

Chapter 47 begins with a description of a miraculous river flowing from the altar of the temple. We find additional prophesies of the same river in Joel and Zechariah:

And in that day the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the streambeds of Judah shall flow with water; and a fountain shall come forth from the house of the Lord and water the Valley of Shittim [just northeast of the Dead Sea] (Joel 3:18).

On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. It shall continue in summer as in winter (Zechariah 14:8).

Three remarkable properties of the river bear witness to its divine source. First, its volume increases as it flows. Natural rivers lose water to evaporation and with no tributaries to feed them will simply come to an end, as the Jordan River does in the Dead Sea. The river also turns salt water fresh when it mixes into the Dead Sea or the ocean, the complete opposite of our normal experience of salt water contaminating fresh water. Finally, its fruit provides food in all seasons and its leaves give healing.

So the amazing river reverses and defies the processes of death and decay that rule creation today. It is no wonder the

Lord Jesus uses living water to picture the rebirth and renewal that takes place when a sinner believes in Him: *Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water ... The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life” (John 4:10, 14). “Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water (John 7:38).*

The Bible even closes with another glimpse of the river of grace: *Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations (Revelation 22:1-2).*

Notes:

47:8 The Arabah is the arid rift valley extending from the Jordan Valley through the Dead Sea to the Gulf of Aqaba on the Red Sea.

47:10 Engedi was David's stronghold on the western shore of the Dead Sea (1 Samuel 23:29). The location of Eneglaim is not known but assumed to also be on the Dead Sea (Eastern Sea).

Questions:

1. The temple faces east. Who or what enters the temple from the east in Chapter 43?
2. What happens when the river flows into the Dead Sea? What does this portray spiritually?

Restoration of the Land



3. Do Gentiles share in the blessings of the restored land?

4. Is the division of the land here the same as in Joshua's time?

5. How is the allotment different for the Levites?

6. What is the name of the new city? What is its significance?