

Ezekiel 47:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Afterward he brought me again 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 stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar.

Analysis

Ezekiel sees 'waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar.' This river flowing from the temple represents life-giving blessing emanating from God's presence. The eastward flow recalls Eden's river watering the garden (Genesis 2:10) and anticipates Revelation's river of life flowing from God's throne (Revelation 22:1). The water originating 'from under the threshold' suggests it flows from the very foundation of God's dwelling—His presence is the source of all life and blessing. The south side of the altar location connects life-giving water to sacrificial atonement—blessing flows through sacrifice.

Historical Context

In arid Palestine, water symbolized life, fertility, and blessing. Prophets frequently used water imagery for spiritual renewal (Isaiah 44:3, Joel 2:28-29). This river's supernatural origin (flowing from temple, not a natural spring) and its miraculous growth (ankle to knee to waist to unswimmable depth, 47:3-5) demonstrate divine, not natural, source. The vision came to exiles in Babylon (circa 573 BC), where they lived near actual rivers (Chebar, Euphrates) yet were spiritually dry. God

promises that His restored presence will produce abundant life. Jesus identified Himself as source of living water (John 4:14, 7:38), and the Spirit is the living water believers receive (John 7:39). The church dispenses this life to the world.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do you see Christ and the Spirit as fulfillments of this life-giving river flowing from God's presence?
2. In what ways should the church function as a conduit of God's life-giving water to a spiritually dry world?

Isaiah 55:1 (Parallel theme): Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Psalms 46:4 (Parallel theme): There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.

Jeremiah 2:13 (Parallel theme): For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

Ezekiel 47:12 (Parallel theme): And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine.

Revelation 22:17 (Parallel theme): And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Zechariah 13:1 (Parallel theme): In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

Isaiah 30:25 (Parallel theme): And there shall be upon every high mountain, and upon every high hill, rivers and streams of waters in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall.