



Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city.

Revelation 22:1-2a

Scripture begins the story of God and God’s people around four rivers; and scripture ends the story of God and God’s people with a crystal river flowing from the throne of God.

Let’s see what we know about three important river stories in scripture.

In Genesis 2, the Garden of Eden story includes the names of the four foundation rivers flow: Pishon, Gihon, Tigris and Euphrates.

1. The Pishon and Gihon have never been identified by archaeologists. The Tigris and Euphrates are important rivers in a region commonly called what?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. This region is in what modern day nation? \_\_\_\_\_

3. The River Jordan served as an entry point for God’s people to the Promised Land. They were led by which former assistant to Moses? \_\_\_\_\_

4. John the Baptist ministry happened at the River Jordan. What insult did he use when pharisees and scribes came to him to “spy” on his baptism ministry? \_\_\_\_\_

5. The crystal river in Revelation’s description of the City of God in its closing chapter, numbers how many types of fruits that were being grown for the healing of the nations? \_\_\_\_\_

6. How often will these fruits be harvested?  
\_\_\_\_\_

American River Quiz

Match the following 10 longest river lengths with their correct names.

- |               |                      |
|---------------|----------------------|
| 1. 2341 miles | a Colorado River     |
| 2. 2202 miles | b. Red River         |
| 3. 1979 miles | c. Rio Grand River   |
| 4. 1759 miles | d. Missouri River    |
| 5. 1450 miles | e. Snake River       |
| 6. 1443 miles | f. Yukon River       |
| 7. 1243 miles | g. Ohio River.       |
| 8. 1125 miles | h. Arkansas River    |
| 9. 1040 miles | i. Mississippi River |
| 10. 979 miles | j. Columbia River    |

11. The Cuyahoga River in Ohio has caught fire how many times since 1868?

- |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| A. 5 times  | B. 9 times   |
| C. 14 times | D. 152 times |

12. The 1969 Cuyahoga River fire lead to the creation of which of the following water-related advocacy actions?

- A. The Clean Water Act
- B. The Great Lates Water Quality Agreement
- C. The Federal EPA
- D. The Ohio State EPA
- E. All of the above

(answers on the back)

## Mississippi River Facts

The fabled river at the heart of America begins at Lake Itasca in Minnesota. Draining an area of 1.15 million square miles, the river begins at a mere 3 feet deep but ends at almost 200 feet deep.

Barges and tows move approximately 175 tons of freight each year through the 29 locks and dams of the Mississippi River.

The name Mississippi is based on a French interpretation of an Algonquin word that roughly translates as “Great River”

Mark Twain is the famous author who was raised in Hannibal, Missouri, the setting for *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *Tom Sawyer*. Born as Samuel Clemens, he chose his pen name from an expression meaning “two fathoms”, about 12 feet, which meant you were in the clear channel safe for a steamboat to travel up and down the river. Clemens worked on a steamboat as a young man, leaving the river when the American Civil War broke out in 1861. His memories along the river inspired many of his writings.

In his memoir, *Life on the Mississippi*, Mark Twain wrote:

It [Mississippi water] is good for steamboating, and good to drink; but it is worthless for all other purposes except baptizing.”



HUCKLEBERRY FINN & JIM ON THE RAFT  
Eugene Ivard, 1931  
Eugene Ivard was the pseudonym of illustrator George Ericson

## Faith and Water Advocacy

In the Gospel of John, chapter 4, Jesus arrives at a well and asks a woman for a drink. The conversation includes an offer from Jesus to give the water of life.

Rivers in scripture demonstrate the importance of water. Rivers that line our landscape demonstrate our reliance on water today.

As people of faith, how does this combination of factors inform us as we advocate for cleaner waters?

As people of faith, how should we advocate for communities, like Flint, Michigan, when their water sources are tainted by contaminants?

As people of faith, how should we respond to invasive species threats, like the Asian Carp, which is invading the Illinois River and threatening the Great Lakes?

As people of faith, how should we advocate for cooperation between municipalities, states and nations that share water sources such as rivers and lakes?

11. C  
5. A  
4. C  
3. F  
2. I  
1. D  
12. E  
10. G  
9. E  
8. B  
7. J  
6. H

American River Quiz Answers

6. Every month  
5. Twelve Fruits  
4. “Brood of Vipers”  
3. Joshua  
2. Iraq  
1. The Fertile Crescent

Bible Rivers Quiz Answers