

Ezekiel's Vision of God's Kingdom

Key Verse: *“Along the bank of the river, on this side and that, will grow all kinds of trees used for food; their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine.”*
—*Ezekiel 47:12, New King James Version*

Selected Scripture:
Ezekiel 47:1-12

Our Key Verse anticipates the glories of the Millennial kingdom—the fulfillment of that for which we have prayed for centuries: “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.” (Matt. 6:10) The channel of blessings in that time are associated with a river which flows from the Temple of God. The Prophet Zechariah identified the unique quality of its waters; they are living waters! “In that day it shall be— That living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, Half of them toward the eastern sea And half of them toward the western sea; In both summer and winter it shall occur. And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be The LORD is one, And His name one.”— Zech. 14:8,9, NKJV

The Selected Scripture for today's lesson depicts the river's growth. As it first comes from the Temple, Ezekiel notes that one thousand cubits from the water's

source it came up to his ankles. As he progressed another one thousand cubits downstream the waters came to his knees. Yet one thousand more and the waters came to his waist. At four thousand cubits the flood of waters became a river that Ezekiel could not cross. The river was so deep that it would require one to swim in attempting to cross it. This fits well with our understanding that the glorious kingdom of God will gradually, yet inexorably, fill the earth. The results will be impressive. “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.”—Isa. 11:9, *NKJV*

Ezekiel had a divinely appointed guide during this experience. (Ezek. 40:2-4) His guide had cautioned him to “Look with your eyes and hear with your ears, and fix your mind on everything I show you; for you were brought here so that I might show them to you. Declare to the house of Israel everything you see.” (vs. 4, *NKJV*) The one speaking to Ezekiel asked an interesting question after the vision of the waters. “He said to me, Son of man, have you seen this?” (Ezek. 47:6, *NKJV*) The importance of this vision was made emphatic to the prophet and, subsequently, to us also.

That being accomplished, Ezekiel was brought to the banks of the river. His guide said, using symbolic language, “This water flows toward the eastern regions, goes down into the valley, and enters the sea. When it reaches the sea, its waters are healed. And it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live.” Then are found the words of our Key Verse. (Ezek. 47:8,9,12, *NKJV*) The Revelation given to the Apostle John affirms Ezekiel’s experience. “He showed me a pure river of water of life. ... On either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.” (Rev. 22:1,2, *NKJV*) Ezekiel’s vision continues to inspire us! ■