

Ezekiel 47:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then brought he me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the utter gate by the way that looketh eastward; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side.

Analysis

The guide leads Ezekiel 'out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the utter gate by the way that looketh eastward; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side'—revealing the water's source and flow. The circuitous route (north gate, around outside, back to east gate) created anticipation and comprehensive perspective. The waters 'running out' (Hebrew **פָּקָה**, pakhah) on the 'right side' (south) recall the altar's position. This suggests life flows from God's presence through sacrifice—theological symbolism layered into architectural description. The Hebrew **יָמִן** (yamin, 'right side') often symbolizes blessing and favor (Psalm 16:11, 110:1). Reformed theology sees Christ's sacrifice (altar) as source of life-giving Spirit flowing to believers and through them to the world (John 7:37-39).

Historical Context

The detailed geographical description roots this vision in physical reality while pointing beyond literal fulfillment. The eastern gate's significance (glory's entrance, Ezekiel 43:2) connects to water's source. Jerusalem's actual topography slopes eastward toward Kidron Valley and Judean wilderness. The route 'about the way without' suggests the guide took Ezekiel outside the complex to view the water externally before immersing him internally. Ancient temple architecture

often featured water sources—Solomon's bronze sea and lavers (1 Kings 7:23-39), pools of Bethesda and Siloam in later Jerusalem. The 'running out' imagery fulfills Joel's prophecy: 'a fountain shall come forth of the house of the LORD' (Joel 3:18) and Zechariah's vision of living waters from Jerusalem (Zechariah 14:8).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How patient are you with God's 'circuitous routes' that build anticipation before revealing blessings?
2. Do you recognize Christ's sacrifice (altar) as the source from which all spiritual life flows?
3. How does the water flowing on the 'right side' (favor, blessing) encourage confidence in God's goodness?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּצְאֵנִי	וְיָצַאֲנִי	שַׁעַר	דֶּרֶךְ	צְפֹנָה	וַיִּסְבֶּןִי
Then brought he me out	by the way	gate	northward	and led me about	
H3318	H1870	H8179	H6828	H5437	
דֶּרֶךְ	בְּחַזֵּקָה	שַׁעַר	אֶל	בְּחַזֵּקָה	דֶּרֶךְ
by the way	without unto the utter	gate	without unto the utter	by the way	
H1870	H2351	H8179	H2351	H1870	
הַפּוֹתֵה	קָדֵם	וְהִנֵּה	מִימָּנוֹ	מִמֶּפְצֵךְ	בַּכְתֵּב
that looketh	eastward	H2009	waters	and behold there ran out	side
H6437	H6921	H4325		H6379	H3802
בִּימְנִיתָן					
on the right					
H3233					

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