

THE RIVER OF LIFE

Ezek. 47:1-12

The prophet Ezekiel was ushered by the Lord to the door of the Temple, where He gave the prophet an amazing vision of the river of life. The river is a beautiful symbol of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and the fullness of the blessing of the Gospel of Christ.

Its Source

“I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple” (v. 1). In the Bible, God the Father is compared to a fountain of living water (Jer. 2:15). God the Son is compared to a well of living water (John 4:14), and God the Holy Spirit is compared to a river of living water (John 7:37-39). The beginnings of the river are with the Triune God.

Its Course

“The water came down... at the south side of the altar” (v. 1). The altar is symbolic of the Cross of Christ. Zech. 12:10 and 13:1 speak of Christ's death as a fountain opened to cleanse from sin and impurity.

The Holy Spirit was not given till after Christ had suffered and was glorified (John 7:39). Along with this precious gift of the Spirit, Christ's followers were given a promise that He would be a river of life springing up within them. And that river would, through His church, flow out into the entire world.

Its Force

“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” (v5). The flow of water from God's house would grow in power and fullness. It would expand in width, depth, volume, and power.

The river of God ***brings life wherever it goes***. It had power to heal (v. 8), to revive (v. 9), and to bring forth fruit and abiding freshness (v. 12). Such is the power of the Holy Spirit working in those who believe in Him.

In the very last days, the church of Jesus Christ will be more glorious, more victorious, than in its entire history. The Lord's true body isn't going to weaken and fail. It's not going to dwindle in numbers, or decrease in power or spiritual authority. No, His church will go out in a blaze of power and glory. And it will enjoy the fullest revelation of Jesus that anyone has ever known (*David Ray Wilkerson*).

