

# The Spiritual Water Cycle

Most people know something about the water (hydrologic) cycle: the waters and the seas on the earth are evaporated by the sun; they form clouds which condense and rain onto the land; this feeds vegetation and forms streams and rivers which run back into the sea, which is evaporated. And so the cycle continues.

If you tried (as I did) to find out who first discovered the Water Cycle, then you would find that no one really knows, but some will make the point that the earliest record that we know of is in the Bible. It describes the water cycle very neatly:

*All the rivers run into the sea, yet the sea is not full; to the place from which the rivers come, there they return again (Ecclesiastes 1:7).*

What's even more curious is that over the centuries there have been various ideas as to how the cycle worked, but modern understanding has shown the Bible to be correct in its description for several thousands of years.

So, we know what the water cycle is, but I wonder if you've ever considered the 'spiritual' water cycle?

When I'm studying the Bible, something that excites me is how the

language, key words, phrases and themes, thread like the laces in your shoes, backwards and forwards through the Bible; if you pull at them they bring the whole book together. As we look out for these threads, analogies and parables, we find that they are consistent throughout this book, which was written over thousands of years and by dozens of different people.

So let's look at the 'Spiritual Water Cycle'. We've already seen the Bible can teach us much about the world of nature, but we also find that it tells us about the spiritual world and how important it is for us to have God and His

purpose central in our lives.

We will look at each component in turn and see what the Bible has to say.

## Waters

In several places in the Bible, the waters are used as a picture to represent the nations of the world, especially godless ones.

*There will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring (Luke 21: 25).*



*The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. "There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked" (Isaiah 57: 20-21).*

The nations are associated with wickedness and godlessness, which is consistent throughout scripture. On the whole, mankind is not interested in God and is restless like the sea. It was true then, and it's true now.

## **Sun**

Next, our attention turns to the sun.

*Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life" (John 8:12).*

Here Jesus is telling us that he will show us 'the way' like a light in the darkness. Of course, the great light for our natural world is the sun in the sky.

*To you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in his wings (Malachi 4:2).*

I'm sure you are aware of how, naturally speaking, the sun is essential for life on this planet. Without the sun, we would have no supply of oxygen, we would be in absolute darkness and we would freeze to death.

So in scripture, when we read about the sun in the sky there are parallels to be made with the Son of God. Here in Malachi, the healing he's talking about goes beyond the benefit of the sun on the earth. He is talking about a time when the 'ills' or the 'wickedness' of this world will be healed once and for all by the return of Jesus to the earth. To help us understand this, we can

continue to follow the 'spiritual water cycle' to help us understand the benefit that was felt from Jesus being on the earth 2000 years ago.

*Whatever the LORD pleases He does, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deep places. He causes the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; He makes lightning for the rain (Psalm 135: 6-7).*

So we see the spiritual parallel. The sun in our sky evaporates the waters and causes them to ascend. These vapours form clouds.

## **Clouds**

*Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us (Hebrews 12:1).*

Through the power of the sun, the waters evaporate and form clouds. Through the influence of Jesus we can be spiritually elevated above the things of this world and instead be encouraged in the work of God. This life, this world encourages us to be self-centred; Jesus taught us to be God-centred.

In this quotation from Hebrews, the clouds refer to the numerous men and women of faith listed in chapter 11, who we are told about throughout the Bible. These are good examples that we should follow, and they are described as the clouds who await Jesus' return and the establishment of God's Kingdom on earth. They have responded and reacted to the sun's warmth.

## Rain

Those who have benefited from the influence of the 'sun' can encourage the 'waters' of the earth by sharing that knowledge.

*Rain down, you heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness; let the earth open, let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together. I, the LORD, have created it (Isaiah 45:8).*

So the goodness of what we have been taught by Jesus should be evident in how we live, and be beneficial to those around us. Nobody is forced to accept it, but for those who do, the effects will be obvious.

*For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud... So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth (Isaiah 55:10-11).*

*Let my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distil as the dew, as raindrops on the tender herb, and as showers on the grass (Deuteronomy 32:2).*

## The Cycle Completed

And so, quite simply, the cycle continues. The Lord Jesus brought spiritual light to the world and that light can be reflected by those who choose to follow him. In turn it is possible to have a positive influence on those who are attracted to the light. Sadly however, not everyone is attracted to that light:

*Have respect to the covenant; for the dark places of the earth are full of the haunts of cruelty (Psalm 74:20).*



But contrast this with the gentle, pleasant warmth of the sun:

*Truly the light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to behold the sun (Ecclesiastes 11:7).*

The effects of the presence of the Lord Jesus are far-reaching and are reflected in the nature of God's planet that surrounds us. We can truly look forward to the day when the personal warmth of the Son of God will be felt once more in the earth, and the healing power that has been granted him by his Father in heaven will be evident to all.

*Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea (Revelation 21:1).*

A new heaven, a new earth, the former things passed away – what a wonderful picture. Pain, suffering, inequality, poverty, starvation... all these things will be gone forever. There will be no more sea, no more godless nations producing only wickedness.

The Spiritual Water Cycle is as important and 'life-giving' as the natural. In fact, it's clear that it is infinitely more important.

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