

SUNDAY SERMON

Willow, Alaska

Date: January 6, 2019

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 47:1-23

Text: Ezekiel 47:1-23

Subject: EZEKIEL SERIES – River of the Sanctuary & Borders of the Land

1 ¶ 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.

Ezekiel's guide, the man with the line of flax and measuring rod, brought him again unto the door of the house (the temple)

and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, -- Amazing! Nothing is said about any preparation for this momentous happening. Behold! Look, look! Waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward. The forefront of the house stood toward the east – as did the tabernacle in the wilderness and as did the temple of Solomon.

and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar. – The waters came down from under the right side of the house – and the south side of the altar.

2 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 looketh eastward; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side.

Now Ezekiel's guide takes him out of the north gate and let him to the outer gate on the east. And, behold – waters ran out on the right side (of the gate).

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.

The man with the flax line went toward the east and measured a thousand cubits (1780 feet – just over ¼ of a mile). 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.

He measured another thousand and brought Ezekiel through the waters – the waters were to the knees. He measured another thousand and brought Ezekiel 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.

Afterward he measured another thousand – it was a river that I could not pass over. Waters to swim in – a river that could not be passed over! Much water! After 4000 cubits – (just over a mile).

We cannot be dogmatic about this, but we do know that the Mount of Olives just east of Jerusalem will cleave in the midst at the coming of the Lord with his saints. When his feet touch the mountain, it shall cleave in the midst and move toward both the north and south leaving a very great valley which would run east and west. (Zechariah 14:4)

Zec 14:3-4 (KJV) *Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. 4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.*

The Jordan River Valley is to the east of the Mount of Olives. It appears this river from out of the temple will flow to that Jordan Valley by what follows. We do know by maps and by personal observation that the Jordan River empties into the Dead Sea just south of Jericho.

6 And he said unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen this? Then he brought me, and caused me to return to the brink of the river. 7 Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other.

Interesting question of Ezekiel's guide to him: "Son of man, hast thou seen this?" No doubt, Ezekiel was amazed by it. Then the guide brought him and cause him to return to the brink of the river. What did he see when he had returned? Behold, look, look! At the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other.

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.

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As they stood on the brink of the river, Ezekiel's guide told him "These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert." Going east is toward the Jordan. Going down is to go south to the desert. "and go into the sea." The only sea east of Jerusalem and down to the desert is the Dead Sea. When the waters are brought into the sea, the waters shall be healed. All of us know from reading of the Dead Sea that there is presently no life in it. It is mainly composed of Chemicals and is very, very salty. On the bank of the Dead Sea in several places, there are marshes. I have personally stuck my hand into the waters of the Dead Sea – and having a small scratch on my hand experienced the burning by the chemicals of the sea. Had to wash my hands with soap and water to get the oily feeling off my hand.

In any case, when the waters of the river which originated in the Millennial Temple came into the sea, the waters were healed. The Hebrew word for healed is רפא rapha' *raw-faw'*. This word is also translated as "physician, cure, repaired."

9 And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, 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.

This is amazing! It shall come to pass that everything that lives, which moves, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live. We believe that means thriving vegetation and trees.

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. – Great multitude of fish, whereas now, there is NO LIFE IN THE DEAD SEA. Undoubtedly, the river will bring fish into the sea. The waters of the river will come to the sea and they shall be healed – and everything shall live whither the river cometh.

10 And it shall come to pass, that the fishers 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.

And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from Engedi even unto Eneglaim;-- Fishers – fishermen. They shall stand upon the Dead Sea. From En-gedi (about the midst of the west side of the Dead Sea) to En-eglaim said to be in the north-east corner of the Dead Sea just south of Jericho.

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. – This is unthinkable without the mighty power of God. He will cause the people to return to their land – make them one nation – give them a new heart. Destroy their enemies. Place his tabernacle in the midst forevermore. He will send a great earthquake – and the land will be lifted up south of Jerusalem (in the Jericho and Dead Sea area). It will become a plain. The river will come to the Dead Sea and heal the waters. Now fishermen will spread their nets because of the multitude of various kinds of fish, exceeding many.

11 But the miry places thereof and the marshes thereof shall not be healed; they shall be given to salt.

There are miry places and marshes about the Dead Sea today. A notable one is at En-gedi where tourists come from all over the world to wallow in the salty mud for improvement of their health. They shall not be healed, but given to salt.

12 And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine.

And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: -- On both sides of the river – fruit trees whose leaf shall not fade nor the fruit of them be consumed.

it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine.-- It (the river) shall bring forth new fruit according to his months – or at their time of fruit. Why? Because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary. Living waters. And the fruit of those trees shall be for food. Delicious food, indeed! And the leaf will be used for medicine to heal sickness and maladies. For your information, I have attached a drawing to show the source and the end of the river coming out of the millennial temple.

13 ¶ Thus saith the Lord GOD; This shall be the border, whereby ye shall inherit the land according to the twelve tribes of Israel: Joseph shall have two portions.

In the next verses, the Lord God tells us of the border of Israel's inheritance. Notice that Joseph shall have two portions of the land as God promised.

14 And ye shall inherit it, one as well as another: concerning the which I lifted up mine hand to give it unto your fathers: and this land shall fall unto you for inheritance.

Every one of them shall inherit that land. Why? Because God lifted up his hand to give it to their fathers. This land shall be your inheritance. This is the only land on earth with a biblical title for its inhabitants!

15 And this shall be the border of the land toward the north side, from the great sea, the way of Hethlon, as men go to Zedad;

from the great sea, the way of Hethlon, as men go to Zedad; -- the line of this border shall begin at the Mediterranean sea, commonly called the great sea, and so proceed to Hethlon, a city in Syria, and from thence to Zedad; of which see [Nu 34:8](#), the description is taken all along from the places which were on the border of Canaan, or in countries adjacent to it, which plainly point out the enlargement of it. (John Gill)

Nu 34:8 (KJV) *From mount Hor ye shall point out your border unto the entrance of **Hamath**; and the goings forth of the border shall be to **Zedad**:*

16 Hamath, Berothah, Sibraim, which is between the border of Damascus and the border of Hamath; Hazarhatticon, which is by the coast of Hauran. 17 And the border from the sea shall be

Hazarenan, the border of Damascus, and the north northward, and the border of Hamath. And this is the north side.

And the border from the sea shall be Hazarenan, the border of Damascus, -- Which was the furthestmost part and end of the northern border, as fixed by Moses, [Nu 34:9](#),

and the north northward, and the border of Hamath; if this is carrying on the border further, it seems to be another Hamath, distinct from the former, [Eze 47:16](#),

and this is the north side: of the land, and the description of the northern border of it, from the Mediterranean sea to Hazarenan.

These three verses (15-17) describe the north border of the land of Israel for the new land assignment.

18 And the east side ye shall measure from Hauran, and from Damascus, and from Gilead, and from the land of Israel by Jordan, from the border unto the east sea. And this is the east side.

The eastern boundary is to commence by separating off the territory of Damascus and Hauran, and then to follow the line of the Jordan to the Dead Sea.

19 And the south side southward, from Tamar even to the waters of strife in Kadesh, the river to the great sea. And this is the south side southward.

The south border (compare [Nu 34:4](#)) commences with "Tamar," probably a village near the southern end of the Dead Sea. The word means "palm-tree;" and is given to more than one city in the holy land.

Nu 34:4 (KJV) And your border shall turn from the south to the ascent of Akrabbim, and pass on to Zin: and the going forth thereof shall be from the south to Kadesh-barnea, and shall go on to Hazar-addar, and pass on to Azmon:

The river to the great sea - literally, "riverward to the great sea," which is the Mediterranean Sea.

20 The west side also shall be the great sea from the border, till a man come over against Hamath. This is the west side.

Clean enough. The West side is the great sea (The Mediterranean) – from the southern border to the northern border at Hamath.

21 So shall ye divide this land unto you according to the tribes of Israel.

The land was to be divided within these boundaries for all the tribes and the Lord's Portion.

22 And it shall come to pass, that ye shall divide it by lot for an inheritance unto you, and to the strangers that sojourn among you, which shall beget children among you: and they shall be unto you as born in the country among the children of Israel; they shall have inheritance with you among the tribes of Israel.

Notable difference between the Old Covenant and the Millennial era. Strangers that sojourn among the Israelites and beget children among them shall be unto Israel as born in the country among the children of Israel. The inheritance is to be reckoned to them as among the Israelites.

23 And it shall come to pass, that in what tribe the stranger sojourneth, there shall ye give him his inheritance, saith the Lord GOD.

This nails down the inheritance. If the strangers were to sojourn in the tribe of Judah, then the inheritance would be in Judah; and so forth according to their dwelling place.

In this message, we have seen the origin of the river from the Millennial Temple. We have seen that it flowed eastward into the Jordan River valley and turned south running into the Dead Sea. The waters of the river healed the waters of the Dead Sea so that it flourished with a great multitude of various kinds of fish. We saw that the Fishermen would spread their nets from En-Gedi on the west to En-Englaim on the north east. Various trees grew along the river with much fruit – and the leaves were for medicine. Since water finds its own level, we can see that the land below the Dead Sea is lifted up so that the waters fill it and it drains further south.

We studied about the borders of the new land area and a new law concerning strangers in Israel. This is the time of the earth's great Sabbath. At this time, the Lord Jesus Christ shall be king over all the earth from Jerusalem. His church shall be reigning with him on the earth with a rod of iron. Remember, that though there are no unsaved people on earth at the beginning of the millennium, they must be superintended and ruled because they remain in bodies subject to death as we are now.

Ps 2:7-9 (KJV) *I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. 8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. 9 Thou shalt break them with a **rod of iron**; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.*

Re 2:26-27 (KJV) *And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: **27** And he shall rule them with a **rod of iron**; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.*

Re 12:5 (KJV) *And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a **rod of iron**: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.*

Re 19:11-15 (KJV) *And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. **12** His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. **13** And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. **14** And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. **15** And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a **rod of iron**: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*

Re 19:7-9 (KJV) *Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. **8** And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. **9** And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.*

Mt 25:1-13 (KJV) *Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. **2** And five of them were wise, and five were*

foolish. **3** They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: **4** But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. **5** While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. **6** And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. **7** Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. **8** And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. **9** But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. **10** And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. **11** Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. **12** But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. **13** **Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.**

In scripture, the only entity that is referred to as virgins is the Lord's Church.

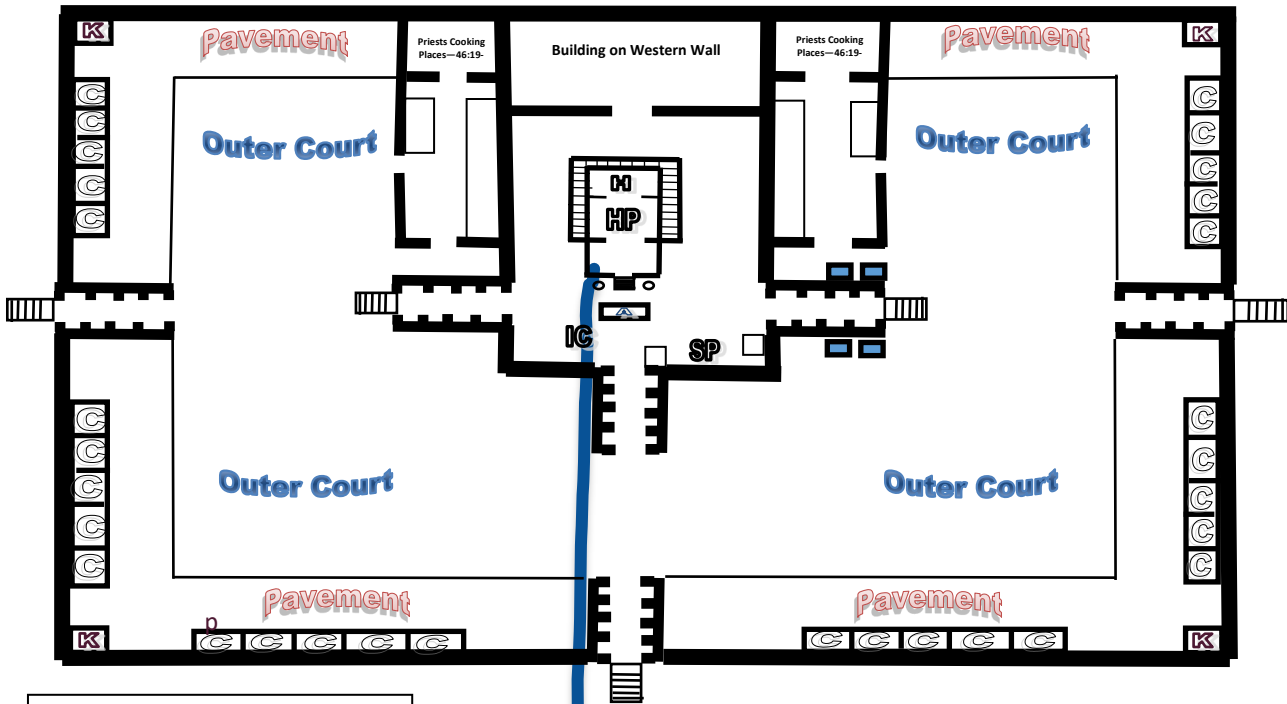
2Co 11:2-3 (KJV) *For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a **chaste virgin** to Christ. **3** But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*

A church can be corrupted by the entrance of false doctrine and practices when a congregation is beguiled by Satan. May God help us to always maintain the simplicity that is in Christ – and keep his commandments.

Ezekiel's Millennial Temple

River of the Sanctuary

Eze 47:1,5 (KJV) 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....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.

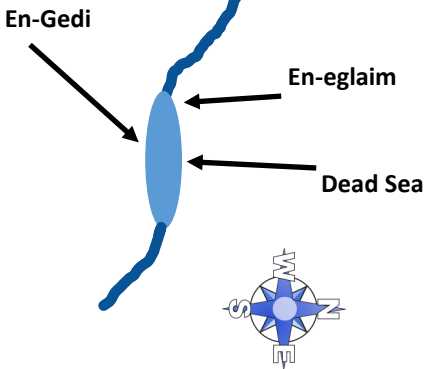


Zec 14:4 (KJV) And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, *and there shall be* a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.



Jordan River

Zec 14:10 (KJV) All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: *and it shall be lifted up*, and inhabited in her place, from Benjamin's gate unto the place of the first gate, unto the corner gate, and *from* the tower of Hananeel unto the king's winepresses.



The Dead Sea's waters shall be healed—and there shall be great multitudes of fish—and the fishermen shall spread their nets from En-gedi to En-eglaim. (Ezekiel 47:5-10)

**Drawing not to scale.—
For purpose of illustration only.**