The Fountain of Living Water and the Deceitful Brook: The Pool of Water Metaphors in the Book of Jeremiah (MT) Vandmetaforer i Jeremias' Bog (MT)

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Abstract: The metaphor “God is Water” is distinctive for the Book of Jeremiah in different variants. The core metaphor is found in Jer 2:13, it is elaborated in other instances as: “God is a fountain”, or “God is not a wasteland” (chapter 2), and it is gainsaid in 15:18 which reads: “You are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.” Moreover, it is part of an intertextual network of water metaphors in other Old Testament books like Job and Psalms. The use of water imagery in the Book of Jeremiah points to a textinternal discussion which emphasizes the necessity of recognizing different theological positions within this book.

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The Fountain of Life, or in its earlier form the Fountain of Living Waters, is a Christian iconography symbol associated with baptism and/or eucharist, first appearing in the 5th century in illuminated manuscripts and later in other art forms such as panel paintings. The symbol is usually shown as a fountain enclosed in a hexagonal structure capped by a rounded dome and supported by eight columns. The fountain of living waters, fons vivus is a baptismal font (a water fountain in which one is baptized). The above references to water as a metaphor serve as to introduce the basic thrust of this study, which is to explore the figurative and symbolic uses of water in the Bible in its various forms. As in the case in the Scriptures where literal water is present,8 so also the figures under which water is presented may be viewed as to whether they are used in a negative or positive sense. Although both aspects of the use of water will be considered, special emphasizes will be directed toward the manifold uses of water in its positive perspective. In a combination of water sources a Solomonic proverb states, “The words of a person's mouth are like deep waters, and the fountain of wisdom is like a flowing brook” (Prov. “A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon.” King James Version (KJV). < Previous Verse. Next Verse >. ▲ View Chapter. Song of Solomon 4:15 Context. 4:15 Living water - Though my spouse be in some sort a fountain shut up, yet that is not so to be understood as if she kept her waters to herself, for she is like a fountain of living or running water, which flows into gardens, and makes its flowers and plants to flourish. The church conveys those waters of life which she receives from Christ to particular believers. Streams - Like those sweet and