

Water Everywhere!

This is a continuation of the Bible Study looking at the details given by the Prophet Ezekiel in his prophecy in chapters 40 – 48. The prophet was Divinely inspired to write down these words, and the purpose was to give a vision to the people. Without a vision the people perish: Proverbs 29:18: *Where there is no vision, the people perish...* Additionally, the vision was designed to make them feel ashamed when spending all of their time dreaming of worldly pleasures. Ezekiel 43: 10 *Thou son of man, shew the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and let them measure the pattern.*

It was the purpose of God to ensure that the vision of the Kingdom he had promised was a reality to his people. There has been no change despite the passing of time; why should it be any different with His people today? Do we claim to be His people? If so, what interest do we show in the vision and glory to come?

This Study is an effort with our brothers and sisters to examine these verses a littler closer.

First mention of water

In the book of Ezekiel relating to the vision of the future is found in 43:2 *And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory.*

This is perhaps a clue, as to why there will be water everywhere. This verse is speaking about the arrival of the Messiah to his Holy Temple, who comes in the Glory of his Father, his voice being the voice of a multitude of people who are with him, *like many waters* – the resurrected and blessed saints, who have been given eternal life and will inherit the Kingdom for ever. They share in the glory of God,

because of His mercy. Their voice, in spiritual terminology, is not like the thundering of waves, as in Isaiah 57:20 *But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt....* but as in Song of Solomon 4:15 describing the Bride of Christ: *A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon.* As in Proverbs 25:25: *As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.* As in Proverbs 18:4: *the wellspring of wisdom as a flowing brook,* and as described by the Lord himself: John 4:14: *But whosoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.*

The Temple of God in the future is not required by God as a place for Him to dwell in, (Acts 17:24) nor necessary for a place for the immortal saints to worship, as they will be part of the Elohim, and will be at One with Yahweh. Instead, the Temple is a place of Fellowship for the saints, and Christ with the Father – as a witness and a testimony to the millions of mortals who will also inhabit the Kingdom of God.

Every aspect of the Temple in its design, will be just like the tabernacle of old at the time of Moses, designed to teach a lesson. Therefore, the waters everywhere will be designed to teach the mortal visitors who come from every corner of the earth to worship God, to teach them spiritual lessons of truth and hope.

The Lesson

The fact that Israel is relatively dry and barren today, without the artificial irrigation, which the returned Jews to Israel have laboriously created, it would not be productive or particularly pleasant to look at. This is because they forsook the God of Israel:

Jeremiah 2:13: *For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.*

God promised that if they forsook Him, then blessings would be withdrawn:

Deuteronomy 28:23-24 And thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron. The Lord shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed.

So this is exactly what happened.

- *Psalm 107:33: He turns rivers into a wilderness, and the water-springs into dry ground;*
- *Joel 1:20 The beasts of the field cry also unto thee: for the rivers of waters are dried up, and the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness.*
- *Nahum 1: He rebukes the sea, and maketh it dry, and dries up all the rivers: Bashan languishes, and Carmel, and the flower of Lebanon languishes.*
- *Isaiah 50:2...behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness: their fish stinks, because there is no water, and dies for thirst.*

If Israel maintained their love and devotion to the God of their fathers, He would bless them: *Deuteronomy 28:12 The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand...*

So the impression Gentile visitors will have when they come to Israel, and approach the Temple in Jerusalem in the Kingdom, will be one of lush green fields, forests and flowers everywhere, luxurious foliage, and food production everywhere. This will be because of the abundance of water. Water is Life as everyone is well aware. Israel will be at the centre of Life Giving Wisdom of the Water of the Word.

There to show it is the practical demonstration. There will be streams, rivulets and brooks bubbling away, rivers permanently

meandering through valleys where before there were just seasonal wadis. Stunning waterfalls and springs will abound, as the water-table will be lifted higher than ever before, and as a result, there will be an abundance of wildlife, plants, birds and invertebrates, a biodiversity which will delight and amaze the millions of visitors and settle them into an excited and appreciative mood for the miracle that God can perform in every heart, and that they will each experience as they lay their gifts on the thresholds of the Temple.

These passages confirm the return of the Blessing of Yahweh upon His land and His people:

- Joel 3:18: *And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth out of the house of the Lord, and shall water the valley of Shittim.*
- Isaiah 35:6: *Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.*
- Isaiah 43:20: *The beast of the field shall honour me, the dragons and the owls: because I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen.*
- Isaiah 30:25: *And there shall be upon every high mountain, and upon every high hill, rivers and streams of waters in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall.*

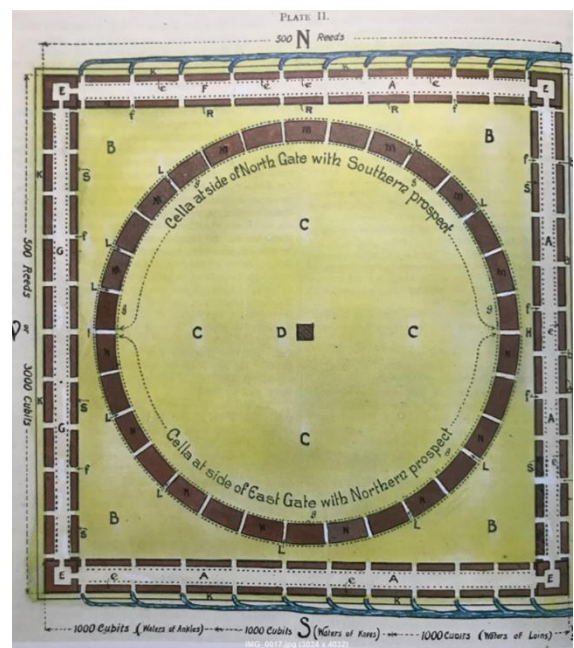
Ezekiel 47 details the water distribution, and shows that much of the water outfall, will proceed from an underground pressurised aquifer located under the temple mount, but will exit at the very peak of the mountain, under the altar. Verse 1: *47 Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; 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.

As depicted in the illustration below:



The waters will spring out from the top of the mountain, and flow down in many streams, to join and gather pace, as they approach the flatter land towards the lower slopes. The streams will be controlled as the temple will be built over the top of them, and they will be guided into sluices providing hydroelectricity if required, which will pass under the foundations of the House, to then free flow into natural river, gaining in width and depth, see Ezekiel 47:2-5 as it collects more and more volume from the increasing number of streams, one issuing out from under each gate. This can be seen in the picture above, at the top and bottom of the plan.



Perhaps the following images will give some idea of the scale and shows the river flowing from the temple.



In the earlier plan diagram, it will be noted that there will be two general rivers formed, from two opposite sides. This compares with interest the passage in:

Zechariah 14:8: And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.

The NET Bible translates the former sea as the Eastern Sea, and the hinder Sea as the Western Sea. Standing and facing north which is how Ezekiel stood – see Ezekiel 47:2, then to the west of Jerusalem is the Mediterranean Sea, and to the East what is today known as the Dead Sea

So the topography of Israel will clearly change, as a new major river will flow from Jerusalem across and through the Judean desert, and form a new estuary probably at Tel Aviv, known today as the Hill of the Spring, a city of debauchery and decadence, and world capital of the Sodomites as well as the modern State of Israel. All to be washed away, and cleansed, replaced by a new port, and reception transit area for the hundreds and thousands of daily visitors arriving from around the world to give homage to the King.

As well as proceeding westward, the second river, full of fish, and river creatures, full of life! will flow eastwards. This is described in Ezekiel 47:8 *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.*

That Sea known as the Dead Sea today, is so intensely saturated with salt, and other minerals, that life is impossible, and the salty water kills anything that goes into it. The Sea itself is dying, water drying up, sink holes everywhere. Tourist attractions are eroding away, it is a blight, a pox on the landscape, a smelly ugly place. Try to swim in the water, and the skin will sting, not a pleasant experience. This is the state of the human mind today. Full of filth, accumulated centuries of erosion of standards, the eluvium and stinking cess pit of the lowest place on earth – the thoughts of the human mind, are only evil continually, and it repented the Lord, as we can read in Genesis 6.

This is the state of the world today, a place full of despair and hopelessness, and little sign of spiritual life.

But that stink hole will be completely healed, totally revived. The salt water will be washed away, the river from the Temple will create a full sea, and force an outlet down through Sinai even to Eilat, creating an enormous nature reserve, of stunning and trully astounding beauty. The backdrop of Masada will be unrecognisable as it will be covered with pines, and box trees, with birds soaring overhead, the birdsong, and busy insects creating a place of solace and splendour.

Ezekiel 47:9-10 And it shall come to pass, that every thing that lives, which moves, 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. ... fishermen shall stand upon it from Engedi even unto Eneglaim; 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 mosaic of habitats will not be uniform, it will be God's new Eden. Diversity will cause the animal kingdom to flourish, and create a habitat that men will wonder at, and trully bless their Maker with all their heart. Even thoughtful designs such as

Verse: 11 But the miry places thereof and the marshes thereof shall not be healed; they shall be given to salt. Salt marshes are a veritable larder for so many creatures, when the salinity is at the right balance, and form an important part of a thriving ecosystem. Parts of the salty areas will remain, which will also have the benefit of showing perhaps a before and after effect, so that men will see, and will know that Lord He is God, and that all glory and knowledge and wisdom belong to Him.

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