

Ezekiel 47:1,3-5,8,9,12

The man brought me back to the entrance of the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple...As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured a thousand cubits and then led me through the water that was ankle-deep. He measured off another thousands cubits and led me through the water that was knee-deep. He

measured off another thousands cubits and led me through the water that was up to the waist. He measured off another thousands, but now it was a river that I could not cross...and was deep enough to swim in-a river that no one could cross..."This water flows toward the eastern region...When it empties into the Sea, the water there becomes fresh...where the river flows, everything will live...Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river...their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing."

THE RIVER OF LIFE

The great Russian writer, Solzhenitsyn and Ezekiel both insisted that it was in captivity that their eyes were opened (see Ezekiel 1:1). It was when the gloom of death in exile had settled on Israel that Ezekiel saw God's river of life. He saw a healing river bring life to what was dead or dying. And he said the river flowed down from the temple height toward the Dead sea

(47:8). In the end, anything that heals and restores comes from above. He noticed it flowed out through the temple (47:1). Isn't that a spooky thrill?

For the temple of God to be the channel of blessing for the dead and dying? He noticed that though there's no mention of tributaries, it got deeper the farther it flowed (47:3-5). And isn't that a lovely mystery about sharing gospel things? The more they're shared, the more there is to share.

So, when you've been bored long enough with a life that lacks life, look

for the river flowing from above. Gurgling, swirling, deepening, water of life-cool...and...clear...and...free. Jump in, and before you know it, you'll be in over your head and joyfully swimming for life.

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