

LIFE NEEDS WATER / Sunday, November 16, 2014

Unifying Topic: A TRANSFORMING STREAM

Lesson Text

I. **Water Flows From The Temple** (Ezekiel 47:1, 3-6)

II. **Water Brings New Life** (Ezekiel 47:7-12)

Lesson Text: And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, 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. (Ezekiel 47:9, KJV).

Unifying Principle: Sometimes people feel as if they are stranded on a high cliff, alone and afraid, yet in search of refreshing water of hope. Where can they find what they need to make the plunge? The life-giving water in Ezekiel's vision is a symbol of God's presence and blessings, which flow from God's sanctuary and are available to the earth and its people.

Lesson Aim: To become familiar with Ezekiel's vision of life-giving water.

Life Aim: To be aware and appreciate the ever-deepening river of blessings that are available to us as believers.

47:1 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.

47:3 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.

47:4 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.

47:5 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.

47:6 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.

47:7 Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other.

47:8 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.

47:9 And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, 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.

47:10 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.

47:11 But the miry places thereof and the marishes thereof shall not be healed; they shall be given to salt.

47:12 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.

HISTORY:

Chapter 46:1-24 ¹After speaking of selected feasts in Israel's religious year, Ezekiel provided information on the daily aspects of Israel's *worship*. He gave regulations for the Sabbath and New Moon sacrifices (**vv.1-10**) and for the conduct and offerings of the people in the temple (**vv.11-15**). He continued to describe various aspects of daily worship. While allowing for diversity in *worship*, God prescribed order and continuity. This continuity gave a healthy rhythm to the spiritual life of His people.

Another topic related to freewill gifts is the Year of Jubilee (**vv.16-18**). Every 50 years property was to revert to its original owners (Lev.25:10-13). If the prince will give part of his estate to one of his sons, it will also belong to his descendants. Property given to a family member will not be returned in the Year of Jubilee. However a gift made to a servant will not be permanent; the servant may keep it until the year of freedom; then it will revert to the prince. Because the land will belong to God, He will appropriate it to Israel as His stewards. No individual will gain permanent

¹ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/the-manner-of-worship/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

control of the land.

Ezekiel's angelic guide led him to the kitchens in the temple complex (vv.19-24). He first described the priests' kitchens (vv.19-20), then the kitchens for the people's sacrifices (vv.21-24). The kitchens for the priests are to be at the west end of the priests' chambers adjacent to the temple proper. The kitchens for the sacrifices of the people will be in the four corners of the outer court. Evidently at these four kitchens the priests will cook the people's sacrifices. This magnificent temple will be a place of fellowship as well as *worship*.

LESSON:

Ezekiel 47:1, 3-6 Water Flows From The Temple

47:1 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. ²As the vision continues, the prophet is brought to the door of the Temple. He sees a stream of water flowing from beneath the south side of the threshold or platform on which the temple is built. The stream of water flows in an easterly direction, south of the altar, and passes under the outside wall of the inner court. The flow of water emerges from beneath the wall, just south of the eastern gate of the outer court. "*Waters*" represents "the water of life as proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. His throne was set up in the temple at Jerusalem (Eze 43:7). Thence it is to flow over the earth.

NOT APART OF THE LESSON VERSE 2

The prophet and his guide now take a walk along the river bank for a little more than a mile. Ezekiel was brought out through the north gate, round the outside to the outer east gate. The water came out on the south side of the gate.

BACK TO THE LESSON

47:3 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. The escorting angel wanting to reveal the size of the river took Ezekiel in the vision to four different distances from the temple. Here, he went eastward measuring 1,000 cubits where the waters came ankle-deep. As the water flows away from the temple spring, it gets deeper, but without the aid of joining rivers; the river is a miraculous stream of water. The "*ankles*" represent the entrance into the river.

47:4 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. The stream was found to be at increasing depth. Again he measured the river a thousand cubits and as he was led through the waters it came up to his knees. And again another thousand and the water increased to his loins. The "*knees*" signify prayer and a total dependence on the Lord. The "*loins*" represent the procreative part of man which points to the miracle working power of God. ³Notice, the water is getting higher. God begins with filling us just a little with His Word. As we walk in the water of His Word, we become deeper and deeper into the Spirit of God, and then we are able to use the Sword, that is, the Word of God.

47:5 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. Again a thousand cubits is measured and the stream trickles to become a powerful river as Ezekiel and his guide wade into it. The water had risen, and it was deep enough to swim. Nobody could walk across this river. The River represents the last progression.

47:6 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. Ezekiel is again called "*Son of man*" and is asked if he has seen this. Seen what? – The gradual increase of water to the brink of the bank until it was over his head; Also, to stand and observe the nature of the waters, and the course of them.

Ezekiel 47:7-12 Water Brings New Life

47:7 Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other. Retracing his steps along the river bank towards the temple, Ezekiel notices for the first time the trees, not just one, but many trees on each side that flourished beside the river. Many trees signify much fruit.

² <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/the-healing-waters/>

³ <http://www.lovethelord.com/books/ezekiel/49.html>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

47:8 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. Leaving the temple's east side, the waters drop through the rough country east of Jerusalem into the Great Rift Valley through which the Jordan flows. This new river flows into the Dead Sea, the large salt lake more than a thousand feet below sea level, whose briny waters can't support *life*.

47:9 And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, 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. But as the fresh waters of the river flow eastward out from the Sanctuary, it will turn south toward the Dead Sea. At this point it will split, with one side continuing on to the Dead Sea, with the other going to the Mediterranean (Zech.14:8). The salt is transformed to freshness and becomes the Sea of *Life*: There is a purpose for these waters; healing comes forth; everything shall live wherever the river flows. This portrays the result of the born-again spirit-filled life!

47:10 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. "*Men who fish will stand along the shore of the sea. They will spread their nets from En Gedi to En Eglaim. It will be a sea that has many kinds of fish, like the Great Sea.*" Fish will begin to flourish, and the formerly deserted shores of the sea become populated by the fishermen who move there to seek a living from its waters, and spreading nets. And fish of every kind will fill the Dead Sea, just as they do the Mediterranean Sea; being very plenteous.

47:11 But the miry places thereof and the marishes thereof shall not be healed; they shall be given to salt. But the marshes and swamps will not be healed; they will still be salty.

47:12 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. The river on the bank shall provide trees; fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river for food. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear new fruit because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. The fruit will be food and the leaves will have medicinal value.

SUMMARY:

⁴This river is similar to the one mentioned in Revelation 22:1-2. It symbolizes *life* from God and the blessings that flow from His throne. It is a gentle, safe, deep river, expanding as it flows. The vision of the holy waters issuing out of the temple, starting as a shallow stream, then getting deeper and fuller until it is over a man's head. The river travels east until it reaches a sea which will teem with fish. Only the marshy ground will still be salty. Fruitful banks will grow on the banks of the river.

APPLICATION:

And so we perceive from the prophet's vision how important it is, in any restoration, to get to the heart of the matter. Only with God's presence firmly re-established in the center, of the temple, could there be new *life* and restoration. And what was true for Israel is true for the Church. When God's presence is firmly established at the center, the blessing of that presence flows out to transform the wilderness with life-giving waters.

⁴ <http://biblesummarybychapter.blogspot.com/2011/03/ezekiel.html>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>