

“The Parable of the Rising Waters”

Ezekiel 47:1-5

Introduction: Ezekiel presents to us the prophecy of the millennial kingdom. Theocracy will be the type of government established. Jesus Christ will sit on the throne of David ruling with a rod of iron. A new environment will be brought in which will make even the deserts blossom. The curse will be lifted, causing the animal and plant life to flourish. There will be a river flowing from the Temple of God that will refresh the sin stricken land. It is so abundant that Ezekiel was able to swim in it. From this river, the Lord blesses the land and the inhabitants of it. Notice the function of this river during the millennial reign.

1. The River Sustains Life v. 7- “at the bank of the river *were* very many trees”
 - a. It Produces Meat v. 12- “the fruit thereof shall be for meat”
 - b. It Produces Medicine v. 12- “the leaf thereof for medicine”
2. The River Supplies Life v. 8- “down into the desert” Isaiah 35:1
3. The River Sends Life v. 8- “the waters shall be healed”
4. The River Supports Life v. 9- “every thing shall live wither the river cometh”

Body: Not only does God use this river during the millennial reign, but He also uses it as a parable. It teaches about the Church and the Christian. The church, after Pentecost, began to flourish and get “deeper and deeper”. Likewise, the Christian, after salvation, began to grow “deeper and deeper” in their Christian life. A believer steps out by faith in the life giving water, such as Ezekiel did. It took faith for Ezekiel to continue deeper, and it takes faith for the saint to walk deeper. Notice the levels of the water as it hits the different body parts. Each member had to be dealt with before further progression could be made. Let us look at each part and learn the lesson of the parable.

- I. The Saint Must Be Saved v. 3- “the waters *were* to the ankles”
 - A. Salvation Will Cleanse Revelation 1:5
 - B. Salvation Will Change II Corinthians 5:17
 - C. Salvation Will Convert Matthew 18:3
- II. The Saint Must Be Surrendered v. 4- “the waters *were* to the knees” Rom. 12:1-2
- III. The Saint Must Be Sanctified v. 4- “the waters *were* to the loins” I Thess. 4:3
- IV. The Saint Can Be Serving v. 5- “*it was* a river that I could not pass over”
 - A. The Water Is Progressing- “the waters were risen”
 - B. The Water Is Plentiful- “waters to swim in”
 - C. The Water Is Powerful- “a river that could not be passed over”

Conclusion: We must be careful to make known this river to others. It is only at this river that others can draw life. In verse one, the river came from a *dwelling* (v. 1- “the house”), out of a *door* (v. 1- “unto the door”), and was *dispersed* (v. 1- “issued out from under the threshold”). Jesus is the fountain of life and well of living water that sinners can have. Now, out of the believer flows this living water (John 7:37-39). Will you share Jesus with others?