

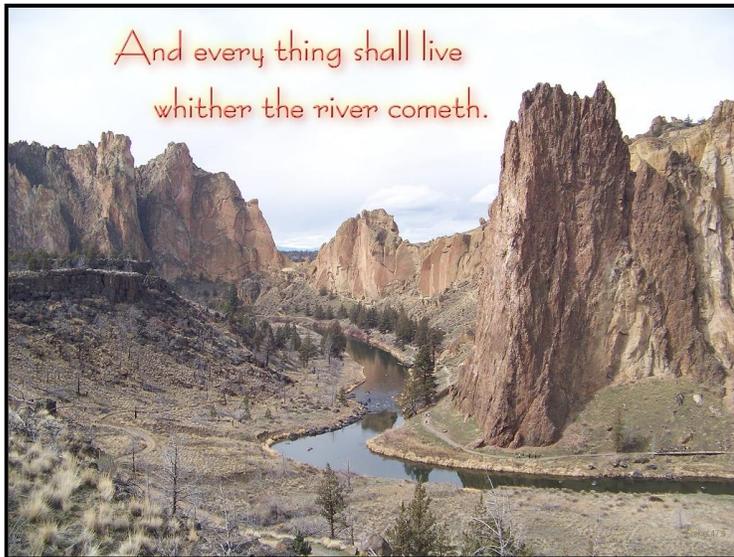
FALL QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2014

THEME: DISPLACED BUT NOT MISPLACED THROUGH TRUSTING THE IMMUTABLE GOD

Unit III – Visions of Grandeur

“A PROMISE OF LIVING WATERS IN A BARREN LAND”

Sunday School Lesson No. XI – November 16, 2014



Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 47:1-12
Required Reading: Ezekiel Chapters 40 – 48
Motto Text: Ezekiel 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.*”

Reliable Resources: David Jeremiah Study Bible; Precepts for Living (UMI); Pilgrim Study Bible (Notes); Preaching from the Prophets (Kyle Yates); Union Gospel

Press Expositor and Illuminator; Standard Lesson Commentary; Nelson’s Illustrated Manners and Customs of the Bible (1980); Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the Old Testament (1993); The Message (Translation); Children’s Ministry Resource Bible; The Outline Study Bible by H. L. Willmington; Libronix Electronic Library System; Be Reverent (Warren Wiersbe); Notes from MacArthur Study Bible

LESSON INTRODUCTION

Beloved, we are approaching the end of our study in Ezekiel’s prophecy. It has focused on “**Hope for the Jews in a Captive Land.**” God would commit to keeping His promises towards them in a future time! We have learned that their only hope is in the faithful promises of Jehovah who, though He allowed them to be scattered in captivity, will cause them not only to return to their land (historically) but will cause them to return and fulfill all the prophetic promises (future Millennial Kingdom) that He made through His prophetic proclaimers from Moses to Malachi!

Today’s lesson is at the conclusion of the final great vision of restoration shown to Ezekiel. (Read chapters 40 – 48). A special angelic man took Ezekiel on a guided prophetic tour of the New City and Temple and its surroundings and effects on the region and its inhabitants. What Ezekiel saw and experienced was to be a great encouragement to God’s discouraged people who were displaced but not misplaced!

The Sunday School lesson this week is very explicit concerning a river of living water that will precede from The Holy Throne in the Temple of the Lord. This Holy Throne represents the presence and authority of God and His Glory which had departed from Israel at the Babylonian captivity and has now returned to remain permanently among the people. (Read Ezekiel 10:18-19; 11:23; 43:1-5).

Historically, ancient great cities of this world were always built on rivers or great sources of water to maintain their survival and protection, but God’s city Jerusalem was not so built, because her source and survival was not of man’s hand or nature’s hand, but it was fully of God. Hence the Millennial Kingdom’s Temple and land were nourished from the person, power and presence of God!

Anticipated Power Points:

- **The River of Living Water... Transports Life from God’s Presence. Ezekiel 47:1-5**
- **Because of the River of Living Water... Transgressions and Pollutions are Removed. Ezekiel 47:6-11**
- **The River of Living Water Causes... Transformation of Everything in its Path Permanently. Ezekiel 47:12**

LESSON EXPOSITION

The River of Living Water...

I. Transports Life from God's Presence. Ezekiel 47:1-5

The Psalmist wrote in Psalm 46:4, *"There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High."* This tells of the life-giving source of refreshment and requirement that the Living Waters of God brought to Israel. Ezekiel had been on a guided tour in the Spirit of the total restoration of God's Temple, worship, people and personalities. Now he is shown by the Angel of the Lord how the restored land will be nourished, revived and refreshed with the living water from God's presence as its source! vs. 1

Now Ezekiel was led through the north gate outside the Temple around to the east gate to see the waters leave the Temple and begin to move out and gain momentum as it reached south beyond the Temple. vs. 2

In verses 3-5, Ezekiel is led southward in the vision by his angelic tour guide, and was told to cross this river of living water about every 1,750 feet or 1,000 cubits (Hebrew long cubit equals 21 inches). The water went from ankle depth to finally swimming depth.

Beloved, everywhere this Living Water traveled and touched brought life and hope and its movement was nothing short of supernatural. "But why?" one may ask. Because the Source is God! When the living water of The Lord lives in our lives as Christians, we should grow. I am reminded of a Child Evangelism song that says, *"When you read your Bible and pray every day, you Grow, Grow, Grow!"* Beloved are you growing daily in your Christian life? II Peter 3:18 tells us, *"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."*

Because of the River of Living Water...

II. Transgressions and Pollutions are Removed. Ezekiel 47:6-11

Beloved, let us remember that what Ezekiel saw was not a Heavenly vision such as the permanent everlasting Kingdom in Revelation Chapter 22, but his vision is the fulfillment of the earthly kingdom promised to Israel had they been obedient and faithful. (Read Ezekiel 47:6-8). Ezekiel is brought back to the bank of the river to see how the living waters from God's Holy Throne of God washed away all sins, transgressions and pollutions, making the land of Palestine a garden of beauty! According to the writings of other prophets, God's land will flourish from desert to beauty, even down to the Dead Sea, 1300 ft. Below sea level, and all the way over to the Mediterranean Sea. The miracle of life and abundance flowing from the Dead Sea is nothing shorter than the "Hand of God." Joel 3:18 says, *"And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim."* (Also read Isaiah 35:1-7). In verse 11, some miry marshy places remain to provide salt of necessity. (Read Ezekiel 43:24). Ezekiel saw how God can turn back the clock and bring prosperity where there was pollution (vss. 9-11).

Finally, the River of Living Water Causes...

III. Transformation of Everything in its Path Permanently. Ezekiel 47:12

When Ezekiel saw the total effects of this river of living water, he noted that its blessings were perpetual on the fruit of the land. It made everything it touched to transform into that which was a blessing, and no longer a curse. From the perpetual filling of the stomach with food to the healing power of herbs, leaves and trees! Thank God for the restoration promised to Israel that will be delivered.

CLOSING

But what does all this say to the Church of God? That we serve a God that keeps His Word and delivers on all His promises. Also, that we ought to be grateful for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who declared in John 7:37-39, *"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)"* And thank God on the Day of Pentecost, the Spirit was given, and continues to be present in the believer. I Corinthians 12:3, *"Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost."*

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Radio Broadcast: WABL AM (Amite City), Saturday, 3:00 p.m.

TV Broadcasts: WHNO TV-Channel 20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.



Looking Ahead: November 23, 2014

Ezekiel 47:13-23

You are invited to attend Noon Bible Study every Wednesday as Pastor Davis teaches the lesson at Bibleway.