The Water of Life
Ezekiel 47:1-12
SS Lesson for 03/29/2009

Devotional Scripture: John 4:7-15

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Introduction

Overview and Approach to Lesson

The outline of the lesson came from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator. The lesson teaches about the Water of Life. The study's aim is to learn that all who drink of the Water of Life will receive complete healing from God. The study's application is to turn to God's provision of the Water of Life and be healed.

Lesson Introduction and Background

From the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary

The Dead Sea, on the border between modern Israel and Jordan, is a place featuring a couple of world records. It is the lowest spot on earth, about 1,350 feet below the level of the nearby Mediterranean Sea. It is also one of the saltiest natural bodies of water on earth, estimated to be between 5 and 10 times saltier than normal sea water. The Dead Sea has no outlet, and its water level is maintained by evaporation (and the arid location of the Dead Sea allows a lot of evaporation). Its high concentration of salt and minerals does not permit plants or fish to live within it, thus its name Dead Sea. Today’s lesson looks prophetically at a vision in which a mighty freshwater stream flows out of the temple in Jerusalem eastward to the Dead Sea. The result is that a life-giving, tree-lined river is created that brings the Dead Sea to life and allows it to be teeming with fish. Does the Dead Sea remind you of anything in your life? Do you have personal areas that are “dead zones,” where all the life seems to have been sucked out? Maybe you have relationships that are toxic and joy-killing. Today’s lesson is about spiritual refreshment and renewal. Our application is that Ezekiel’s vision of a renewed Dead Sea can help us understand the renewal of our personal dead seas. Many Christians are not very familiar with the Old Testament prophets and the material in their books. This is particularly true of Ezekiel, partly because the New Testament authors rarely quote Ezekiel (2 Corinthians 6:16, 17 is the only place). Yet, as our lesson series leaves this book, we should appreciate the significant place it occupies in our larger understanding of the biblical history. Ezekiel bridges the gap between the final days of the kingdom of Judah and the resettlement of its residents by the Babylonians (also known as the Chaldeans) in the Mesopotamian valley. Ezekiel tells this story from several perspectives. He gives the perspective of the exiles, both before and after the temple’s destruction in 586 BC. He is also able to give the perspective of the people in Jerusalem up to the final battle; Ezekiel gives this perspective through visionary experiences and reports that he receives during those terrible days. Most importantly, however, Ezekiel reveals the perspective of God in all of these events. We learn why God did not protect Jerusalem from the marauding Babylonian army. This was because it was the Lord himself who orchestrated these events and used the Babylonians as a tool to accomplish his ultimate plan (see Habakkuk 1:5, 6). But Ezekiel revealed God’s perspective far beyond the circumstances of Jerusalem’s demise. God’s purpose was to purify Israel from its longstanding religious unfaithfulness and from the general injustices found in its society (see Ezekiel 18:10–13). It was through this process that Israel would truly come to know God, because the nation would recognize the nature of his holy and righteous character. Ezekiel also gives God’s perspective on the future. God did not deal with his people so harshly out of a mere desire to see them punished. He initiated a corrective action so that his people could enjoy eternity with him. Ezekiel’s vision of the future came in several ways, and the previous lessons in this series have shown some of them. These included a Davidic Messiah, empowerment from God’s Spirit, and a cleansed and productive Holy Land. Beginning with chapter 40 and going through chapter 48, the end of the book, Ezekiel presents the future in the context of worship from the glorious, perfect temple of God. This description of the new temple represents about 20 percent of the entire book, so understanding it is crucial if we are to appreciate this great book fully. Ezekiel dates this vision “in the twenty-fifth year of our exile” (40:1). If that reference is to the exile that included Ezekiel himself, this puts the date at about 571 BC, or some 15 years after the destruction of the Jerusalem temple. Ezekiel’s vision of the new temple began with him at the top of “a very high mountain.” There he could see the outline of the new city and temple (Ezekiel 40:2). He was then taken through the new temple by an angel guide and allowed to see all of its wonders. The new temple was similar to the temple of Solomon, but built on a grander scale. It was
oriented to face east. It was dedicated by God when his glory returned to occupy it (Ezekiel 43:2; 44:4). The new temple still had a central sanctuary building with a place like the Holy of Holies, where humans could not enter.

From the Bible Expositor and Illuminator

Travelers to Israel today come away impressed with the centrality of water in the nation's life. It is a key issue in modern Israel's foreign and domestic policies, and ingenious methods have been devised to sustain the nation's agriculture and provide water for a growing city population. Archaeological remains bear witness to the importance of water in ancient Israel as well. The Israelites did not irrigate their lands. They depended on seasonal rains, melting snow from the Lebanon Mountains, and springs in the hill country. Every sizable town had a reservoir, or cistern, to catch and conserve rainwater. Cities created ingenious shafts and tunnels to protect their water supply from enemy attack. All of this makes this week's lesson especially significant. In a vision of the future, Ezekiel was shown a water supply of highest quality and unfailing quantity. It is a fitting symbol of the material and spiritual blessings of Messiah's reign. Our world is always looking for that miraculous cure, that magic potion that will quickly transform our lives in an instant. But perfect health seems very elusive. The lesson this week shows us the source of true healing in the picture of a flowing river that comes straight from the presence of God Himself—a river that will never run dry. Many religions have claimed to offer healing for various diseases when people follow their particular prescriptions or requirements. In our lesson this week, we see that total healing comes from our God, who gives the gift of the water of life to all who are thirsty and come with an attitude of need. There is no need that our God cannot meet. The lesson this week helps us explore our need to drink of the water of life and find complete healing.

Major Theme Analysis

(SCRIPTURAL TEXT FROM THE NEW KING JAMES VERSION; CROSS-REFERENCES FROM THE NIV)

The Source of the Water of Life (Ezek 47:1-2)

1 Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the front of the temple faced east; the water was flowing from under the right side of the temple, south of the altar.

2 He brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me around on the outside to the outer gateway that faces east; and there was water, running out on the right side.

The Temple (1)

Temple where the throne of God and the Lamb resides (Rev 22:1)

22 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb

Temple of Jesus, who can give the living water (John 4:10-14)

10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." 11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?" 13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."
Temple of the Shepherd who leads to the living water (Rev 7:17)
17 For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Temple of the Alpha and the Omega (Rev 21:6)
6 He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.

The Gates (2)

Gates of the healing pools (John 5:1-9)
Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. 2 Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. 3 Here a great number of disabled people used to lie — the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. 5 One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?" 7 "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me." 8 Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." 9 At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

Gates of the washing pools that heal (John 9:1-7)
As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. 4 As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 6 Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. 7 "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

Gates of Jesus from whom streams of living waters flow (John 7:37-39)
On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

The Depth of the Water of Life (Ezek 47:3-7)
3 And when the man went out to the east with the line in his hand, he measured one thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the water came up to my ankles. 4 Again he measured one thousand and brought me through the waters; the water came up to my knees. Again he measured one thousand and brought me through; the water came up to my waist. 5 Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross; for the water was too deep, water in which one must swim, a river that could not be crossed. 6 He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen this?" Then he brought me and returned me to the bank of the river. 7 When I returned, there, along the bank of the river, were very many trees on one side and the other.
Proportionally expanding (3-4)

**Expanding like grace (Rom 5:20-21)**

20 The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, 21 so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Expanding like faith (2 Peter 1:5-8)**

5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Expanding like the Word of God (Acts 12:24)**

24 But the word of God continued to increase and spread.

**Expanding like the love of God (Eph 3:14-21)**

14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height — 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Too deep to traverse (5-6)

**Too deep like the knowledge of God (Ps 139:6)**

6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

**Too deep like the mysteries of God (Job 11:7-8)**

7 "Can you fathom the mysteries of God? Can you probe the limits of the Almighty? 8 They are higher than the heavens — what can you do? They are deeper than the depths of the grave—what can you know?"

**Too deep like the works and power of God (Job 26:14)**

14 And these are but the outer fringe of his works; how faint the whisper we hear of him! Who then can understand the thunder of his power?"

**Too deep like wisdom of God (Rom 11:33)**

33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

**Too deep like greatness of God (Ps 145:3)**

3 Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.
**Trees use it for substance (7)**

*Substance so that it yields its fruit and does not wither (Ps 1:33)*

He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

*Substance so that the tree and its leaves will always be green (Jer 17:8)*

8 He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

*Substance so that the tree is nourished and will grow high (Ezek 31:3-4)*

3 Consider Assyria, once a cedar in Lebanon, with beautiful branches overshadowing the forest; it towered on high, its top above the thick foliage. 4 The waters nourished it, deep springs made it grow tall; their streams flowed all around its base and sent their channels to all the trees of the field.

**The Power of the Water of Life (Ezek 47:8-12)**

8 Then he said to me: "This water flows toward the eastern region, goes down into the valley, and enters the sea. When it reaches the sea, its waters are healed.

9 "And it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes.

10 "It shall be that fishermen will stand by it from En Gedi to En Eglaim; they will be places for spreading their nets. Their fish will be of the same kinds as the fish of the Great Sea, exceedingly many.

11 "But its swamps and marshes will not be healed; they will be given over to salt.

12 "Along the bank of the river, on this side and that, will grow all kinds of trees used for food; their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine."

**Healing (8)**

*Healing from waters that God has healed (2 Kings 2:19-22)*

19 The men of the city said to Elisha, "Look, our lord, this town is well situated, as you can see, but the water is bad and the land is unproductive." 20 "Bring me a new bowl," he said, "and put salt in it." So they brought it to him. 21 Then he went out to the spring and threw the salt into it, saying, "This is what the Lord says: 'I have healed this water. Never again will it cause death or make the land unproductive.'" 22 And the water has remained wholesome to this day, according to the word Elisha had spoken.

*Healing from waters that flow from the Holy Spirit (John 7:37-39)*

37 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." 39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

*Healing from the water of eternal life (John 4:14)*

14 but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."
Healing from the still waters (Ps 23:1-2)
23 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,

Healing from waters that came from the One who came by water and blood (1 John 5:6-12)
6 This is the one who came by water and blood — Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. 7 For there are three that testify: 8 the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. 9 We accept man's testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. 10 Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. 11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

Healing from water of life (Rev 22:17)
17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.

Growth (9-11)

Growth through being fishers of men (Matt 4:19)
19 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

Growth through acceptance and baptism (Acts 2:41)
41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Growth through being obedient to God's directions (Luke 5:4-8)
4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." 5 Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." 6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. 7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

Growth through being fed by the Master taking little and providing much (Matt 14:16-21)
16 Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." 17 "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. 18 "Bring them here to me," he said. 19 And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. 20 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. 21 The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Fruitful (12)

Fruitfulness through God's establishment (Ps 90:17)
17 May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us — yes, establish the work of our hands.
Fruitfulness through abiding in Jesus (John 15:5)

5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Fruitfulness through righteousness (Prov 11:30)

30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.

Fruitfulness through being set free by Jesus (Rom 6:22)

22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

Fruitfulness through labor that consists in goodness, righteousness and truth (Eph 5:9)

9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)

Fruitfulness through being a part of God's pruning (John 15:2)

2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

Conclusion and Other Thoughts

Concluding Thoughts from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary

The book of Revelation has many parallels with Ezekiel. Both books include aspects of God’s terrible judgments and of God’s gracious restoration of his people. Both offer certain descriptions of the city of Jerusalem. Jerusalem first appears in the Bible as the city of King Melchizedek in Genesis 14:18. There the city is simply called Salem, a name meaning “peace.” This meaning is used by the author of Hebrews to show Jesus as the “king of peace” and the “king of righteousness” (see Hebrews 7:1, 2). This city was named Jerusalem long before David took it from the Jebusites and made it his capital city (2 Samuel 5:6, 7). In the book of Revelation, we are given a picture of “new Jerusalem,” the utterly holy city created by God. The purpose of the vision of new Jerusalem is to encourage believers concerning God’s provisions and plans for the future, beyond any tribulation and pain they may be suffering at the time. This lesson has dealt with part of Ezekiel’s vision of new Jerusalem. Our primary focus has been the wonderful River of Life that proceeds from the temple to the Dead Sea, causing flora and fauna to flourish in its path. Such a marvelous, gracious river is also part of the vision of Revelation (see Revelation 22:1). But Ezekiel includes a prophecy that is not found in Revelation. At the very end of his book, Ezekiel tells us about Jerusalem’s new name. The name Jerusalem is very ancient and means “city of peace.” In Ezekiel’s vision, the new name will be The Lord is there (Ezekiel 48:35). Transliterated from Hebrew, this name is Yaweh-shamah, which sounds a lot like the Hebrew way of saying Jerusalem, which is Yeru-shalem. Jerusalem will truly become a city of peace and life, for God will be there and never leave the city again (Revelation 21:22). The personal water bottle is everywhere today, carried by some people everywhere they go. It is even common to see water bottles in many worship services, either among the congregants or being sipped by worship leaders and others up front. Although some people carry water as more of a fashion accessory, this widespread phenomenon also reflects increased respect for health values of drinking plenty of pure water. When he attended the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem, Jesus proclaimed, “Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him” (John 7:38). Jesus was not quoting a single, particular Old Testament passage, but the general message derived from several passages, including our lesson text for today. The apostle John goes on to explain, “By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive” (John 7:39). This means that we can enjoy right now the benefits of the spiritual refreshment that come from the Holy Spirit. He can right now break down the spiritual barriers that keep us from having complete fellowship with our creator. He can reverse all the life-killing areas of our selves, transforming us into the likeness of God’s Son, Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18). The Holy Spirit brings joy, peace, and comfort to the most troubled soul.
Concluding Thoughts from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator

During the reign of Christ on the earth, there will be many great physical changes. Many features of the Edenic curse will be lifted. The delights and pleasures of the millennium will abound in order to magnify the glorious reign of Jesus. One of those changes will be the presence of a great river, which will flow from the temple in Jerusalem. The book of Zechariah foretold that the water flowing from Jerusalem will divide, with half flowing east to the Dead Sea and the other half flowing west to the Mediterranean (14:8). This river will begin as a tiny stream and gradually grow in depth until it becomes a great river. As it flows from the temple, it will heal the waters of the Dead Sea. The Dead Sea will then become a dynamic source of life, and a great multitude of fish will live in it (Ezek. 47:1-12). It is fascinating to note that swamps and marshes by the Dead Sea will not be transformed but will continue to contain salt (Ezek. 47:11). The mention of such a minor detail supports the idea that Ezekiel wrote down exactly what he saw. Apart from the Holy Spirit revealing this tiny detail to him, Ezekiel no doubt would never have imagined such a thing. The probable reason is that Israel will still need salt in order to live. God carefully and faithfully provided for the needs of His people, and continues to do so today. Just as He limited His removal of salt in order not to leave His people without an adequate supply, so He will carefully watch out for our needs. Because the Lord is our Shepherd, we shall not lack anything we truly need. The Lord anticipated Israel's future need and made provision for it in advance. He is a Shepherd who goes before His people. Trees will grow along the banks of this great life-giving river (Ezek. 47:7, 12). These trees will produce abundant fruit, which will provide for the needs of God's people during the reign of Christ upon the earth. That these trees are unique can be seen by the special healing power that resides in their leaves. The text states that the leaves will be used as medicine (Ezek. 47:12). Evidently by means of these trees disease will be treated. The presence of this glorious river harmonizes with other Old Testament passages that indicate there will be great physical changes on the earth during the millennium. It will be a time when the land of Israel will be gloriously transformed (Ezek. 34:26-30; 36:8-15,30-36; 37:26-28).

Practical Points from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator

1. Jesus is the Water of life come down from the Father (Ezek. 47:1-2; John 4:10-14; 6:35)
2. Like the stream, the blessings of God started with one life, Jesus, but in the end benefit millions (Ezek. 47:3-5).
3. The works and wonders of God need to be carefully considered and responded to (vs. 6)
4. Jesus is the Living Water, which transforms death and the dying into life and the living (vs. 7-9)
5. In Christ we have available everything we need to be happy, healthy, and holy (vs. 10-11)
6. The blessings of God for His children will never run out (vs. 12)

Heart of the Lesson from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator

In the previous lessons we saw that Israel will experience spiritual regeneration, be restored to her homeland under new leadership, and be reestablished as a nation. The Lord will reign over Israel and all the world for one thousand years from His temple in Jerusalem. The Lord will provide for all of the needs of His people in His kingdom. Ezekiel had a glimpse of Christ's miraculous provision for His people and their land through the nourishing and transforming waters that will flow out from His temple.

The source of the water of life (Ezek. 47:1-2)

Ezekiel was brought to the door of the temple by an angel. He saw a stream of water that rose from under the threshold of the temple on the south side of the altar of sacrifice. The stream flowed to the east toward the desert. These waters flowed supernaturally out from solid rock. The Lord is able to turn a rock into a loaf of bread or to provide water from a rock as He did in this prophecy of Ezekiel's. Ezekiel was led from the temple area by the north gate and around to the east side to observe the flowing water. This temple will face the east, as was true of Solomon's temple.
The walk through the water of life (Ezek. 47:3-7)

The angel then led Ezekiel through the waters, measuring off 1,000 cubits, or about 1,500 feet, at four intervals. The waters increased in depth as they waded through them following the flow to the east. At the one-thousand-cubit mark, the water was ankle-deep. The water became knee-deep at the second one-thousand-cubit mark. At the next one-thousand-cubit mark the waters were waist-deep. At the last one-thousand-cubit mark, the water became a river of such magnitude that it was deep enough to swim in and unfordable. Ezekiel was directed to the bank of the river by his angelic guide. He pointed out the fruit trees that grew there in abundance.

The life-giving power of the water of life (Ezek. 47:8-12)

Ezekiel's heavenly guide explained to him that the river flowed down into the depression known as the Arabah to the Dead Sea. The Dead Sea is inhospitable to life, but the river will radically transform it. The waters of the river will desalt the Dead Sea, turning it into a freshwater lake teeming with all kinds of marine life. It will become a fisherman's paradise. People will fish the entire length of the sea, gathering an abundance of food with their nets. The kinds and abundance of fish will be like that found in the Mediterranean Sea. Only the swampy areas around the Dead Sea will remain salty. The angel further told Ezekiel that the trees will bear fruit every month of the year because they are watered by the river. Their leaves will provide healing medicine. Ezekiel's vision is a picture of the spiritual life of the believer. Jesus said that whoever believes in Him will experience streams of living water flowing from within him (John 7:37-39). Christ was referring to the Holy Spirit. The Spirit's supernatural power flows out from the believer in abundance.