

Pentwater Bible Church

Ezekiel Message 105
October 15, 2017



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Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Ezekiel

Message One-Hundred Five

THE LIFE GIVING RIVER IN MESSIAH'S KINGDOM

October 15, 2017

Daniel E. Woodhead

Ezekiel 47:1-12

¹And he brought me back 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 was toward the east); and the waters came down from under, from the right side of the house, on the south of the altar. ²Then he brought me out by the way of the gate northward, and led me round by the way without unto the outer gate, by the way of the gate that looketh toward the east; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side.

³When the man went forth eastward with the line in his hand, he measured a thousand cubits, and he caused me to pass through the waters, waters that were to the ankles. ⁴Again he measured a thousand, and caused me to pass through the waters, waters that were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and caused me to pass through the waters, waters that were to the loins. ⁵Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass through; for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed through.

⁶And he said unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen this? Then he brought me, and caused me to return to the bank of the river. ⁷Now when I had returned, behold, upon the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other. ⁸Then said he unto me, These waters issue forth toward the eastern region, and shall go down into the Arabah; and they shall go toward the sea; into the sea shall the waters go which were made to issue forth; and the waters shall be healed. ⁹And it shall come to pass, that every living creature which swarmeth, in every place whither the rivers come, shall live; and there shall be a very great multitude of fish; for these waters are come thither, and the waters of the sea shall be healed, and everything shall live whithersoever the river cometh. ¹⁰And it shall come to pass, that fishers shall stand by it: from En-gedi even unto Englaim shall be a place for the spreading of nets; their fish shall be after their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many. ¹¹But the miry places thereof, and the marshes thereof, shall not be healed; they shall be given up to salt. ¹²And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow every tree for food, whose leaf shall not wither, neither shall the fruit thereof fail: it shall bring forth new fruit every month, because the waters thereof issue out of the sanctuary; and the fruit thereof shall be for food, and the leaf thereof for healing (ASV, 1901).

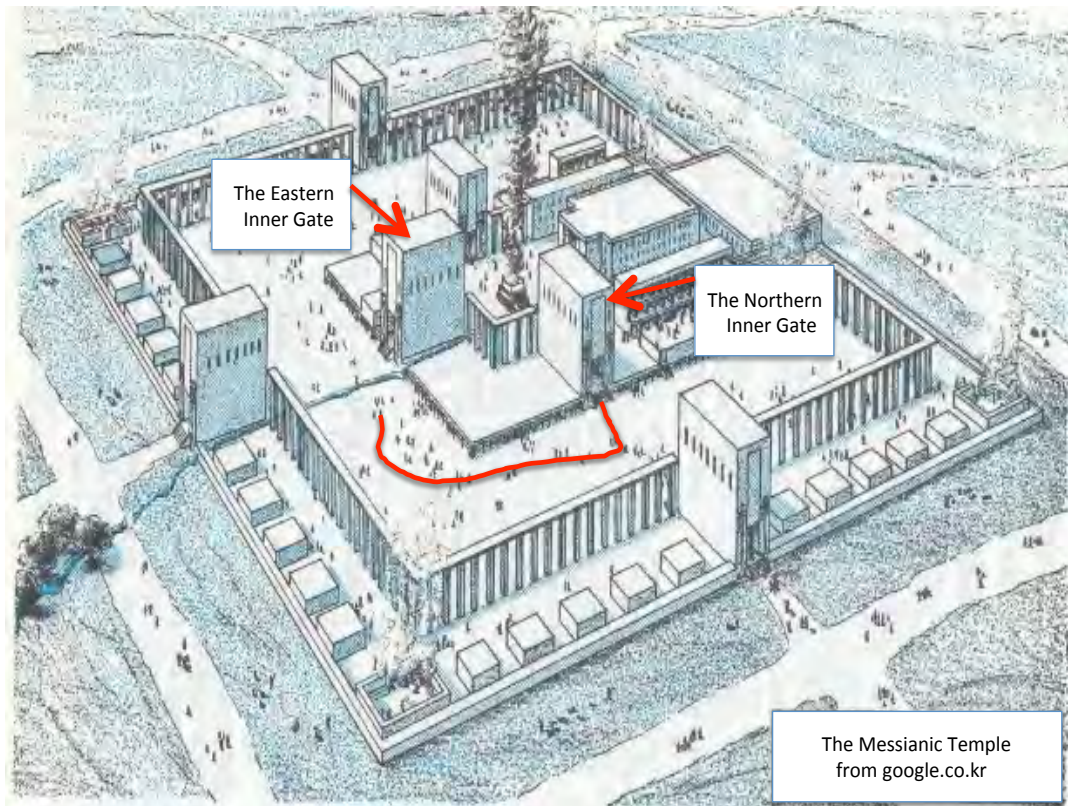
WATER WILL FLOW FROM THE MESSIANIC TEMPLE

Ezekiel 47:1-2

¹And he brought me back 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 was toward the east); and the waters came down from under, from the right side of the house, on the south of the altar. ²Then he brought me out by the way of the gate northward, and led me round by the way without unto the outer gate, by the way of the gate that looketh toward the east; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side (ASV, 1901).

Ezekiel left the outer courtyard seeing the four enclosures which were described in the last chapter. Now he is brought back into the inner courtyard to stand next to the Temple proper. The Angel of Jehovah, our Lord Jesus begins to show Ezekiel the small trickle of water that will emanate from under the threshold of the Holy Place in the Messianic Temple. The water is barely a trickle coming out of the south side of the Temple building near the center of the eastern wall under the floor. Then he watches as the water moves to the right and passes the altar on the southern side. Then the Lord Jesus takes him out of the inner courtyard to the outer courtyard by way of the northern gate and then he moves around to the eastern gate.

Messianic Temple Showing Ezekiel's Path as The Lord Shows him The River. He Leaves the Inner Northern Gate and Circles Around to the Inner Eastern Gate to See The Water Trickle Out.



Ezekiel sees the water coming from the Temple out to the inner court around the north side of the alter out the right side of the eastern inner gate which is to the north. Even today as a precursor to this there is an underground stream that flows beneath the Temple Mount near the Kotel (The Western Wall). Once a year on Rosh Hashanah several tiles are removed from the floor to allow the water to be used in services. ¹

A FOUNTAIN WILL FLOW FROM THE TEMPLE

Joel 3:18

¹⁸And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down sweet wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the brooks of Judah shall flow with waters; and a fountain shall come forth from the house of Jehovah, and shall water the valley of Shittim (ASV, 1901).

Affirming and summarizing the text in Ezekiel 47:1-12, the Lord says through the prophet Joel that this life giving water will flow out of the Temple building providing a magnificent abundance of produce as it makes its way south to the Dead Sea.

THE FIRST LENGTH OF WATER MEASURED

Ezekiel 47:3

³When the man went forth eastward with the line in his hand, he measured a thousand cubits, and he caused me to pass through the waters, waters that were to the ankles (ASV, 1901).

The man here measuring has been identified earlier as the Angel of Jehovah. He leads Ezekiel out from the eastern inner gate and straight out toward the closed eastern outer gate (closed after The Lord entered). Ezekiel enters the water which goes around the gate on the north (right) side and continues out of the temple compound. The first leg of the water will move forward 1,500 feet (1,000 cubits). But now the water in this leg of movement has increased its depth from a mere trickle to being about ankle depth or approximately 4 inches.

THE SECOND AND THIRD LEGS OF THE RIVER

Ezekiel 47:4

⁴Again he measured a thousand, and caused me to pass through the waters, waters that were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and caused me to pass through the waters, waters that were to the loins (ASV, 1901).

¹ Clorfene, Chaim, The Messianic Temple, published by Chaim Clorfene, 2005 Jerusalem pg.209

Now in the second 1,500 ft. length the prophet is put into the water which has now deepened to be at Ezekiel's knees, which is approximately two feet and rising. Again the Angel of Jehovah measures out another 1,500 ft. length and He makes Ezekiel go into it and it is now at a depth up to his loins or approximately three feet.

THE FOURTH LEG IS VERY DEEP

Ezekiel 47:5

⁵Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass through; for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed through (ASV, 1901).

Now as Ezekiel attempts to enter and wade through the fourth leg it is so deep that he cannot touch the bottom with his feet and keep his head above the water. It is a bonafide river in which Ezekiel must swim in order to stay in it.

GOD DECLARES THE RIVER IS NOW IN HEAVEN

Psalms 46:4-7

⁴There is a river, the streams whereof make glad the city of God, The holy place of the tabernacles of the Most High. ⁵God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God will help her, and that right early. ⁶The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved: He uttered his voice, the earth melted. ⁷Jehovah of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah (ASV, 1901).

This depicts a scene in Heaven whereby the mighty God of all creation dwells. The psalmist is demonstrating that the City of God in Heaven has a life giving river that comes out of the Holy Place in the Heavenly Tabernacle. The city is described as firm and cannot be moved as it is under the auspices of the Creator of the Universe. Regardless of what happens on the earth as nations war and change boundaries God is in complete control. In the fullness of time He will come down to earth, enter the Messianic Temple and take up residence for a thousand years. He will dwell among us in a physical sense within the Messiah of Israel.

Now He dwells within us as a Spirit to assure us of His love for us and as our refuge in difficult times. But soon we will see Him face-to-face when He returns.

The scene describes a river which has qualities that *make glad the city of God*. This City of God is the New Jerusalem which will come down from Heaven (Revelation 3:12) after the Messianic Kingdom has run its one-thousand year course and God establishes the Eternal Order on the earth. This city is also called The Heavenly Jerusalem (Hebrews 12:22), Free (Galatians 4:26), the surrounding camp of the saints and the Beloved City (Revelation 20:9), The Holy City Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God (Revelation 21:10), and the city in which God will take (remove) the share (participation) of those who remove parts of Scripture (Revelation 22:19). Jesus Himself declared that He provides living water leading to eternal life (John 4:14).

THE FEEDING OF THE TREES

Ezekiel 47:6-7

⁶And he said unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen this? Then he brought me, and caused me to return to the bank of the river. ⁷Now when I had returned, behold, upon the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other (ASV,1901).

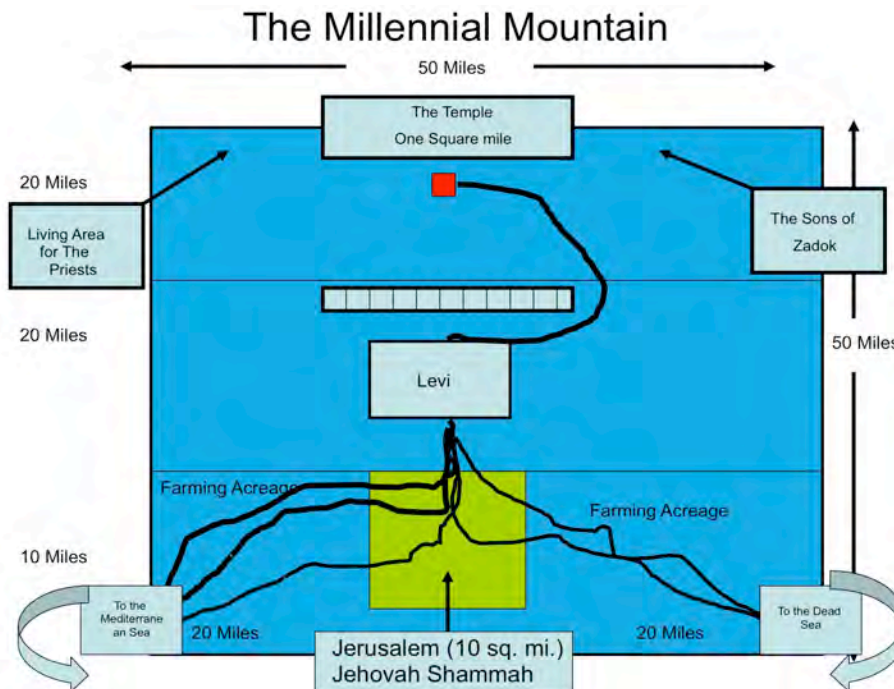
Coming out of the water at the direction of the Messiah Ezekiel noticed trees that had not been there before he entered this forth section of the river. This life giving heavenly water will provide an abundance of growth of the plant life near its banks as it makes its way south to the Dead Sea.

JERUSALEM WILL RECEIVE WATER FROM THE RIVER

Zechariah 14:8

⁸And it shall come to pass in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the eastern sea, and half of them toward the western sea: in summer and in winter shall it be. ⁹And Jehovah shall be King over all the earth: in that day shall Jehovah be one, and his name one (ASV, 1901).

The river will initially flow out of the Temple on the northern side of the eastern gate. It will then turn south and flow in a massive deep river into Jerusalem. This passage is affirming the timing of these events when the Messiah rules the earth from the Messianic Temple.



Messianic Kingdom Mountain drawn by Daniel E. Woodhead

This chart depicts the twelve gates of Messianic Jerusalem and expands on the manner in which the river will branch out into two major directions, one flowing east down the mountain to the Dead Sea and the other flowing west to the Mediterranean Sea.

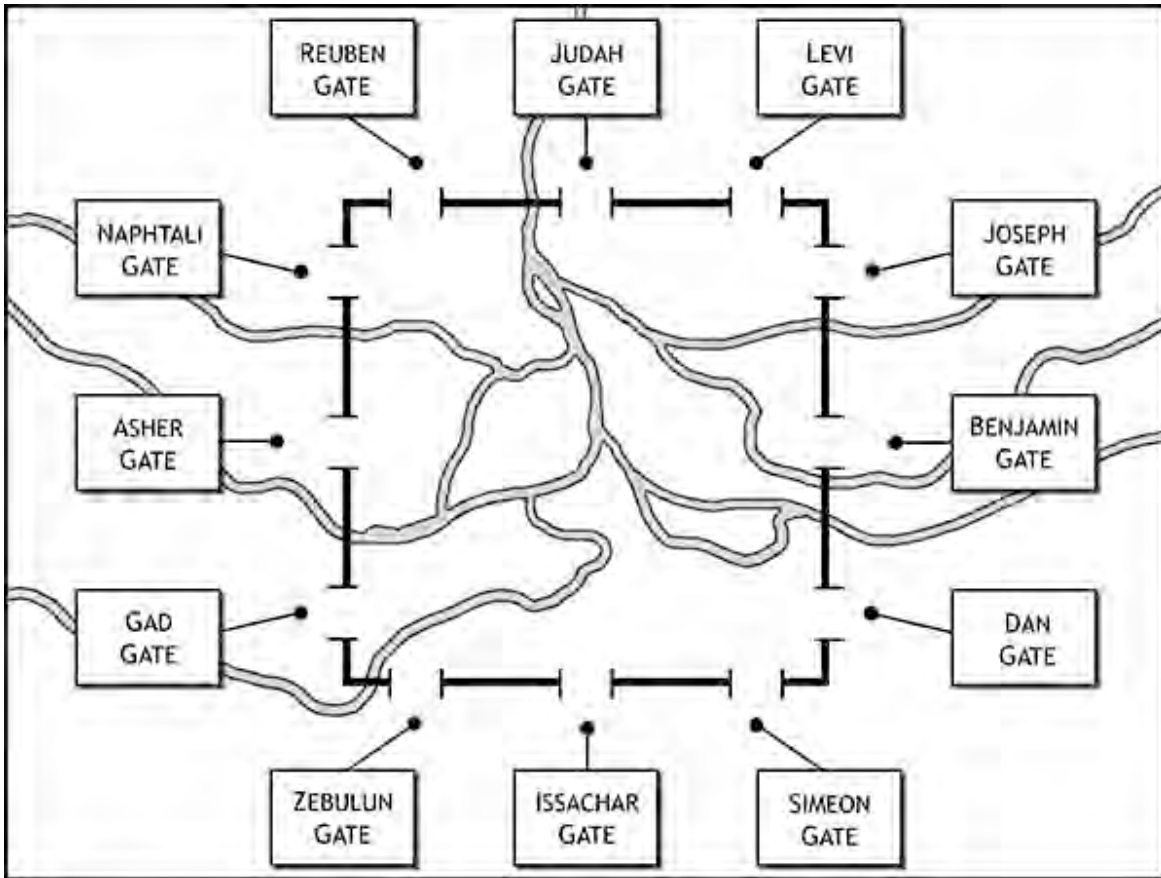


Chart from Footsteps of the Messiah by Arnold Fruchtenbaum

THE DEAD SEA WILL LIVE

Ezekiel 47:8-9

⁸Then said he unto me, These waters issue forth toward the eastern region, and shall go down into the Arabah; and they shall go toward the sea; into the sea shall the waters go which were made to issue forth; and the waters shall be healed. ⁹And it shall come to pass, that every living creature which swarmeth, in every place whither the rivers come, shall live; and there shall be a very great multitude of fish; for these waters are come thither, and the waters of the sea shall be healed, and everything shall live whithersoever the river cometh (ASV, 1901).

Now the Angel of Jehovah begins to describe the water flow from the eastern to their destination which is the Salt Sea also known as the Dead Sea. This is the way that the waters of the Dead Seal will be healed. This is in reference to the condition that it now embodies.

Today the water flows from the Sea of Galilee south through the Jordan river and emptying into the Dead Sea. It has the highest level of salinity of any lake on the earth. It is 9.6 times as salty as the ocean and therefore no macroscopic living things can exist in it.² The sea does have though some minuscule quantities of bacteria and microbial fungi. In times of large scale flooding the salinity percentage can drop from its usual 35% to around 30% or lower. During those time some aquatic life are able to temporarily live in the Sea.³ In 1990 due to the many years of extracting minerals for commercial purposes the water level had fallen by about twenty meters. The following winter there was higher than normal rain fall which caused an unprecedented amount of freshwater to enter the Dead Sea from the Jordan river. As a result some fish were reported to have entered and thrived in the Dead Sea for a short period.⁴ Finally even people who come to the Dead Sea will be healed of anything that plagues them. This supports the fact that during the Messianic Kingdom the life giving river flowing out from Messiah's Temple will bring the Dead Sea back to life for a thousand years.

THE DEAD SEA WILL PROVIDE COMMERCE FOR FISHERMAN

Ezekiel 47:10-12

¹⁰And it shall come to pass, that fishers shall stand by it: from En-gedi even unto En-eglaim shall be a place for the spreading of nets; their fish shall be after their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many. ¹¹But the miry places thereof, and the marshes thereof, shall not be healed; they shall be given up to salt. ¹²And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow every tree for food, whose leaf shall not wither, neither shall the fruit thereof fail: it shall bring forth new fruit every month, because the waters thereof issue out of the sanctuary; and the fruit thereof shall be for food, and the leaf thereof for healing (ASV, 1901).

Fishermen will be eager to harvest the bountiful schools of fish to feed many people on the earth. They will have the entire area around the Dead Sea to dry and mend their nets represented by *En-gedi even unto En-eglaim*. The fish in the Sea will have the same abundance of fish as the Mediterranean Sea (Great Sea). The miry places or shallow bogs will continue to have salt in them and therefore there will not support aquatic life. Interestingly throughout the Old Testament this phrase "*the miry places thereof, and the marshes thereof, shall not be healed*" is traditionally of judgment (Deuteronomy 29:23; Judges 9:45; Psalm 107:34; Jeremiah 17:16; Zephaniah 2:9). God may intend on reserving these areas as judgment upon some people or land used in the past against Him. Now however, in the Messianic Kingdom blessing these marshes will retain the salt that was formerly in the Dead Sea. The salt there now has been highly desirable above other sources in the past. It was recognized as having cosmetic desirability and for hastening the burning of the sacrifices in the first Temple as well as mitigating the noxious odors associated with the massive amount of slaughtering and burning flesh taking place. The trees seen by Ezekiel

² David Bridger; Samuel Wolk (September 1976). *The New Jewish Encyclopedia*. Behrman House, Inc. p. 109

³ Ibid

⁴ Clorfene, Chaim, *The Messianic Temple*, published by Chaim Clorfene, 2005 Jerusalem pg.217

as he was led to observe the river (v.7), while providing an abundance of food are now described as having leaves with medicinal value to heal. This miraculous phenomenon will bring people to Israel to cure many diseases and maladies. They will go up to the Millennial Mountain to thank God for healing them. The leaves will not drop as they do now in the fall when deciduous trees go dormant for the winter. The trees will continue to produce fruit and the leaves will heal every sickness and wound. This is what the world will have in the Messianic Kingdom. This clearly demonstrates the gracious provision that God will make for man living on the earth during the age to come. Poverty, famine and sickness will be eliminated.

Next message: Part XIX of The Messianic Kingdom

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