

Ezekiel 47:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from En-gedi even unto En-eglaim; they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many.

Analysis

The fishers from En-gedi to En-eglaim spreading nets indicates economic revival and abundant provision. Fish represent souls (Matthew 4:19, Luke 5:10), and fishing pictures gospel ministry bringing people into God's kingdom. The fish 'according to their kinds... exceeding many' suggests ethnic diversity—'every kindred, tongue, people, and nation' (Revelation 5:9, 7:9). The phrase 'as the fish of the great sea' (Mediterranean) contrasts Dead Sea's former sterility with new abundance matching the ocean's teeming life. Reformed theology sees this as picturing gospel harvest—seemingly dead religious systems revitalized by Spirit's power. The fishers' activity indicates human cooperation with divine provision: God provides fish (converts), but fishers must spread nets (evangelism, discipleship). This balances divine sovereignty and human responsibility.

Historical Context

En-gedi (meaning 'spring of the young goat') was an oasis on Dead Sea's western shore where David hid from Saul (1 Samuel 23:29, 24:1). Song of Solomon mentions its vineyards (Song of Solomon 1:14). En-eglaim's location is debated (possibly near Qumran or eastern Dead Sea shore). The two locations may represent Dead Sea's north-south extent, indicating comprehensive transformation. Ancient fishing involved casting nets (Matthew 4:18), drawing nets

(John 21:6), and spreading nets for drying/repair (Matthew 4:21). Jesus called fishermen as disciples, promising to make them 'fishers of men' (Matthew 4:19). The early church's explosive growth fulfilled this vision—3,000 converts at Pentecost (Acts 2:41), multitudes added daily (Acts 2:47, 5:14), gospel spreading from Jerusalem to Rome (Acts 1:8, 28:30-31).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How actively do you 'spread nets'—engaging in evangelism and discipleship—versus passively hoping others do it?
2. What does the fish's diversity ('according to their kinds') teach about ethnic diversity in God's kingdom?
3. How does transforming the Dead Sea (impossible task) encourage faith for seemingly impossible revival in your context?

Interlinear Text

וְהָיָה H1961	יַעֲמֹד וְ H5975	עַל יַם H5921	וְיָבֹג יָם H1728	יָמַע יָם H0
	shall stand		And it shall come to pass that the fishers	
	H5872		H5882	
עַל יָם H5872	עַל יָם H5704	עַל יָם H0	עַל יָם H5882	
upon it from Engedi			even unto Eneglaim	
וְהָיָה H4894	וְהָיָה H4894	וְהָיָה H4894	וְהָיָה H4894	וְהָיָה H4894
they shall be a place to spread forth				
וְהָיָה H4327	וְהָיָה H4327	וְהָיָה H4327	וְהָיָה H4327	וְהָיָה H4327
shall be according to their kinds				
וְהָיָה H1419	וְהָיָה H7227	וְהָיָה H3966	וְהָיָה H1710	וְהָיָה H3220
of the great	many	exceeding	as the fish	sea

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 4:19 (Parallel theme): And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Psalms 104:25 (Parallel theme): So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts.

Numbers 34:6 (Parallel theme): And as for the western border, ye shall even have the great sea for a border: this shall be your west border.

Mark 1:17 (Parallel theme): And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.

Ezekiel 47:15 (Parallel theme): And this shall be the border of the land toward the north side, from the great sea, the way of Hethlon, as men go to Zedad;

Ezekiel 48:28 (Parallel theme): And by the border of Gad, at the south side southward, the border shall be even from Tamar unto the waters of strife in Kadesh, and to the river toward the great sea.

2 Chronicles 20:2 (Parallel theme): Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they be in Hazazon-tamar, which is En-gedi.

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