

Ezekiel 47:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh.

Analysis

Concerning the river: 'And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh.' The repeated emphasis on 'life' underscores the river's vivifying power—whatever it touches lives. The Hebrew 'yichyeh' (יִחְיֶה, 'shall live') appears three times, emphasizing life as the dominant theme. The 'very great multitude of fish' depicts abundant, teeming life where death previously reigned. The declaration 'they shall be healed' (veniraphu, וְנִרְפְּאוּ) shows this river brings restoration and wholeness, not just survival. This prophesies the gospel's life-giving power transforming spiritually dead people into abundant life (John 10:10).

Historical Context

The river flows to the Dead Sea (47:8), the lowest point on earth, where extreme salinity prevents life. The healing of these deadly waters represents God's power to bring life to the most hostile, hopeless environments. This foreshadows the gospel reaching Gentiles ('the sea' often symbolizing Gentile nations in Scripture) and bringing spiritual life to those dead in sin (Ephesians 2:1-5). The multitude of fish

recalls Jesus calling disciples to be 'fishers of men' (Matthew 4:19) and the miraculous catch symbolizing gospel fruitfulness (Luke 5:4-7, John 21:6-11). The river's increasing depth (47:3-5) depicts the gospel's progressive advance—starting small, growing irresistibly until it covers the earth (Habakkuk 2:14).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How have you experienced God's life-giving power bringing spiritual vitality to dead or dying areas of your life?
2. What 'Dead Seas' in your context need the gospel's healing waters to bring abundant life?

Interlinear Text

כָּל	וְהָיָה	וְכָשׁ	אֲשֶׁר	תִּי הֵן	
H1961	H3605				
And it shall come to pass that every thing			that liveth		
H5315			H2416		
יִשָּׁרְץ	אֶל	כָּל	אֲשֶׁר	יָבוֹא	שָׁם
H8317	H413	H3605	H834	H935	H8033
which moveth			cometh	whither the river	shall live
				H5158	H2421
וְהָיָה	הַדָּג הַ	רַב הַ	מָאֵד	כִּי	יָבוֹא
H1961				H3588	
	multitude of fish	great	and there shall be a very	cometh	
	H1710	H7227	H3966	H935	H8033
הַמַּיִם	לְהֵאָרֵץ	וְיִכָּפְאוּ			
because these waters		thither for they shall be healed			
H4325	H428	H7495			
וְהָיָה	כָּל	אֲשֶׁר	יָבוֹא	שָׁם	הַנָּחַל
and every thing shall live		cometh	whither the river		
H2425	H3605	H834	H935	H8033	H5158

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 55:1 (Parallel theme): Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Psalms 78:16 (Parallel theme): He brought streams also out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers.

John 6:63 (Parallel theme): It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

John 4:14 (Parallel theme): But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

Isaiah 30:26 (Parallel theme): Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound.

Isaiah 49:12 (Parallel theme): Behold, these shall come from far: and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim.

Isaiah 12:3 (Parallel theme): Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

Acts 2:47 (Parallel theme): Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Acts 2:41 (Parallel theme): Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Psalms 103:3 (Parallel theme): Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;