

Ezekiel 47:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen this? Then he brought me, and caused me to return to the brink of the river.

Analysis

The guide's question—'Son of man, hast thou seen this?'—demands reflective comprehension, not mere observation. The Hebrew רָאָה (ra'ah, 'seen') implies understanding, not just visual perception. Seeing God's works requires spiritual insight (Matthew 13:14-16). The return 'to the brink of the river' suggests that after experiencing depths, one must return to minister at accessible edges where others begin their journey. This pattern appears throughout Scripture: Moses ascended Sinai but returned to lead (Exodus 19-20); Paul caught up to third heaven but returned to ministry (2 Corinthians 12:1-4); John saw heavenly visions but wrote for churches (Revelation 1-3). Reformed theology emphasizes that deep spiritual experience shouldn't produce elitism but equip service. Those who've swum in deep waters must guide others beginning at ankle depth.

Historical Context

Biblical visions often concluded with interpretive questions ensuring understanding. After throne vision, Ezekiel asked, 'Shall these bones live?' (Ezekiel 37:3). After Amos's visions, God asked, 'What seest thou?' (Amos 7:8, 8:2). Jesus repeatedly asked disciples, 'Do you understand?' (Matthew 13:51, 16:9-11). The rabbinic method involved questioning students to ensure comprehension, not passive reception. Returning to the brink parallels Jesus' post-resurrection appearances at familiar locations (Sea of Galilee, John 21; Emmaus road, Luke 24) before commissioning disciples for ministry. The guide's role throughout Ezekiel

40-47—measuring, explaining, questioning—models mentoring: progressive revelation, experiential learning, reflective integration. Spiritual maturity requires not only experiencing God's work but comprehending its meaning and implications.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. When God reveals profound truths, do you merely observe or truly 'see' with spiritual understanding and application?
2. After deep spiritual experiences, do you return 'to the brink' to help others begin their journey, or remain in isolated depths?
3. How do you cultivate reflective comprehension—asking 'what does this mean?' not just 'what did I experience?'

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	אֵלֹהִים	הֲרָא יְהוָה	בֶּן	אָדָם	וַיֹּאמֶר
And he said	H413	hast thou seen	unto me Son	of man	H1980
H559		H7200	H1121	H120	
וַיֹּשֶׁבֶנִי		שָׁפְךָ	הַנָּחַל:		
me and caused me to return		to the brink	of the river		
H7725		H8193	H5158		

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 44:5 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto me, Son of man, mark well, and behold with thine eyes, and hear with thine ears all that I say unto thee

concerning all the ordinances of the house of the LORD, and all the laws thereof; and mark well the entering in of the house, with every going forth of the sanctuary.

Ezekiel 40:4 (Parallel theme): And the man said unto me, Son of man, behold with thine eyes, and hear with thine ears, and set thine heart upon all that I shall shew thee; for to the intent that I might shew them unto thee art thou brought hither: declare all that thou seest to the house of Israel.

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