

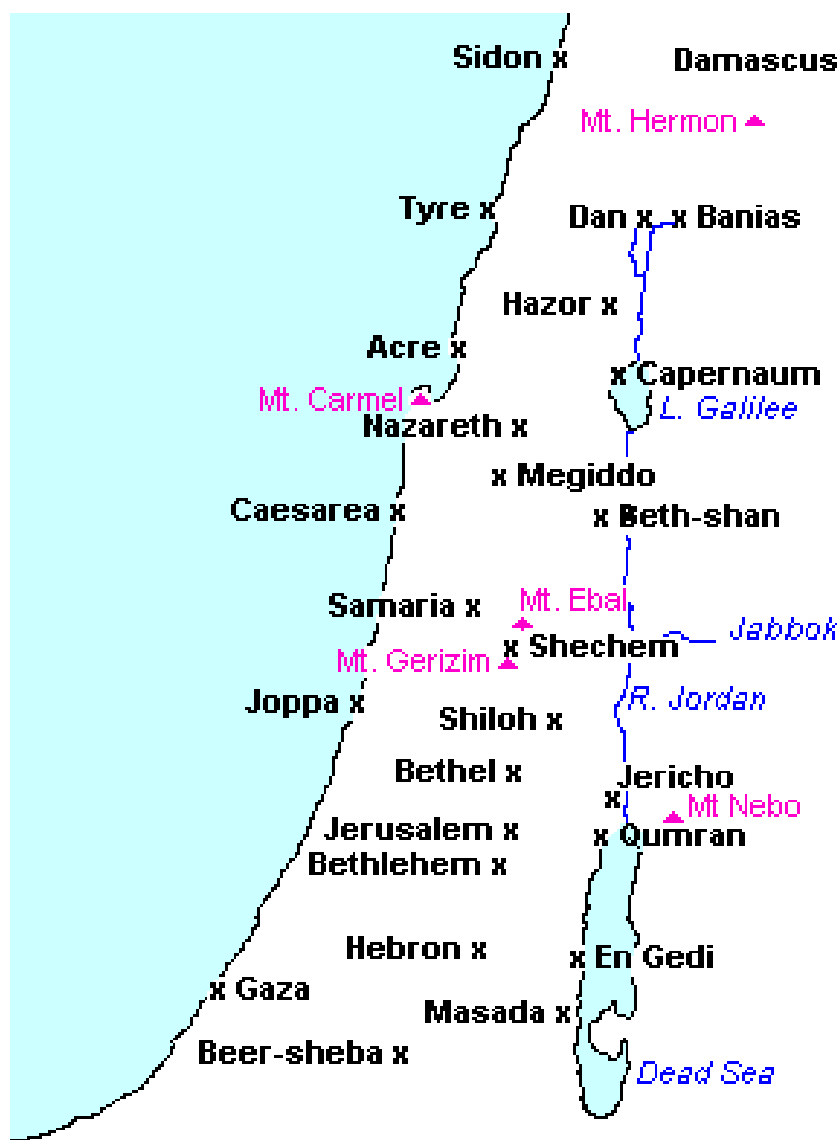
BIBLE CLASS 31.19.2024 EZEKIEL'S TEMPLE. WATER EVERYWHERE

Dear Brothers and Sisters

My wife and I have had the opportunity to visit the Land of Israel several times in the late 1980's -90's. At that time we were able to travel from Mount Hermon where the river Jordan has its source. We stayed at a kibbutz called Shenir where at night we could hear the jackals howling. Mount Hermon stands at 9100 feet above sea level and in winter it is covered in snow (remember that when Jesus was transfigured before his disciples his clothing was white as snow a

symbol of purity).

The streams that flow from Hermon combine to form the Jordan River which flows from the city of Dan to the Sea of Galilee, where the Lord Jesus taught. Here the waters were full of fish, lots of tiddlers but also quite large fish you could only carry using both arms. The Jordan flows out of Galilee down to Jericho where Elisha cleansed the spring waters, which remain pure today.



Just beyond Jericho driving south, we saw Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in earthen jars after being hidden for

over 2000 years confirming the translations of our Bibles from the Hebrew documents of those times well before the Lord Jesus was born. Driving south alongside the Sea of Galilee we came to En-Gedi where, David and his men hid from Saul. The spring was still there when we visited, but as you drive further south the temperature increases and it becomes hotter and drier.

Still driving south we came to Masada a fortress built by king Herod but more famous for the Jews last stand against the Romans, who using great war machines, would have taken the surviving Jews into captivity, but their leader persuaded his people that it was better to die than to become slaves to the Romans. Consequently **967 Jewish men, women, and children** reportedly chose to commit suicide. The famous Israeli archaeologist Yigael Yadin, excavated Masada from 1963–1965.

Driving still south still along the Dead Sea and getting hotter still we came to the point where the Sea was filled with salt pans, the chemicals in these salts are exported all over the world – but the water evaporates. Driving west we came to Beer-Sheba, where Abraham dug his last well that still exists today. The one thing that Israel lacked was water. The water below Jordan is of itself is very brackish and it is only dead fish that you will find in the Dead Sea.

Today, Israel has overcome its need for water, in fact since 2015, Israel had treated and recycled 86% of its wastewater for agriculture, making it the top nation in the world for wastewater recycling. In addition Israel has manufactured and installed five desalination plants in Hadera, Sorek, Ashdod, Ashkelon, and Palmachim that produce fresh water for its people and providing water for Jordan and Gaza as well.

The waters of the Jordan have a lesson for mankind insofar as it is very similar to human life. The snow in water from Herman is clean, pure and life sustaining. But as it wends its way south it gradually picks up the impurities from the smaller rivers that join it. Gradually it picks up the mud and impurities that exist on route to the sea. It

starts to go green and later it become muddy and greeny- brown, as the seasons change it picks up all the dead debris, and eventually it sludgily enters the Dead Sea where the salt water disposes of it. This foreshadows human life in it. Phases, from the happiness and joy that a new birth brings, how clear is the flesh of a little child, how happy children can be, but how quickly they get caught up with the influences of other children. They grow up to maturity, they learn so much, and like a river or a lake that yields its fish, they also delight in what they do and know. They eventually reach the pinnacle of their career feeling their achievements, and then little by little pains trouble them, their face begin to wrinkle, they would like to stop working but cannot afford it, bones begin to creek and little by little their memory begins to fail, and they find themselves letting things go. They start to become forgetful, their memory fading and the sludge sets in, oh how they remember the beauty of their childhood, when everything was white and clean but a little longer and they do not worry any more as the sludge settles down in the Dead Sea! Oh how they wish they had followed the preacher's instruction about the time to come, "*When* they shall be afraid of *that which* is high, and fears *shall be* in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper is a burden, and desire fails: because man goes to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets: (Ecc 12:5)

Now let us fast forward to the time when Ezekiel's vision has come to pass. Gog's mighty army has descended upon Israel but God decreed (Zechariah 12:9) It shall come to pass In that day the Lord I will seek to destroy all nations that come against Jerusalem, and Ezekiel adds And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, says the Lord GOD, *that* my fury shall come up in my face. ¹⁹ For in my jealousy *and* in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel; ²⁰ So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that *are* upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall

to the ground. (Eze. 38:18) This indicates that a massive earthquake will occur and Gog and all his army will be destroyed.

Now this scripture is immediately followed with a description of what the Lord Jesus had in mind when quoting Isaiah, He declared "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations '?(Mar 11:17) The House of Prayer that Jesus referred to is the Temple of Ezekiel's prophesy, that will be built soon after the destruction of Gog and his army. We have seen how this Temple will be far greater than any religious meeting place constructed previously. This Temple will be approximately one mile square with the main entrance facing toward the East or the Suns Rising.

From the outer court on the north side and the court opposite on the south side, there is to be a series of streams of water flowing from under the threshold of the flowing towards the east on either side. Ezekiel's guide was shown the increase of the waters flowing from each side of the Temple. In chapter 47 we are shown the incremental depth of the water that flow toward the east. 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 looks eastward; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side. Ezekiel and his guide seems to have passed through these waters as we read in verse 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. ⁴ Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters *were* to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters *were* to the loins. 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. (Eze.47:4-6) Perhaps 'passing through the water this is pointing to the fact that eternal life can only be obtained through baptism, as Jesus said to Nicodemus, Except a man be born of water and of the spirit he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. The apostle John taught, "There are three that bear record, the spirit and the

water and the blood. These three essentials seem to be prepared from the fact that Jesus was baptized in order to obtain the Kingdom, so all his followers will have to come to him through water. Secondly since no one will be able to enter the temple without passing through the water, and under its vapour cloud, the “nations of the earth” will be nationally baptized into the Christ, just as the nation of Israel were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea upon coming out of Egypt.

Consider what the scriptures anticipate **Psalms 46:4** *There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.*

Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities: thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a tabernacle *that* shall not be taken down; not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken. ²¹ But there the glorious LORD *will be* unto us a place of broad rivers *and* streams; wherein shall go no galley with oars, neither shall gallant ship pass thereby. **(Isa 33:20)**