

Getting in the Deep Water

Ezekiel 47: 1-12

As with many of the prophetic passages in the Bible, this too deals with the nation of Israel. Ezekiel is speaking of the time when the Lord returns to this earth and establishes His kingdom, ruling and reigning for 1,000 years. It is during the Millennial Reign that God will bring healing and restoration to Israel. A river of grace and blessing will flow from the throne of God throughout the land promised of the Lord to His people.

This prophecy is given to Israel, but there is a practical application for us as well. We are about to enter into revival efforts and I am convinced that the principles that Ezekiel discovers concerning the river of God are relevant for us today. Let's take a few moments to look at this passage and consider: [Getting in the Deep Water](#).

I. The Glory of the River (1-2) – The first few verses deal with Ezekiel's first glimpse of the river. With this first glance he discovers much about this river, a type or picture of the Holy Spirit.

A. Its Presence (1a) – [Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar.](#) The waters are seen coming from under the threshold of the house of God. This is a reference to the holy place within the Temple, the place where the Ark was; where God's presence dwelt. The waters originated at the Throne of God. [Jam.1:17 – Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.](#)

B. Its Purity (1b) – [The waters came down from under the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar.](#) The waters began at the Throne and flowed through the altar, the place of sacrifice. The waters came through the Cross, through the provision that Christ made for all as He gave Himself a ransom for all humanity!

- The waters began at the Throne and flowed directly by the altar. That was the source for this life giving flow. There were no tributaries or "feeder" streams coming into this river. Christ alone is the source of our salvation and the hope that is given through the Spirit! The small stream of blood that flowed from His precious side became a rushing river of life!

C. Its Progression (2) – [Then brought he me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the utter gate by the way that looketh eastward; and, behold, there](#)

ran out waters on the right side. The waters were not contained; they made their way eastward on a continual flow. The gospel truth and moving of the Spirit continue to flow in our day as well. It will never be stopped or hindered!

I. The Glory of the River (1-2)

II. The Growth of the River (3-5) – As Ezekiel gazed upon the river, what started as a stream from under the threshold of the Temple became a raging river as it flowed. The growth of the river reveals the stages of life within the Christian journey. May this stand as a challenge to us today! Let's take a moment to consider the growth of the river that Ezekiel saw.

A. Water to the Ankles (3) – And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the waters were to the ankles. This is a picture of our first encounter with the Lord at salvation; the moment when we first step into the life giving flow of His saving grace. I rejoice for the day that I stepped into this glorious river of salvation and left the dusty, lonely path of sin behind. Have you stepped into the water with Jesus?

- Before we move on there is a point we need to address. Many have made the decision to step out in faith into the waters of salvation, but they have never gone beyond ankle deep water. Many are still wading in the shallows.

B. Water to the Knees (4a) – Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters were to the knees. This refers to the prayer life of the believer. It is a picture of a believer's first steps into deeper waters with the Lord. Cautiously they step out into deeper water, but they have not yet gone beyond their comfort zone. They begin to feel the effects and the power of the river, but they have not yet surrendered completely to the river.

- This is a vital and necessary aspect of our journey with the Lord. If you have never waded out into knee deep water, you need to step out and feel the power and drawing of the river. You need to become comfortable with waters up to the knees and develop a strong prayer life! Now, I am in no way belittling the need and power of prayer, but we need to go beyond the knee deep waters to the deeper things of God. We need to get into:

C. Water to the Loins (4b) – Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters were to the loins. The loins speak of strength and power. Those who have waded out unto the loins have developed a strong relationship with the Lord. Their lives are beginning to be controlled by the power and direction of the Lord. This is a special place in the Christian journey that few ever reach.

- When a man stands in water up to his loins, half of his body is hidden in the water. Those looking on see more of the water around him than they do the man himself. His life is beginning to reflect the Lord.
- When at this point, the river is beginning to have control. Strong currents may move those who are loins deep a few feet at a time. We are beginning to be carried by the current of the river, but we are close enough to shore to keep our feet on the ground. God is beginning to control our lives at times, but we still have not made it deep enough that we can't turn around and go another direction if we choose.

D. Waters to Swim In (5) – Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over. Here Ezekiel experiences waters that are over his head. He has reached a place in the river that it is impossible to stand in. One cannot walk through these waters. This is where we all ought to desire to be with the Lord. Waters this deep have definite effects on those who are in them.

1. Surrender – When at this point, one has completely surrendered to the power and direction of the river. He is no longer in charge of His direction or destiny. He has resigned to allow the river to take him where it will.

2. Dependence – At this point in the river, one is completely out of control. They have reached a place that is beyond their ability to take charge. They are depending solely on the waters to carry them where they need to go.

3. Sanctification – At this point one is completely saturated by the water. It has covered their entire being. It has permeated all of their clothing and they are completely wet. This is a beautiful picture of one who has been filled by the Spirit of God. His life is consumed with the Spirit and He is now directing their path. Every part of their being is saturated with the Spirit.

I. The Glory of the River (1-2)

II. The Growth of the River (3-5)

III. The Gain of the River (6-12) – In the remaining verses we find the benefit of the river for those who dwell around it. This is a picture of the benefit of the Spirit flowing through us and in the world around us. When the Spirit begins to flow, He will bring about:

A. Healing (8) – Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed. The river that flowed to the sea would bring healing to the waters of the sea. Many are floating in this sea of life that need healing. The Spirit has the power to heal all that ails humanity. He is able to heal broken hearts, broken homes, and broken lives!

B. Restoration (9) – 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. This river restores life to all that inhabit its waters. We desperately need the restoration of the Spirit in our day. Many are in need of the life giving flow of the Spirit. We need restoration among our churches. Believers need to be restored unto a right relationship with God. Our nation needs to be restored unto a people who will seek God and live for Him. The Spirit has the power to do that!

C. Conversion (10) – And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from En-ge-di even unto En-eglaim; they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many. The river will restore the bounty of the waters. Fishermen will once again find their nets full as they cast them.

▪ Would you not agree that we need a moving of the Spirit in our day? Week after week pastors and churches cast their nets for the lost, but we often come up empty. The solution for the needs in our day concerning the conversion of sinners is a moving of the Spirit of God. We need His presence and power in our services once again!

D. Conviction (11) – But the miry places thereof and the marishes thereof shall not be healed; they shall be given to salt. The river would not heal the miry places and the marshes. These are a picture of the places where sin abounds. Surely you would agree that our world is filled with miry places and marshes. These places will be given to salt.

- Salt has healing and purifying properties in it. Salt is beneficial to sustain life. We have been called to be the salt of the earth. Through the guidance and power of the Spirit we can once again possess an effective and influential testimony among the world. The church has lost her witness and her power because we lack the power of the Spirit.

E. Abundance (12) – 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. The river will ensure fruit and abundance for those who dwell around it. The trees would not fade and their fruit would be abundant.

- Wouldn't you like to experience the abundance of God at Fellowship once again? Wouldn't you like for His presence and power to be among us each and every time we meet? Wouldn't you like to see lost sinners saved and the church growing and maturing in the Lord? If this is to happen, and it can, we need the Spirit of God moving among us. We need the touch of God on our lives once again!

We are soon going to enter into revival efforts here. You have seen from God's Word what His Spirit can do. Are you interested in experiencing His presence and power in our day? Do you have a burden for your needs and the needs of others? Are you interested in those waters to swim in? Who among us wants to get into the deep water?