

~Ezekiel's river: The river flowing from the Temple~

Ezek 47:1-12--NIV

- 1 The man brought me back to the entrance of the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar.
- 2 He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was flowing from the south side.
- 3 As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a **thousand cubits** and then led me through water that was **ankle-deep**.
- 4 He measured off **another thousand cubits** and led me through water that was **knee-deep**. He measured off **another thousand** and led me through water that was **up to the waist**.
- 5 He measured off **another thousand**, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was **deep enough to swim in**-- a river that no one could cross.
- 6 He asked me, "Son of man, do you see this?" Then he led me back to the bank of the river.
- 7 When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river.
- 8 He said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, where it enters the Sea. When it empties into the Sea, the water there becomes fresh.
- 9 Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live.
- 10 Fishermen will stand along the shore; from En Gedi to En Eglaim there will be places for spreading nets. The fish will be of many kinds-- like the fish of the Great Sea.
- 11 But the swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt.
- 12 **Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river.** Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. **Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.**" (NIV)

Ezek 47:1-12--KJV

- 1 Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar.
- 2 Then brought he me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the utter gate by the way that looked eastward; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side.
- 3 And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a **thousand cubits**, and he brought me through the waters; the waters were **to the ankles**.
- 4 Again he measured a **thousand**, and brought me through the waters; the waters were **to the knees**. Again he measured a **thousand**, and brought me through; the waters were **to the loins**.
- 5 Afterward he measured a **thousand**; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, **waters to swim in**, a river that could not be passed over.
- 6 And he said unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen this? Then he brought me, and caused me to return to the brink of the river.
- 7 Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other.

8 Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed.

9 And it shall come to pass, that every thing that lives, which moves, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh.

10 And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from Engedi even unto Eneglaim; they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many.

11 But the miry places thereof and the marshes thereof shall not be healed; they shall be given to salt.

12 And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: **it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months**, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the **leaf thereof for medicine.** (KJV)

Does this not remind us of something else? Is this river not prophetic symbolism of Heaven?

Observe:

Rev 22:2

2 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. **And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.**

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The figurative interpretation, or spiritual explanation, is moreover favored by the analogy of the Scriptures. "Water," which renders the unfruitful land fertile, and supplies refreshing drink to the thirsty, is used in Scripture as a figure denoting blessing and salvation, which had been represented even in Paradise in the form of watering (cf. <Gen. 13:10>). In <Isa. 12:3>, "and with joy ye draw water from the wells of salvation," the figure is expressly interpreted. And so also in <Isa. 44:3>, "I will pour water upon the thirsty one, and streams upon the desert; I will pour my Spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:" where the blessing answers to the water, the Spirit is named as the principal form in which the blessing is manifested, "the foundation of all other salvation for the people of God" (**Hengstenberg**). *This salvation, which Joel had already described as a spring issuing from the house of Jehovah and watering the dry acacia valley, Ezekiel saw in a visionary embodiment as water, which sprang from under the threshold of the temple into which the glory of the Lord entered, and had swollen at a short distance off into so mighty a river that it was no longer possible to wade through.*

In this way the thought is symbolized, that the salvation which the Lord causes to flow down to His people from His throne will pour down from small beginnings in marvelously increasing fullness. The river flows on into the barren, desolate waste of the Ghor, and finally into the Dead Sea, and makes the waters thereof sound, so that it swarms with fishes. The waste is a figure denoting the spiritual drought and desolation, and the Dead Sea a symbol of the death caused by sin. The healing and quickening of the salt waters of that sea, so fatal to all life, set forth the power of that divine salvation which conquers death, and the calling to life of the world sunk in spiritual death. From this comes life in its creative fullness and manifold variety, as shown both by the figure of the fishermen who spread their nets along the shore, and by the reference to the kinds of fish, which are as manifold in their variety as those in the great sea. But life extends no further than the water of salvation flows. Wherever it cannot reach, the world continues to life in death. The pools and swamps of the Dead Sea are still given up to salt. And lastly, the water of salvation also possesses the power to produce trees with leaves and fruits, by which the life called forth from death can be sustained and cured of all diseases. This is the meaning, according to the express

statement of the text, of the trees with their never withering leaves, upon the banks of the river, and their
fruits ripening every month.

(from Keil & Delitzsch Commentary on the Old Testament) Ezekiel 47:1-12 PP22