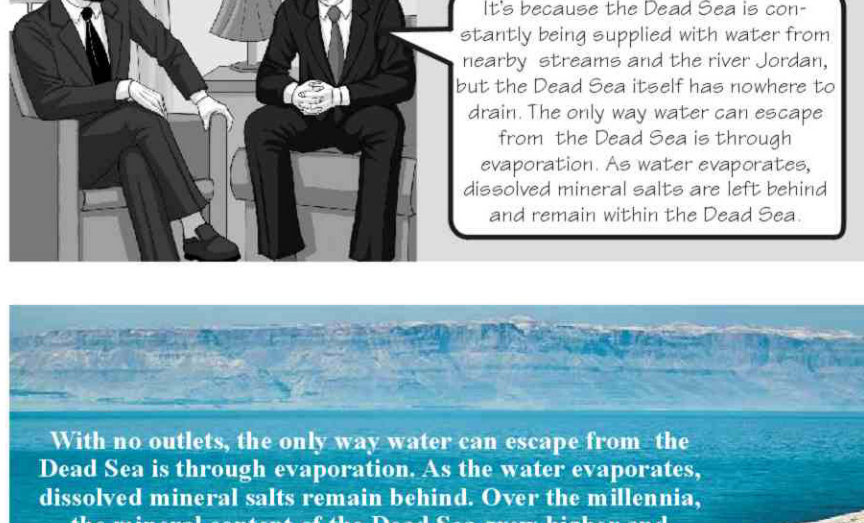
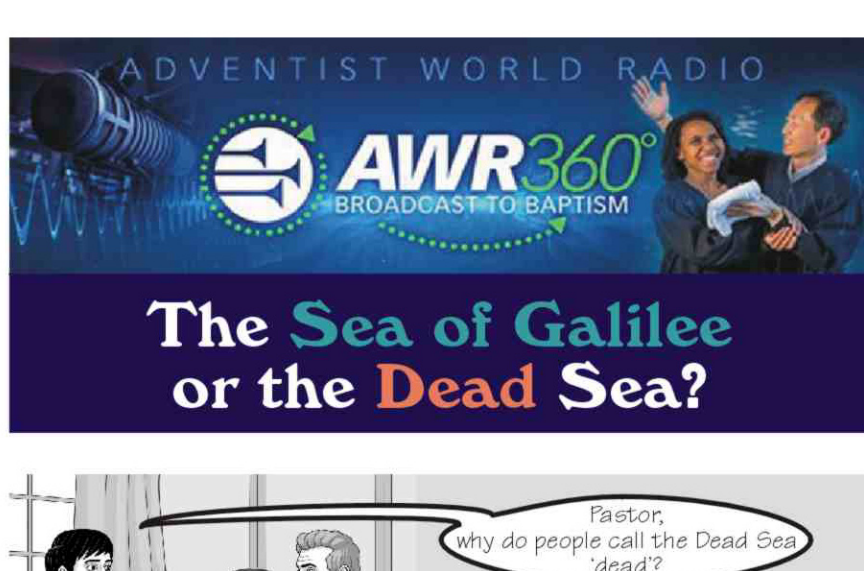
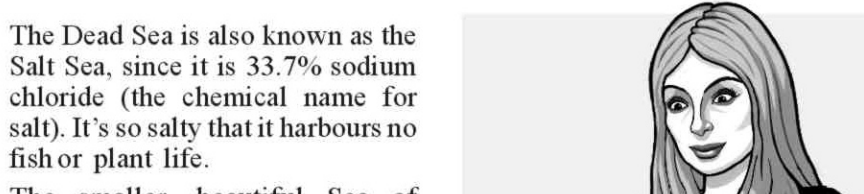
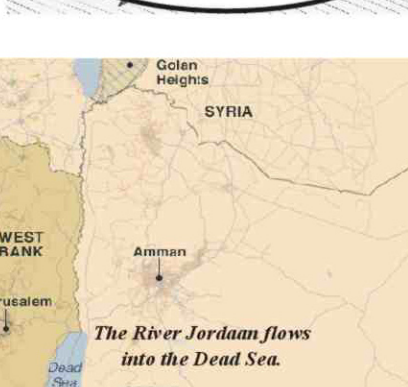




Here are some interesting facts about this odd stretch of water:

The Dead Sea is the lowest point on Earth, at nearly 426 metres below sea level and at 377 metres deep, making it the deepest hypersaline lake in the world. The water level is reportedly decreasing by approximately one metre per year, due to water from the Jordan River being diverted for irrigation and drinking purposes upstream.

Water temperatures in the Dead Sea can exceed an amazing 32°C in summer, and average as much as 20° in winter.



The Dead Sea is also known as the Salt Sea, since it is 33.7% sodium chloride (the chemical name for salt). It's so salty that it harbours no fish or plant life.

The smaller, beautiful Sea of Galilee to the north in contrast teems with freshwater fish, as it receives water from the north and then feeds into the Jordan River to the south, before the water gets to the Dead Sea.

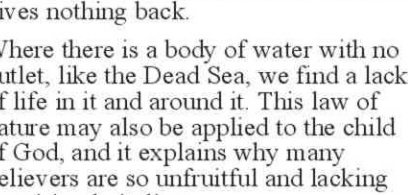


Herod the Great, Jesus and John the Baptist were closely linked with the Dead Sea and its surroundings.



Left: Some of the Qumran caves
Inset: Jars the scrolls were kept in
Right: The great Isaiah scroll

In Roman times, the Essenes (Jesus's tribe) settled in Qumran on the Dead Sea's northern shore. There, in the soft sandstone, they carved out storage caves for their precious library. 2 000 years later this library was found and named the 'Dead Sea Scrolls'.



Dear Friend

This background is interesting, so I've used it as an analogy. The Dead Sea receives water, yet gives nothing in return; the Dead Sea is like a selfish Christian who is always on the take, but gives nothing back.

Where there is a body of water with no outlet, like the Dead Sea, we find a lack of life in it and around it. This law of nature may also be applied to the child of God, and it explains why many believers are so unfruitful and lacking in spiritual vitality.

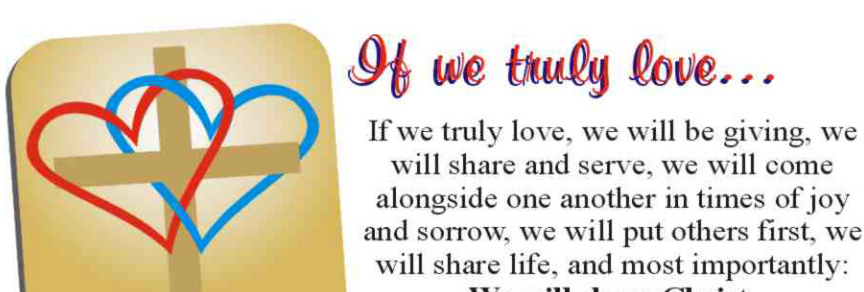
It's possible for some people to study the Scriptures continually, taking in the Word as it is preached from the pulpit, and yet seem lifeless and unproductive in their Christian lives. Such individuals are like the Dead Sea. They have 'inlets', but no 'outlets'.

To be vibrant and useful believers, we must not only 'take in' all we can, but we must also 'give out' in service to others!

As you've guessed by now, this tract is about evangelising with God's Word.

So how can we become people who have 'springs of living water' bursting from us?

Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" Matthew 4:19, NIV



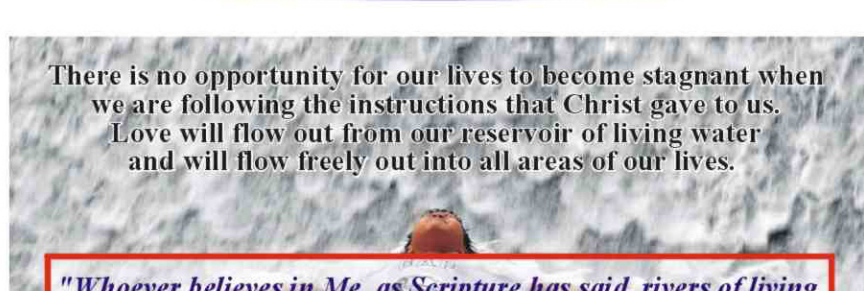
The mission of the 'end times' church is to proclaim to all peoples the everlasting gospel in the context of the 'Three Angels' messages' of Revelation 14:6-12.

If we truly love...

If we truly love, we will be giving, we will share and serve, we will come alongside one another in times of joy and sorrow, we will put others first, we will share life, and most importantly:

We will share Christ.

✦ Is there someone you know who needs your support, whom only you can help? Will you make that effort?



Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Acts 20:35

There is no opportunity for our lives to become stagnant when we are following the instructions that Christ gave to us. Love will flow out from our reservoir of living water and will flow freely out into all areas of our lives.

"Whoever believes in Me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." John 7:38 NIV

Jesus says we are to Love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind.

"This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Matthew 22:37-40

Just as our love for God begins with listening to God's Word, the beginning of love for other Christians is learning to listen to them. - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

You know the problem with some Christians? They always want to be on the receiving end and not the giving end. They are like the Dead Sea. They have an inlet but no outlet.

✦ Why does this happen when we've been given so much?

My hope with this tract is to challenge you to become a more generous person. To become more like a river than a 'dead sea'. Rivers take the water from upstream and channel it downstream. I'm going to challenge you to take the blessings you receive from God, and channel them downstream into the lives of other people!

"The Word of God, the Bible, is the bread of life."

John 6:48

Our spiritual cravings are being fulfilled while we offer others the Bread of Life, our thirsts are quenched while we freely supply the Water of Life to others to drink.

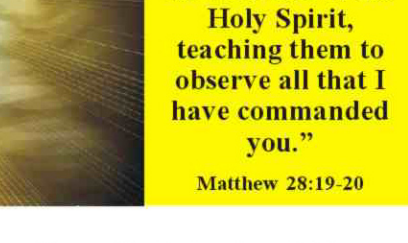
The Lord offers us 'living water' (John 4:10) that wells up to 'eternal life'. (John 4:14)

So what is the point of this Tract?

Its message is plain and straightforward: Let's not be 'Dead Sea Christians'!

Christians often are like the Dead Sea. We read the Bible, have an active prayer life, attend amazing worship services, and hear life-changing Bible teaching, and it all flows into us and changes us and we feel so spiritual.

✦ But if none of this ever flows out of us and into others... then we are 'Dead Sea Christians'.



However, that is **not** the life that God has in mind for his disciples.

The life that God has in mind for us is that we become **conduits of his love**, which flows through us and into others, so that they can know and experience God themselves.

In fact, this is one of the very last things Jesus told us while he was here in his earthly ministry:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

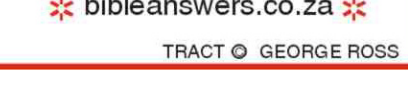
Matthew 28:19-20

Remember the message of the Dead Sea!
To stay fresh, we need to give as well as receive.

Take a look at 2 Corinthians 8:7-9. The source of generosity is God. Our role model for generosity is Jesus Christ

So, my question to you, dear reader, is this: Do you just read the Bible as a story, or do you hear the Holy Spirit speaking to you as you read?

James 1:22 says it all: "Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."



Dear Friend!

Maybe you're motivated to become a cell phone evangelist, and work with our team in spreading the Good News.

Or perhaps you feel the need to learn more of these Bible truths.

Please feel free to contact us!

Gideon Pelser

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