

Where would you rather drink???

My home State is Minnesota. It is here that the mighty Mississippi, the second-largest named river in North America begins. However, it doesn't begin as the mighty Mississippi. It begins at its source in Lake Itaska State Park, Clearwater County, Minnesota as a clean source of water, able to be drunk without need of much purification.

The Mississippi River has the third largest drainage basin ("catchment") in the world, exceeded in size only by the watersheds of the Amazon River and Congo River. It drains 41% of the 48 contiguous states of the United States. The basin covers more than 1,245,000 square miles (3,225,000 km²), including all or parts of 31 states and two Canadian provinces.

In short, after it leaves Lake Itaska, it ultimately receives much of the drainage in the continental United States. By the time it reaches the Gulf of Mexico, it not only has received the water shed, but many pollutants also: Insecticides, herbicides, nutrients, fertilizers, oils, gasoline, diesel fuels and garbage increase in quantity as the distance increases on its way toward the sea.

I have had the blessing of not only coming from the State that the Mississippi originates from, but have also visited and lived in states that the Mississippi passes through. When I lived in Minnesota, I used to go to Bible College in Minneapolis. This is relatively not too far from where the river originates. Yet, even here the waters are so polluted that you cannot simply heat it up and then cool it to drink.

In St. Louis, Missouri the waters are much worse. In Memphis, Tennessee and Mississippi even more!

When it reaches the Gulf of Mexico much more needs to be done than simply heat up the water in order to purify it for drinking. It needs to be processed much more intensively to remove the poisons, oils and other toxins before it can be drunk. The more pollutants in the water, the more work required to remove them before the water is drinkable again.

What I am saying is that the farther you are away from the source, the more polluted the waters become. The same goes with our faith in Yeshua.

What started out at the source as a pure faith through Messiah Yeshua and His Disciples has brought into itself many pollutants from the many peoples it has gone to: from Mary worship, to Sunday worship, Christmas and Easter – many things have come into the faith that were not there at the beginning.

It is interesting to note that though the people farther down the river are aware that you can't simply take the water, heat it up and drink it; it is what they have become used to. They think, "The water's the water. It's this way now and always has been."

The truth is, it wasn't that way always and doesn't have to be that way! It is possible to go back, even this day, to where the water is pure enough to heat up and drink – back at the source!

This is what Messianic Judaism is all about. What we desire to do is to go back to the Hebraic (Biblical) model of the “church” to the time of the Apostles – **BEFORE** the time that the Greek Early Church Fathers started to bring in the pollutants of the Greek world-view into their new-found faith and then others from the nations followed bringing their own as well – so we have what we have now is **not** that which was taught by the Messiah and His Apostles.

Which brings us to the question asked earlier, if you were thirsty and wanted to drink the water of the Mississippi River, “Where would you rather drink??? At the source of the river or where the waters enter the Gulf of Mexico?”

Spiritually, we can ask the same question, “If you were thirsty and wanted to drink the purer waters of our faith, where would you rather drink? At the source of the waters or where we are currently now?”

I know where I want to drink.