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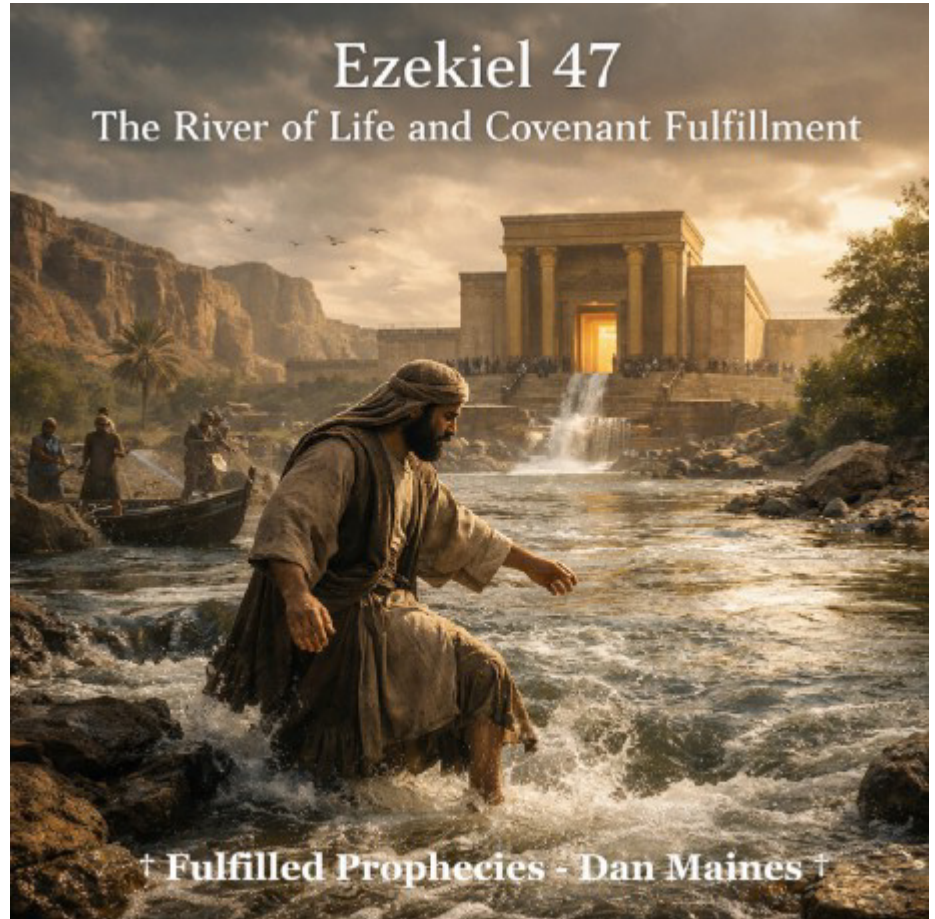
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Ezekiel 47 The River Of Life And Covenant Fulfillment



By Dan Maines

Ezekiel 47 The River Of Life And Covenant Fulfillment

Introduction

† Ezekiel 47 shows the life flowing out from God's dwelling, not a literal river rebuilding old Jerusalem, but the spiritual life that comes through Christ and spreads to the nations.

† From the fulfilled perspective, this is the same living water Jesus spoke of, already flowing in the first century and reaching

its fullness before the fall of Jerusalem in AD 70 (John 7:37-39).

† This chapter reveals the transition from the Old Covenant system to the life-giving reality of the New Covenant.

Ezekiel 47:1

Then he brought me back to the doorway of the house; and behold, water was flowing from under the threshold of the house toward the east, for the front of the house faced east. And the water was flowing down from under, from the right side of the house, from south of the altar.

† Life flows from God's presence, not from man (Psalm 36:9).

† Christ is the true temple, and life comes through Him (John 2:19-21).

† The altar shows this life is rooted in sacrifice, fulfilled in Christ (Hebrews 10:10).

Ezekiel 47:2

He brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate by way of the gate that faces east. And behold, water was trickling from the south side.

† The water flows outward, showing the expansion beyond Israel (Isaiah 2:3).

† This is the gospel reaching the nations (Matthew 28:19).

† God's glory is moving outward, not staying confined (Ezekiel 43:2).

Ezekiel 47:3

When the man went out toward the east with a line in his hand, he measured a thousand cubits, and he led me through the water, water reaching the ankles.

† The beginning is small, showing the early stage of the kingdom (Zechariah 4:10).

† The gospel started in Jerusalem before expanding.

† God builds progressively, not all at once.

Ezekiel 47:4

Again he measured a thousand and led me through the water, water reaching the knees. Again he measured a thousand and led me through the water, water reaching the hips.

† The growth continues, showing expansion and strength.

† The kingdom increases steadily (Isaiah 9:7).

† This reflects the spread of truth through the apostles.

Ezekiel 47:5

Again he measured a thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross, for the water had risen, enough water to swim in, a river that could not be crossed.

† The kingdom becomes unstoppable and overwhelming (Daniel 2:35).

† This shows full maturity of the New Covenant.

† Nothing can contain what God has established.

Ezekiel 47:6

He said to me, Son of man, have you seen this? Then he brought me back to the bank of the river.

† God calls attention to what He is doing.

† This is something to be understood, not ignored.

† The focus shifts to the results of the river.

Ezekiel 47:7

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

† The trees represent life and fruitfulness (Psalm 1:3).

† Believers rooted in Christ produce fruit (John 15:5).

† This shows abundance and restoration.

Ezekiel 47:8

Then he said to me, These waters go out toward the eastern region and go down into the Arabah; then they go toward the sea, being made to flow into the sea, and the waters of the sea become fresh.

† The river reaches dead places and brings life.

† This is spiritual resurrection (Ephesians 2:1-5).

† The gospel transforms what was dead.

Ezekiel 47:9

And it will come about that every living creature which swarms in every place where the river goes will live. And there will be very many fish, for these waters go there and the others become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes.

† Wherever the gospel goes, life follows.

† The abundance shows massive growth of the kingdom.

† This includes the nations being brought into life.

Ezekiel 47:10

And it will come about that fishermen will stand beside it; from Engedi to Eneglaim there will be a place for the spreading of nets. Their fish will be according to their kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea, very many.

† Fishermen represent evangelism (Matthew 4:19).

† The gathering of people into the kingdom.

† This shows the mission of the apostles.

Ezekiel 47:11

But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt.

† Some reject the truth and remain unchanged.

† Judgment remains for those who resist.

† This reflects the hardened hearts of that generation.

Ezekiel 47:12

By the river on its bank, on one side and on the other, will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither and their fruit will not fail. They will bear every month because their water flows from the sanctuary, and their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing.

† This connects directly to Revelation 22.

† Continuous life and fruit in Christ.

† Healing extends to the nations.

Ezekiel 47:13-21

This is what the Lord God says: This shall be the boundary by which you shall divide the land for inheritance among the twelve tribes of Israel; Joseph shall have two portions...

(full passage continues)

† The land inheritance is symbolic of covenant inclusion.

† This is fulfilled in the New Covenant inheritance (Ephesians 1:11).

† The division reflects order and completeness in God's people.

Ezekiel 47:22

And you shall divide it by lot as an inheritance among yourselves and among the strangers who stay in your midst, who bear sons among you. And they shall be to you as the native-born among the sons of Israel; they shall be allotted an inheritance with you among the tribes of Israel.

† This is one of the clearest proofs of Gentile inclusion.

† Strangers are treated as full members of Israel.

† This is fulfilled in Christ where Jew and Gentile are one (Ephesians 2:14-16).

Historical References

† Josephus records the destruction of Jerusalem, marking the end of the Old Covenant system.

† Eusebius shows the early church understanding this transition.

† Irenaeus affirms Christ as the source of life to all nations.

How It Applies To Us Today

† We're living in the reality of this river now.

† Life comes from Christ, not a physical system.

† We're part of the inheritance right now.

† The gospel continues to bring life wherever it goes.

† We're called to bear fruit as part of this living system.

Q & A Appendix

Q Is this future or fulfilled?

A Fulfilled in Christ and the first-century kingdom.

Q What is the river?

A The life of Christ flowing through the New Covenant.

Q Who are the fish?

A People being brought into the kingdom.

Q Why include strangers?

A Because Gentiles are part of God's people in Christ.

Q What is the land?

A The inheritance of the New Covenant people.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Ezekiel 47

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History; Irenaeus, Against Heresies

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