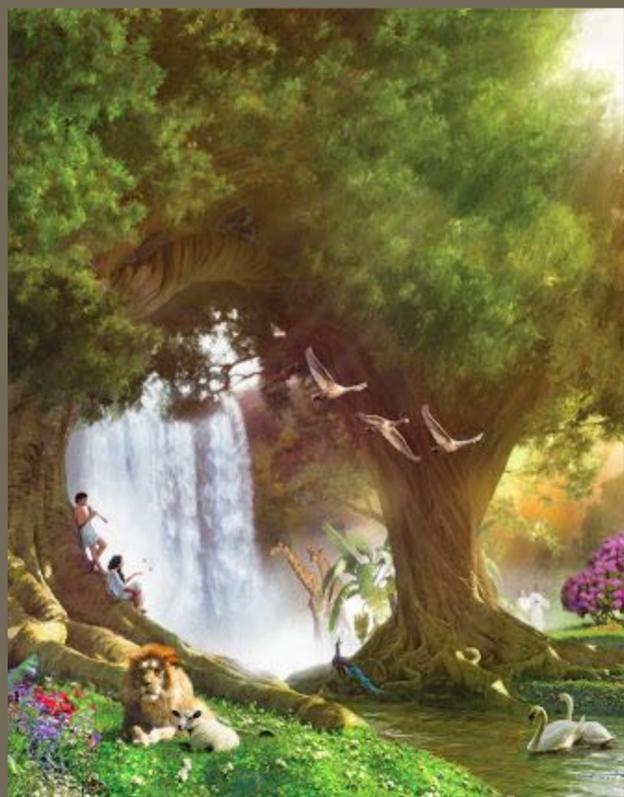
For dissatisfied people, no amount is enough. No thing is adequate. No person is acceptable. Everything falls short because dissatisfied people either expect too much or simply refuse to be pleased. Their orientation toward the world is either insatiable consumption or a permanent and cynical emotional closure brought on by chronic disappointment. Dissatisfaction is an active—sometimes even purposeful—absence, rejection, or refusal of satisfaction in a context where satisfaction is expected. It breeds discontentment, contempt, and a feeling of emptiness. And it is miserable.



Amy
Simpson

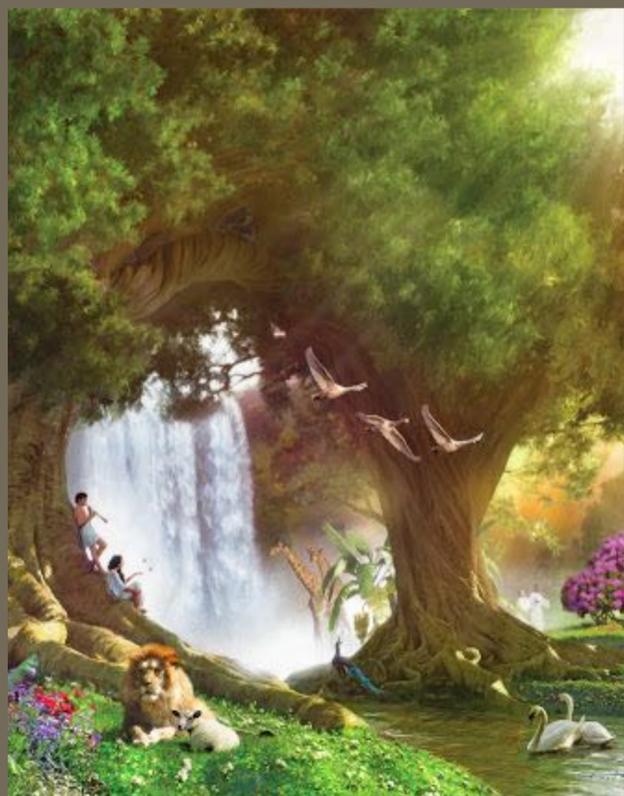
*(Blessed Are the
Unsatisfied)*

... While dissatisfaction implies either rejection or frustrated pursuit of satisfaction, unsatisfaction is something more like acceptance combined with anticipation. It is acknowledgment of desire without the demand that it be satisfied—a kind of openness that doesn't ask for closure. It is desire that can live with deferral, an embrace of the God-shaped vacuum in us and a commitment to stop trying to make it full, a healthy hunger that is content to wait for the feast.



Revelation 22:1-5

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse.



Revelation 22:1-5

The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

SUMMARY:

The Bible uses the imagery of water and thirst to point us to a deeper spiritual reality of our spiritual longings that can only be satisfied by God.