

Journey Through The Cities of Refuge

Lesson #14

God: Source Of Water; Source of Life: Gihon Spring

April 22, 2026

Connection between: Gihon Spring, Shaft, Hezekiah's Tunnel, Fountain Gate, Pool of Siloam, Feast of Tabernacles

Jerusalem, chosen by God as His city as a symbol of eternal reality, [I Kings 14:21] is over 5,000 years old. God chose it as a symbol of weakness to confound the wise.

- Human wisdom would have never chosen Jerusalem.
- It had no great attributes; no great river or minerals.
- It was not on a sea front or on the trade route.

Digging Up Jerusalem, K.M. Kenyon: The original city of David, surrounded on three sides by valleys, was easily defended. Nevertheless, despite strong fortifications, Jerusalem had no permanent water supply within her protective walls. The ancient city had only one reliable, perennial water source — the Gihon Spring, located in the Kidron Valley, outside and below the defensive walls. It was the city's source of life and vital to the existence of Jerusalem.

- Gihon > LXX; to gush; a bursting forth

God's Continuous Provision [The "Gushing" Spring]: The name Gihon means "bursting forth," highlighting God's constant, abundant provision that sustains life in arid places.

It symbolizes a refreshing, consistent source of life rather than a stagnant one.

The Jebusites & The Gihon Spring

From the times of the Canaanites [circa 1800 BCE] until the Second Temple period, the main water source, the Gihon Spring, was located outside of the city walls.

Approximately 3,800 years ago [around the time of Abraham], the ancient Jebusites built a fortress which jutted outside the city wall on top of the source of the Gihon Spring.

To protect it, they closed the entrance to the Spring and cut a vertical shaft [Warren's Shaft] to access the water. This shaft provided them secure access to a permanent water supply from behind their fortress walls.

The Jebusites were in the land during the time of Joshua and controlled Jerusalem.

- original inhabitants > Jebus, old name for Jerusalem > Josh: 18:28

Under Joshua, the Israelites were never able to drive them out and inhabit Jerusalem.

Jebusites & King David

400 years passed from Joshua until King David.

He captured the city from the Jebusites 3,000 years ago and made it the capital of Israel.

II Sam. 5:8 When King David went to conquer the city for Israel, he promised command of his military to that soldier who could scale the shaft and get Israel's forces inside the city walls.

I Chron. 11:6 And Joab the son of Zeruiah went up first and became chief.

David's men entered the city of Jebus by stealth, climbing up through the aforementioned water tunnel [II Sam. 5:6-10; I Chron. 11:4-9].

Joab's feat in climbing the 50-foot shaft must have been considerable.

Gihon Spring: A Place of Anointing & New Beginnings
King David & The Gihon Spring

Point of Interest: The Gihon was a place of ceremonial & strategic importance.

- It was chosen as the proper place to anoint Solomon as David's successor.
I Kings 1:33, 38, 45

A 10th century palace coup was thwarted.

- David's 4th son, Adonijah, declared himself king without David's knowledge.

I Kings 1:5 About that time David's son Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith, began boasting, "I will make myself king." So he provided himself with chariots and charioteers and recruited fifty men to run in front of him.

- Bathsheba & Nathan revealed the secret to King David who ordered Nathan, the prophet, and Zadok, the priest, to take Solomon, his 2nd son with Bathsheba to the Gihon Spring and anoint Solomon as King.

Key: Once Nathan, Zadok, and Benaiah [fearless warrior, priest and head of David's mighty men] the highest leaders in the land, stood before David, it was time for the real king to begin his ascension.

Significant: Solomon is anointed at the Gihon Spring.

- The location where the tent for the Ark of the Covenant was erected.
- Solomon would be anointed before God.
- The oil and the trumpet used in the tent were used to appoint & announce the king.

King Hezekiah & King Sennacherib Of Assyria

During the 8th century BC, Assyria was the dominant power of the ancient Near East and was intent on expansion. In 722 BC, Samaria, the capital of the northern Kingdom of Israel, had been attacked and all but destroyed by Assyrian invaders.

- Many Israelites had been taken into captivity.

When Hezekiah became king, Judah was already a vassal of Assyria. Owed tribute money In 701 BC, King Sennacherib of Assyria invaded Judah and began a march toward Jerusalem.

- Jerusalem came under siege by King Sennacherib of Assyria who demanded tribute money and boasted he would capture Jerusalem.
- Hezekiah made a stand and refused to pay the annual tribute.
- Since Hezekiah had entered into a league with Egypt, he expected them to come to his aid. But they did not come. [Isa. 30-31; 36:6-9]

II Kings 18:13-16 Now in the 14th year of king Hezekiah did Sennacherib, king of Assyria, come up against all the fenced cities of Judah and took them. [701 BC] Sennacherib and the Assyrians had taken 46 fortified cities in Judah.

They settled in Lachish [30 miles southwest] to plan the siege and capture of Jerusalem. Initial Action [Bribe]: Hezekiah first tried to settle the crisis by paying tribute to Sennacherib with silver and gold from the temple.

¹⁴ And Hezekiah king of Judah sent messengers to the king of Assyria to Lachish, saying, I have done wrong. Withdraw from me: whatever you impose on me I will endure." And the king of Assyria imposed on Hezekiah king of Judah 300 talents of silver and 30 talents of gold.

And Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasures of the king's house.

¹⁶ Hezekiah even stripped the gold from the doors of the LORD's Temple and from the doorposts he had overlaid with gold, and he gave it all to the Assyrian king.
➤ Sennacherib withdrew from Judah, but he had every intention of returning.

701 BC In preparation for the impending siege by King Sennacherib of Assyria, King Hezekiah rebuilt Jerusalem's fortifications, made weapons, built storehouses and carved the famous underground tunnel to ensure that Jerusalem would have water.

II Chron. 32:2-8 King Hezekiah prepares Jerusalem for a siege by Assyrian King Sennacherib by sealing off outside water sources and reinforcing city walls. He boosts morale by urging the people to trust in God, distinguishing between the Assyrians' "arm of flesh" and God's superior power, causing the people to gain confidence.

Hezekiah's first thought was to protect Judah's source of water—the Gihon Spring.

Problem: How can we block the enemy's access to the fountain? How can we secure continual access to the fountain's water for the inhabitants of Jerusalem inside the walls?

Constructed roughly 3,000 years ago, Hezekiah's Tunnel is one of Jerusalem's most incredible landmarks. Even by today's standards, the construction of this 1,750 feet subterranean passageway is an extraordinary feat of engineering.

Purpose of Tunnel: Fortify the City of David against the invading Assyrian armies without compromising its main water source, the Gihon Spring, which lay outside the walls.

➤ It would have provided ample water for the sieging Assyrians.

Hezekiah's Plan:

1. Hezekiah stopped the channel of the Gihon Spring that sent water outside the City of David.
2. He built a new water system to divert the water underground, leading it westward to the Siloam Pool at the bottom of the City of David inside the city walls.
3. He had his engineers redirect the water by carving a 1,750-foot water tunnel through solid rock. [~6 football fields]

4. To cut this channel, workers began tunneling through the rock on either end, until they met—
incredibly—not only in the middle, but also at a perfect gradient to facilitate the flow of
water.

Inside the tunnel was an engraving called the Siloam Inscription. Discovered in 1880,
this moving inscription documents the story of the tunnel's construction.

The Siloam Inscription:

Carving the tunnel was a monumental task. The snaking channel was cut through solid bedrock by
laborers working from both ends. This bold strategy meant that the tunnel could be
constructed much faster, but it also required exceptional engineering skills.

- The difference in height from start to end is 30 centimeters [11.8 inches]
- The engineers had to keep a very precise, shallow gradient [a mere 11.8" drop over the
entire length] to ensure the water would flow from the spring to the pool without pooling
in the middle.
- This was an amazing feat when you realize that the tunnel was not cut on a straight line
but curves back and forth.

Significant:

- The water from the Gihon Springs, a type of God the Father,
was sent to the Pool of Siloam by cutting through solid rock.

I Cor. 10:4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink:

for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.
God provided life-giving water to us by sending His Son Jesus Christ, the Solid Rock.
This fresh clean water in the Pool of Siloam was called chay/chaim mayim - LIVING WATER.

Gihon Spring & The Pool Of Siloam

In 2004, workers for the Ir David Foundation, an organization that funds many of the
archaeological excavations in the City of David, discovered steps leading down to a lower
trapezoidal-shaped pool called the Pool of Siloam, which is fed with water by a channel from the
Gihon Spring.

- The discovery was the result of a sewage pipe explosion.
- In Jerusalem, they not only send in construction crews but also archaeologists.
- When the construction crew began the work to repair the sewage pipe,
they uncovered a series of ancient stone steps which led down to the Pool of Siloam.

Historical Background

1. The water runs through Hezekiah's Tunnel, which was built ~ 701 BC to prevent
Jerusalem's water source from being cut off by the warring army of the Assyrians.
2. The water source is from the Gihon Spring.
3. It has the same kind of stones and style as the Southern Stairs leading to the Temple.
 - 4 steps, flat; 4 steps, flat; 4 steps, flat, etc.
4. It was the size of two Olympic sized swimming pools.

Not only did they find the steps leading down to the Siloam Pool,
they are uncovering a 200' pool underground with stairs around it.
They have also discovered a road with steps leading from the pool to the Temple.
➤ Road was ~3-5x wider than excavation. Shops/stalls on each side.

The ascent from the Siloam Pool to the Temple is about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile; Pilgrimage Road
➤ Hebrew: Come, Lift Your Feet & Go Up: Must be cleansed to ascend God's Holy Place
➤ Steps lead down to water for purification = sign of humility
➤ Then you ascend the steps into God's presence.

Ps. 24:3-4 Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place?
⁴ He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol,
Nor sworn deceitfully.

Siloam Pool: Water For Purification

The Pool Was More Than Just A Place For Refreshing & Re-hydrating.
It was a mikvah, a public bath for cleansing that rendered the pilgrims ritually pure before they ascended $\frac{1}{4}$ mile on the Jerusalem pilgrim road to the temple mount to worship God.
The clear refreshing water sent from the Gihon Spring to the pool of Siloam was Living Water.
➤ *Gihon* = to gush forth
River = nahar > perennial spring; constantly flowing source of clear, fresh water
Hebrew = chay/chaim mayim = Living Water

The Pool Of Siloam: Water For Healing

John 9:1 And as Jesus passed by, He saw a man which was blind from his birth.
John 9:6 When He had thus spoken, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle,
and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay,
John 9:7 And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, [by interpretation, Sent.]
He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.
Note: Jesus had been at the Temple when He passed by this man born blind. [~1/4 mile]

The Pool of Siloam was a large purification mitzvah for the Jewish holy festivals like the Passover, Feast of Tabernacles, and Pentecost.

- It accommodated thousands of pilgrims journeying to Jerusalem for these 3 required feasts. [Ex. 23:14-17]

The historian, Josephus, who lived during the time of Christ, records that up to a million Jews would make pilgrimages to Jerusalem on these holy festivals. It was a mikvah, a public bath for cleansing that rendered the pilgrims ritually pure before they ascended a quarter mile [600 m] on the Jerusalem pilgrim road to the Temple Mount to worship God.

Jesus & The Feast of Tabernacles: Pool of Siloam & Living Water

John 7:1 - 8:59 is referred to as the "Tabernacles Discourse."

It recounts Jesus' visit to Jerusalem for the feast of Tabernacles,

the possibility of his arrest and debate as to whether he is the Messiah.

The feast was a jubilant time for the people, but it was a difficult time for Jesus.

It marked the beginning of open & militant opposition to Him & His ministry

Consider: Though danger was in the air Jesus continued on His appointed path.

- He went up to the feast in due course, and there He gave the teaching that was appropriate to the occasion.

Setting is The Feast of Tabernacles [Booths, Sukkot]: Season of Our Rejoicing

- ❖ It was celebrated in the 7th month, Tishri, from day 15-21 [Lev. 23:34]
- ❖ This is 5 days after the Day of Atonement and the fall harvest is completed.
- ❖ Time of joy because Israel had passed through the season of repentance & redemption

During the eight-day period, so many sacrifices were made that it required all twenty-four divisions of priests to be present to assist in the sacrificial duties. [Num. 29:12-40]

- 71 Bulls + 15 Rams + 105 Lambs + 8 Goats = 199 animals for Tabernacles

The Joyful Musical Procession Called *Simchat Beit Hashoevah* Or

The Rejoicing Of The Water-Drawing At Feast Of Tabernacles

Water from the Pool of Siloam was carried up the pilgrim road to the Temple for the

Water Libation Ceremony during the intermediate days of the 7-day festival of Sukkot.

The Procession began at the Pool Of Siloam, a pool used for ritual cleansing and purification.

- Its water was used for a special ceremony during the Feast of Tabernacles.
- It was considered the purest of ritual baths because it was fed by the Gihon Spring.

Preparing for the morning sacrifice

1. Each morning a procession of priests would descend the steps from the Temple to the Pool of Siloam and dip a golden pitcher into the water. [m. *Sukka* 4:9].

❖ Water was drawn from Pool of Siloam = Well of Salvation; Living Water

2. They would be accompanied by the congregation assembled at the Temple.

3. They were reminded of the miraculous provision of water from the rock.

It was living water and life sustaining.

4. The priest would carry the filled pitcher back to the altar at the Temple.

- A 3-fold blast of the priests' silver trumpets announced his arrival in the Temple area.

Psalms 113 through 118 were sung.

Ps. 118:25-26 Save now, I pray, O Lord; O Lord, I pray, send now prosperity.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

The waiting worshippers shook the palm branches in their hands to all four points of the

compass, thus signifying that God will rule over all nations. [Tabernacles looks to Millennium]

1. The High Priest took the 2 silver basins, held them up and recited: Isa. 12:1-6
Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid:
for the LORD Yahweh is my strength and my song; He also is become my salvation.
Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

All-night revelry led up to this morning libation. This was a time of joy so great that it was said,
"He that never has seen the joy of the Beth he-She'ubah [water-drawing]
has never in his life seen joy" (m. Sukka 5:1; cf. Deut 16:14-15; Jubilees 16:20, 25).

The 7th day became known as Hoshana Rabba, which means Great Salvation.

The Hebrew word literally says, with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

7th Day of Feast: The High Priest, dressed in his finest, would officiate with a huge contingent of similarly attired priests. There would be trumpets blowing, singing psalms and waving palm branches. The procession around the altar with the water took place 7 times as the people cried out, "Save Now."

- The Jews were reenacting a tradition that could never satisfy the heart.

John 7:37-39 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man is thirsty, let him come unto Me, and drink. ³⁸ He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly [innermost being] shall flow rivers of living water.

³⁹ (But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.) [Prophecy]

- Jesus offered them Living Water & Eternal Satisfaction.
- Jesus came, He stood and He cried out offering them a drink from Himself. The same One from Whom their ancestors had drunk physical water.
- His offer shows He is far more than just a prophet or an agent.
- It is God himself offering us life and living water.

Notice the condition for having this river of living water [Holy Spirit]: He That Believes On Me. Jesus promises something that comes with the "well of water:" A River Of Living Water.

- The WELL is supposed to result in an overflow or RIVER.

Key: Living water was to be released from the Messiah through the promised Holy Spirit creating a "Fountain Gate" in all who would come to drink from Him.

Consider: These 2 passages tell of the relationship between salvation and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

- Salvation and the Baptism of The Holy Spirt are ONE; not TWO experiences.
- Some teach that you must first be saved > later you will experience a "second blessing" called "the baptism of the Holy Spirit."
- You don't receive Christ at salvation and add the Holy Spirit later.

- We do not get the well at salvation, only to lack the river - until we receive a second blessing. Salvation and the baptism of the Holy Spirit are ONE blessing.
- If we break these 2 things into 2 different experiences, we are essentially saying that we could have Christ in us, but no possibility of overflow - unless we get another blessing.
- At salvation, you are COMPLETE IN CHRIST. [Col. 2:10]
- BOTH the well and the river are the result of CHRIST IN US.

However, you do need to grow. The indwelling of Christ must come to overflow from you.

- All of this is accomplished by the Holy Spirit.

God's Commands to the Believer: Live a life of righteousness. Quench Not The Spirit

Frustration: How To Live a life Pleasing to God

Romans 7 is the picture of the carnal Christian who is trying to live the life in the strength of his flesh. In 10 verses, "the Law" is mentioned 21 x. "

- "I" or "Me" is used 40 times and the Holy Spirit is not mentioned.

Rom. 7:24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

Romans 8 is the picture of the spiritual Christian. "I" is used only 2 times; Holy Spirit > 18x

The command suggests the need of the ministry of the Holy Spirit and His control for consecrated living.

It stresses the need for the filling of the Holy Spirit as God's enabling agent for dealing with the forces arrayed against us—the flesh, the devil, and the world

The RIVER provides a great illustration. We receive the WELL OF LIFE at salvation. But even though the potential for the RIVER is there, there cannot be a RIVER flowing until - what? Until all the hindrances to the flow are removed. Just like a RIVER cannot smoothly flow if rocks and barriers are in the way, neither can the Holy Spirit flow through us if our hearts are hard and our agendas are in the way. These must be removed;

Then the Holy Spirit can flow as a RIVER. Nothing needs to be ADDED for the flow.

In fact, there needs to be a SUBTRACTION. I must decrease so that HE might increase.

The Fountain Gate, the first Power gate, speaks to us of the Living Waters of the Holy Spirit that cleanses our lives and empowers us for the Spirit-filled walk.

- The Holy Spirit has been given to every believer as a gift.
- He is to make known to me and to make experiential to me > ALL that Christ is in me.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit: The Spirit enters our lives, cleanses us, takes possession of our hearts. His power and strength are available to us from the moment we receive Jesus as Savior.

The Key to Overflow He works through our WILLS, our conduct, our personality, and our faith.

I must yield to the Lordship of Jesus Christ to turn on the flow through the power of the Holy Spirit. I do the yielding to Him, and He does the flowing.

Spiritual preparation is the vital element.

CONSECRATE yourself for God's use.

- Put away anything displeasing to God; examine yourself.
- Consecrate= *qadash*. It is in the *hithpael* stem which is reflexive and means...
- Consecrate yourselves, set yourselves apart, prepare yourselves. personal responsibility.

When there is a lack of consecration through confession for the defilement of sin;

When there is a lack of commitment to God's purpose for our lives in service or ministry,

- We Hinder The Power Of God In Our Lives

Tozer: When we have the Holy Spirit, we have all we need to be all that God desires us to be. *The Holy Spirit working in me can transform me from a carnal Christian to a Spirit-filled Christian.*

Our right relationship with God brings His power in our lives and our ministry.

I Thess. 5:24 "Faithful is He that calls you, who also will do it."

Hallelujah! This is Divine genius! EVERYTHING He commands me, He will, by MY consent and yielding, fulfill the command through me. This saves me from the futility of self-effort.

Truth: The Holy Spirit will do the work in me and through me when I yield and humble myself. Then I will receive rewards and crowns, but He does ALL the work.

Jesus command to come and drink is in the *present tense*.

We are to continually drink from His unlimited source. Paul gives a similar command.

Eph. 5:18-19 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Again, the command is to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit.

The result is rivers of living water flowing from out of our hearts.

Are the rivers of living water flowing freely in my life?

Am I continually drinking from the well of salvation?

Am I continuously being filled with the Holy Spirit?