

Ezekiel 47:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Describing trees along the river's banks: '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: therefore the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine.' These perpetually fruitful trees echo Eden's tree of life (Genesis 2:9) and anticipate Revelation's tree of life bearing twelve manner of fruits with leaves for healing of nations (Revelation 22:2). The continuous fruitfulness ('according to his months'—every month new fruit) represents unceasing blessing and provision. The dual purpose—fruit for food, leaves for medicine—shows comprehensive care: nourishment and healing. The source 'out of the sanctuary' identifies God's presence as origin of all blessing.

Historical Context

Trees symbolized life, stability, and blessing throughout Scripture (Psalm 1:3, Jeremiah 17:7-8). The unfading leaves contrast with natural trees that go dormant seasonally—this supernatural vitality comes from waters flowing from God's

presence. The monthly fruitfulness suggests perpetual harvest, uninterrupted blessing unlike agricultural cycles with fallow seasons. Jewish interpretation connected these trees to messianic age abundance. Christian interpretation sees fulfillment in Christ (the tree of life accessed through His cross) and the church bearing Spirit-fruit (Galatians 5:22-23). The ultimate fulfillment appears in Revelation 22:2—the tree of life in the New Jerusalem, symbol of eternal life and healing in God's presence.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does being planted by God's life-giving river enable you to bear continuous fruit for His kingdom?
2. In what ways do you see Christ as the tree of life providing both nourishment and healing?

3

Jeremiah 17:8 (Parallel theme): For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

Ezekiel 47:7 (Parallel theme): Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other.

Genesis 2:9 (Parallel theme): And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Psalms 92:12 (Parallel theme): The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Isaiah 60:21 (Parallel theme): Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified.

Isaiah 61:3 (Parallel theme): To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

Job 8:16 (Parallel theme): He is green before the sun, and his branch shooteth forth in his garden.

Jeremiah 8:22 (Parallel theme): Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there? why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?