



# REALITY

## **Living in the Fullness of the Spirit**

Ezekiel 47:1-12

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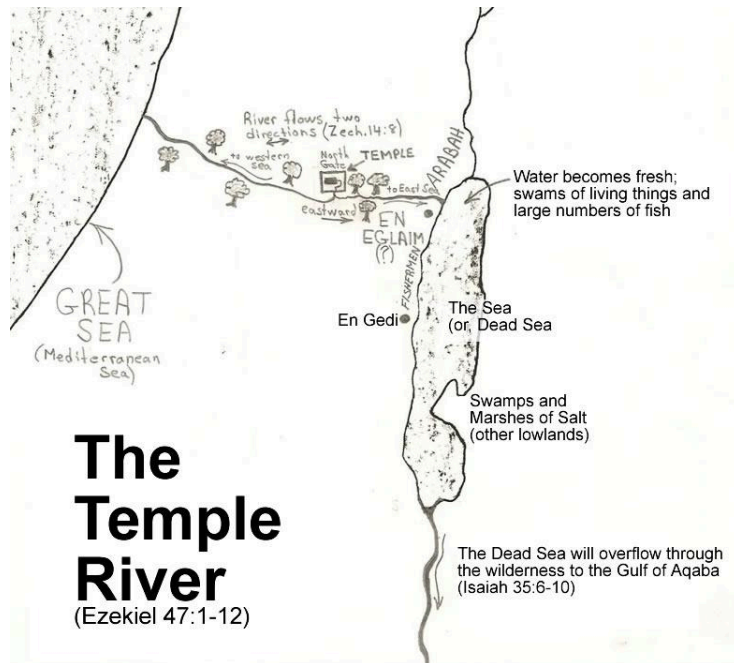
### **Ezekiel 47:1-12**

The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar. He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was trickling from the south side.

As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and then led me through water that was ankle-deep. He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist. He measured off another thousand, 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. He asked me, “Son of man, do you see this?”

Then he led me back to the bank of the river. When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river. He said to me, “This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, where it enters the Dead Sea. When it empties into the sea, the salty water there becomes fresh. Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. Fishermen will stand along the shore; from En Gedi to En Eglaim there will be places for

spreading nets. The fish will be of many kinds—like the fish of the Mediterranean Sea. But the swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt. Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.”



“Oh, I wish I had a river  
 I could skate away on  
 I wish I had a river so long  
 I would teach my feet to fly  
 Oh, I wish I had a river  
 I could skate away on.”

- Joni Mitchell, *River*

We are not left to our own striving or effort; the infinite power, love, and holiness of the Spirit is available to us. There is no way to follow Jesus or call him Lord but by the Holy Spirit.

### **Matthew 3:11**

“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

The Spirit is the diadem of the whole Gospel, and the one who teaches us all things.

### **Galatians 5:7**

For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.

### **Hebrews 9:23**

It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

“a prophecy of salvation”

- Ronald M. Halls, on Ezekiel 47:1-2

“So all this [Ezekiel 47:1–12] is of a piece with the interpretation of the [previous] nine chapters as idealized and essentially symbolic in character and intention. Those literalists who cherish the hope that they will one day be able to turn them into some kind of fulfillment in a Third Temple are doing a disservice both to the text and to the intention of the prophet.”

- Walter Eichrodt, *Old Testament Library Commentary on Ezekiel*

“[This freshness cannot] be the result of an impressive civil engineering project. Gaebelein claims that the presence of salt implies that Ezekiel does not speak of the ‘perfect, eternal age,’ so it must refer to the millennium. No amount of exegetical finesse or insistence on ‘what the Bible plainly says’ can

transform the poetry of this passage into a topographically and ecologically realistic account of an event in time.”

- Ian M. Duguid, *Ezekiel: NIV Application Commentary*

The Temple

The Angelic Man

The Supernatural Trees

The River

The Teeming, Colorful Fish of Diverse Kinds

The Fisher People

The Dead Sea

## **1. A Vision of a New Heavens & Earth**

### **Revelation 22:1-3**

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.

## **2. A Vision of Trinitarian Action in the World Through Baptism**

## **3. The Spirit's Mission Through the Church or Believer**

### **Ezekiel 47:9**

Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live.

Another translation: “everything will come alive”

### **John 3:5**

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, (they) cannot enter the kingdom of God.”

“The Holy Ghost must, then, have been a person; since he was beheld by mortal eyes, and he came under the cognizance of mortal sense...God the Holy Ghost is not an influence, an emanation, a stream of something flowing from the Father; but he is as much an actual person as either God the Son, or God the Father...Whenever I find a man in whom there rests the Spirit of God, the Spirit within me leaps to hear the Spirit within him, and he feels that we are one. The Spirit of God in one Christian soul recognizes the Spirit in another.”

- Charles H. Spurgeon

“Behind the vision stands the concept of blessing as the power of God which, crowning the worship of his pilgrim people, returns home with them and enriches their lives.”

- Leslie C. Allen, *Ezekiel*

### **Leviticus 6:18**

The fire on the altar must burn continuously, it must not go out.

“The Savior permitted to come upon us a Spirit of whom we had hitherto not had any experience or knowledge...Hitherto we had been the leaders and helpers. Now the Holy Spirit Himself took full control of everything and everybody.”

- Count Zinzendorf