

Ezekiel 47:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other.

Analysis

The 'very many trees on the one side and on the other' represent abundant fruitfulness resulting from the river's life-giving flow. Trees symbolize righteous individuals (Psalm 1:3, Jeremiah 17:7-8) or nations (Daniel 4:10-12). The Hebrew יָעֵץ (ets, 'tree') recalls Eden (Genesis 2:9), promising paradise restoration. The bilateral placement—'one side and on the other'—suggests comprehensive blessing, not selective favor. Where God's Spirit flows, life multiplies exponentially. This anticipates verse 12's description of fruit-bearing trees with healing leaves. Reformed theology sees the church as these trees—planted by God's life-giving presence, bearing spiritual fruit (Galatians 5:22-23), providing healing to nations (Revelation 22:2). The trees' sudden appearance after Ezekiel's return emphasizes that recognizing God's work requires proper perspective—stepping back to see the whole, not remaining immersed in details.

Historical Context

Desert landscapes transforming into lush forests appears throughout prophetic literature. Isaiah prophesied desert blooming (Isaiah 35:1-2, 41:18-19), fir trees replacing thorns (Isaiah 55:13). Joel described restored fertility after locust devastation (Joel 2:21-27). These images contrasted with exile's barrenness, promising restoration abundance. Ancient Near Eastern cosmology depicted sacred trees at cosmic centers, but Israel's vision uniquely emphasizes living God as life-source, not nature mysticism. Palm trees adorned the temple (Ezekiel 40:16), symbolizing righteousness and victory (Psalm 92:12). The banks covered

with trees recall Psalm 1:3 and Jeremiah 17:8—those planted by water thrive. Revelation's tree of life (Revelation 22:2) with leaves for healing nations fulfills this vision—ultimate restoration of Genesis 2-3.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith

John 15:13 – Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 – Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Does your life exhibit the fruitfulness expected from being 'planted' by God's life-giving Spirit?
2. How do you function as a tree providing shade, fruit, and healing to others through proximity to God's presence?
3. What perspective shift (returning to the brink) might reveal God's abundant work you've missed while immersed in daily details?

Interlinear Text

בְּשׁוּבָּנִי	וְהַנֶּה	אֵל	שְׁפִת	כָּבֵד	עֵץ
Now when I had returned	H2009	H413	behold at the bank	of the river	trees

בְּ נִזְמָנָה:	מִזְרָחָה	מִזְרָחָה
many	were very	H2088
H7227	H3966	H2088

Additional Cross-References

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 22:2 (Parallel theme): In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

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