

Out of Thin Air

They say you can't get blood from a turnip. God got water from a rock. Jonathan Wright has gone the Lord one better: he can get H₂O out of thin air. Or rather not so thin, which is just the point.

Anyone who has lived in South Texas for very long knows that the atmosphere can be quite viscous— a downright gumbo of humidity. Wright has concocted a method for distilling this ambient moisture. The Aquamagic HP 120-DRU weighs around three thousand pounds, costs upwards of \$35K, and can suck 120 gallons of water per day from the air. The FDA, EPA, WHO and all the rest of the bureaucratic alphabet soup have signed off on the prototype. Wright sees his creation coming in handy for droughts, disasters, famines and parades. It also, of course, has military applications.

Give me a drink and I drink for a day. Teach me to liquefy the sky and I can produce enough water to stock my own trout pond and eat for a lifetime . . . or something like that.

On the final day of the Feast of Tabernacles, the priests poured a ceremonial draught of water around the altar of the temple in Jerusalem and offered prayers for rain. Jesus, a bystander to that solemn procession, cites the vision of Ezekiel 47, where the crazy old prophet predicts that a mighty Mississippi will one day flow from the sanctuary threshold and rush south with sufficient force to sweeten the brackish sludge of the Dead Sea itself. Jesus implies that in the Kingdom, people need no longer crank the well-pump of empty ritual but can instead stay in touch with the source of life that has always surrounded them. Two things about this claim would have shocked the curators of godliness in that day.

First, Jesus made himself the source of this supply. "If any man thirst, let him come to me." Jesus claims a monopoly on salvation, one which bypasses the plumbing of law and tradition. Second, Jesus offers individual franchises on this spiritual aquifer. "From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water." This idea gets back to Jesus' core kerygma, the mission statement of messiah: "The kingdom of the heavens has stood and now stands right beside you."

People have died of thirst surrounded by moisture they could not access, and the HP 120-DRU offers a solution. People have died of spiritual desiccation while awash in untouchable holiness, but the cross of Christ will solve that problem.

Jonathan Wright's rolling rainmaker comes at a considerable cost. Jesus offers living water for the asking. In Revelation 21.6 the same Christ, alight with unveiled glory, bronzed feet and blazing eyes, booming voice and nuclear countenance, assures us of the link between his incarnate and his glorified self: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost."

Drying out while drowning in life? Crawling through the desert while drenched in a deluge of salvation? You don't have to go anywhere; only to turn to Jesus where you are, and take from him what he has always offered.

Come On In, The Water's Fine!

Doug