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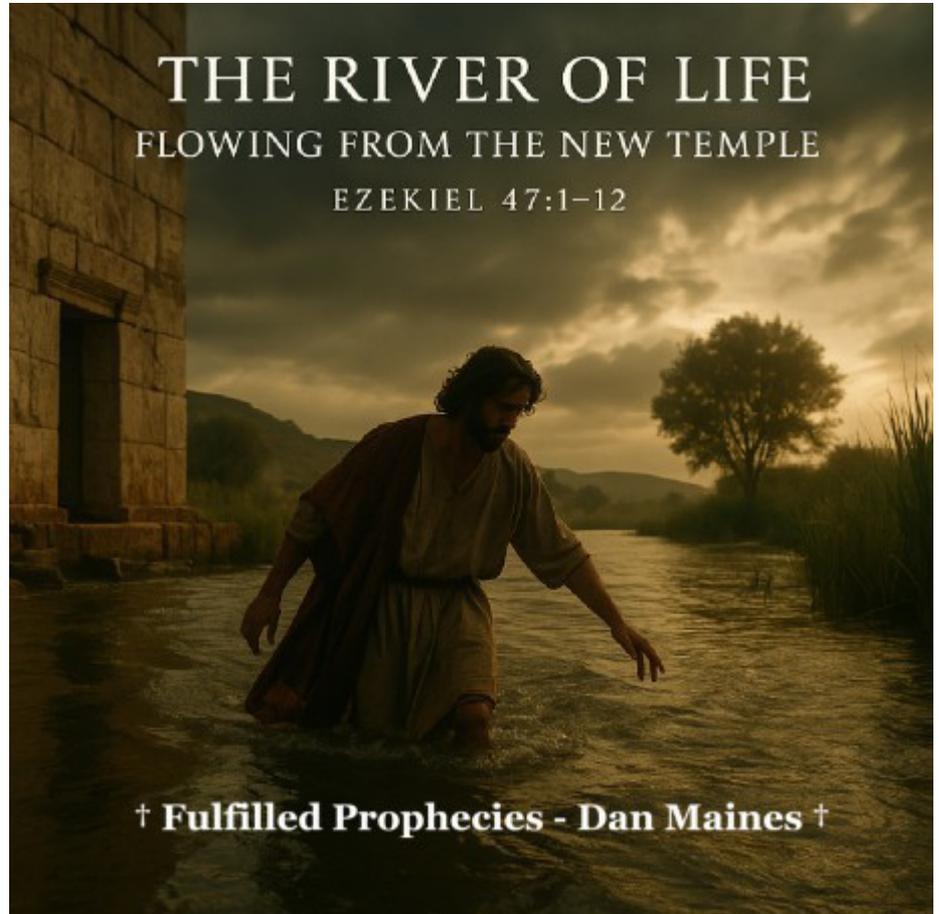
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## Ezekiel 47:1-12 - The River Of Life Flowing From The New Temple



By Dan Maines

## The River Of Life Flowing From The New Temple Ezekiel 47:1-12

### Introduction

† Ezekiel saw a river flowing from the temple, growing deeper and bringing life wherever it went. Most Christians push this into our future or into a physical millennial kingdom, but the New Testament shows this vision fulfilled in Christ and the New Covenant world. This river is not future. It is already flowing.

## **The Vision Of The Water Flowing From The Temple**

Ezekiel 47:1

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

† The water flows from the temple because the source of life is the presence of God. In the New Covenant, Jesus is the true temple, and the river flows from Him.

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 trickle becomes a flood. In the first century, the gospel began as a small stream in Jerusalem and became a river reaching the nations.

## **The River Growing Deeper Without Human Effort**

Ezekiel 47:3-5

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.

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 loins.

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

† The river grows by divine power, not human strength. The New Covenant kingdom increases through Christ, not through human systems.

† This matches Jesus saying the kingdom grows like leaven and like the mustard seed, starting small and becoming unstoppable.

## **The River Brings Life To A Dead World**

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.

† Ezekiel is told to really look, because this is not about geography. It is about covenant restoration.

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.

† These trees represent the people of God in the New Covenant, firmly planted and producing fruit.

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 sea represents the nations. The river of life transforms what was dead into what is alive.

† This is the gospel healing the Gentile world.

Ezekiel 47:9

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 New Covenant goes, it brings life.

† This is why Jesus called His disciples fishers of men.

## **The Fishermen And The Spreading Of The Gospel**

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.

† This is a picture of the apostles and first century believers spreading the gospel to the nations. The timing lines up perfectly with the first century expansion of the kingdom.

## **The New Covenant Does What The Old Could Not**

Ezekiel 47:11

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

† Not everyone receives the life of the New Covenant. Some reject the river and remain unchanged.

## **The Trees Of Life Producing Fruit Monthly**

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 matches Revelation 22 exactly, where the tree of life bears fruit monthly and its leaves bring healing.

† Ezekiel's river is the same river John saw flowing from the New Jerusalem, which is the church in the New Covenant age.

† The continual fruit shows the continual life of the kingdom.

† The healing leaves show the gospel bringing restoration to the nations.

## **Jesus Declared The River Fulfilled In Himself**

John 7:37-38 says rivers of living water flow from those who believe in Him.

† Jesus wasn't pointing people to a future millennium. He was announcing that He is the fulfillment of Ezekiel's river.

## **The River Flowing From The New Temple, The Church**

Ephesians 2:19-22 calls the church the temple.

† The river begins with Christ the cornerstone and flows through His body.

† This matches Ezekiel's water flowing out from under the temple threshold.

## **The River Heals What The Law Could Not Heal**

Romans 8:3 says the Law was weak and unable to save.

† The Old Covenant couldn't bring life to the nations.

† The New Covenant river transforms what the Law could never touch.

## **The Eastward Movement Restores What Was Lost In Eden**

† Adam and Eve were sent east out of Eden.

† Ezekiel's river flows east as a sign of restoration.

† The glory that departed east in Ezekiel 10 returns in a river of life through Christ.

## **Ezekiel's Trees And Psalm 1**

Psalm 1:3 describes the righteous as trees planted by streams of water.

† Ezekiel's trees are New Covenant believers flourishing by the river Christ provides.

## **Why The Marshes Stay Salt**

† Ezekiel includes the marshes on purpose.

† Some refuse the river.

† Judgment remains on what rejects the New Covenant.

## **Acts As The Historical Fulfillment Of Ezekiel 47**

† Acts shows the river starting in Jerusalem, moving outward to Judea, Samaria, and the nations.

† The book of Acts is Ezekiel 47 in motion.

### **Historical Writers**

† Justin Martyr wrote that the prophecies of living water were fulfilled in Christ and the church, not in a future millennium.

† Eusebius connected the end of the Old Covenant with the rise of the New Covenant people, describing the church as the garden watered by the river of God.

† Irenaeus spoke of the gospel bringing life to the nations in fulfillment of Ezekiel's vision.

### **How It Applies To Us Today**

† We don't wait for this river. We live in it. The New Covenant river already flows and we're standing in its fullness. God's presence is with us, His life is in us, and the world is being transformed by the gospel. This gives peace, confidence, and purpose. It frees us from fear and anchors us in the life Christ already gave us.

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

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### **Source Index**

† Ezekiel 47:1-12, John 7:37-38, Revelation 22:1-2, Ephesians 2:19-22, Romans 8:3, Psalm 1:3, Ezekiel 10, Acts 1-28, Isaiah 9:7

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