

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Bible Study 

November 30, 2025

Title: Ezekiel's Vision

“The River of Life”

Devotional Reading: Revelation 7:9–17

Scripture: Ezekiel 47:1–9, 12

Instructor: M.C. McCants

Lesson Outline & Introduction

Ezekiel 47:1–9, 12

- 1. Context | Captivity, Exile, Faith Forward.**
- 2. The Guiding: Ezekiel 47:1-2**
- 3. Walking Wading: Ezekiel 47:3-5**
- 4. Learning: Ezekiel 47:6 – 9, 12**
- 5. Conclusion | Hope | Prayer | Application**

Background & Context

Chapters 40 – 48 in the Book of Ezekiel describe a vision of a future renewed temple, after the destruction of the first temple and exile into Babylon. This vision amid great despair requires continued faith, reverence to God and community.

A). *Literal Interpretation*

Advocates of a literal interpretation see Ezekiel's vision as a prophetic preview of the Messianic kingdom during Christ's millennial reign (Revelation 20:1–6).

CHAPTER 47-48 OVERVIEW

2. *Symbolic or Theological Interpretation.*

Others interpret the vision symbolically, emphasizing its theological message rather than its physical realization. In this reading, the river symbolizes the outpouring of spiritual life and blessings through the Messiah (rf. John 7:38–39).

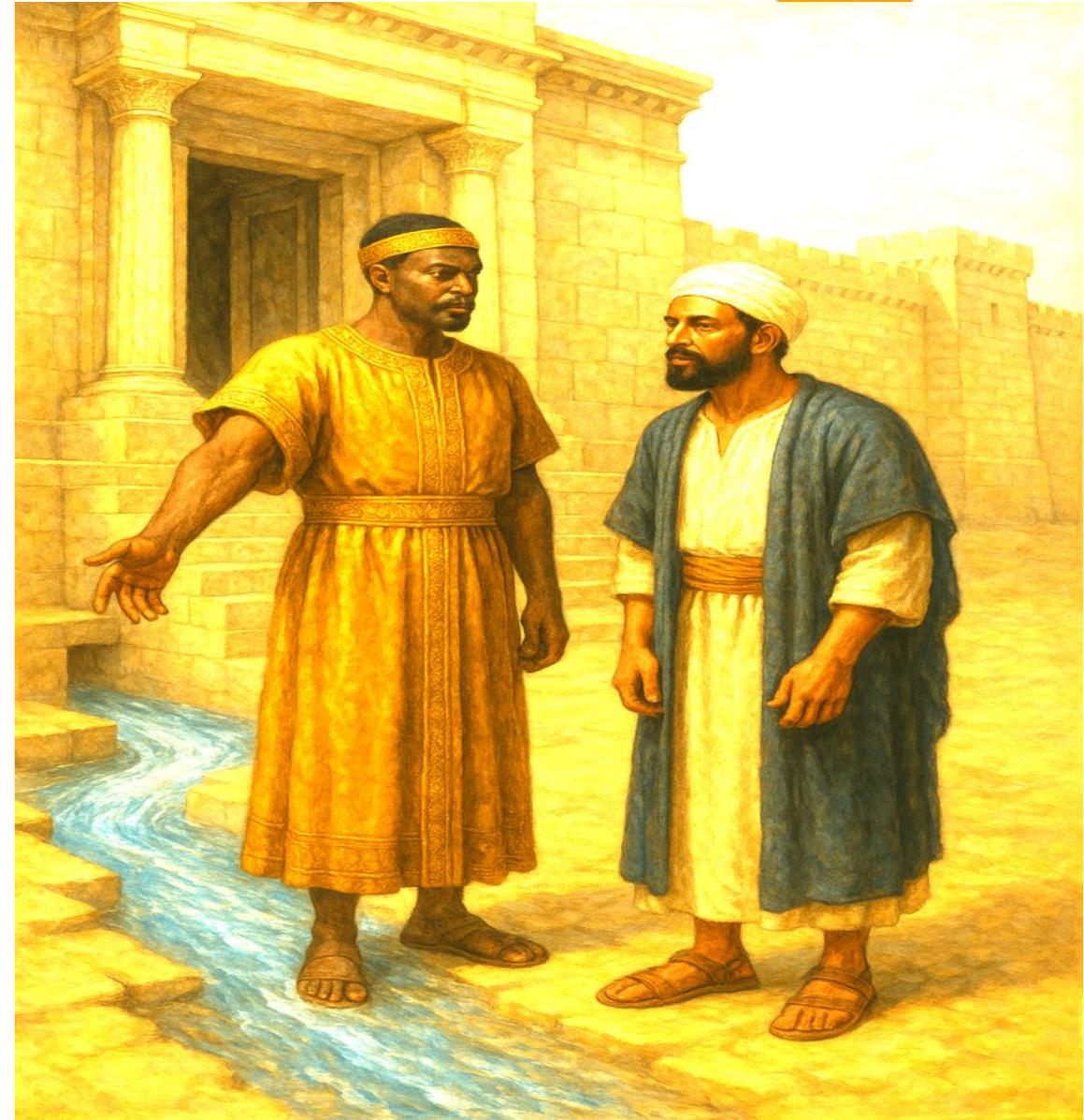
The River of Life

Ezekiel 47:1 NIV 

1. The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east).

The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar.

² He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was trickling from the south side.



Ezekiel 47:3 NIV

³ Going on eastward with a measuring line in his hand, the man measured a thousand cubits,^[a]

and then led me through the water, and it was ankle-deep.



The River of Life

Ezekiel 47:4 NIV 

4. He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist.

The River of Life

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Ezekiel 47:5 NIV 

⁵ He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in—a river that no one could cross.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

10

- 1. The Temple's orientation faced east in religious tradition of God's Glory entering from the east.**
- 2. The water flowing from the temple illustrates spiritual life originates from a divine source.**
- 3. The increasing depth of the water illustrates how spiritual growth is gradually progressive.**

The River of Life

Ezekiel 47:6 - 7 NIV 

6 And he said to me, “Son of man, have you seen this?” Then he led me back to the bank of the river.

7 As I went back; I saw on the bank of the river very many trees on the one side and on the other.

The River of Life

Ezekiel 47: 8 NIV 

⁸ He said to me, “This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, and when it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant waters, the water will become fresh.

The River of Life

Ezekiel 47: 9 NIV 

9 Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live.

1. How does water, in its various contexts, illustrate the character or actions of God?
2. What area of your life today would benefit from GOD'S living water?

QUESTIONS



The River of Life

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Ezekiel 47: 12 NIV 

12 Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.”

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

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- 1. The trees represent continuous spiritual nourishment for God's people.**
- 2. Leaf healing symbolizes restoration from spiritual brokenness. (Ref. Rev 22:2).**
- 3. The swamps and marsh will not be healed. They will be left for salt at first.**

Questions ???

For Self Improvement

What will you do?

- 1). How does today's text encourage me, regarding my hope and understanding of eternal life?**
- 2). In what ways will I worship God as a response to that hope?**

Hope for Abundant Life

The most significant word picture found in today's passage is that of water. The Old Testament uses water imagery to convey the message that God's "water of life" is never stagnant but always available, active, and life-giving.

(Psalms 1:3; 36:8; 84:5–6; Isaiah 12:3; 41:18; 43:19; 66:12; Jeremiah 31:9).

Final Questions

- 1). What is significant about the profound depths of God's presence surrounding us today?
2. How does the knowledge of progressing into God's living water help us grow through present struggles and regrets?
3. What changes does God's living water symbolize in the physical, that become evident in the spiritual?

Hope for Eternal Life

The New Testament, points to a fulfillment initiated by Jesus' first coming and climaxed by his second coming. At Jesus' return, his holy city will become inhabited for eternity by his people. It is a city built by God himself (Hebrews 11:10).

- 1. NASB | NIV | NRSV STUDY BIBLE**
- 2. BIBLICAL HERMENEUTICS STACK**
- 3. CHASING DAYLIGHT. Erwin McManus.**
- 4. HOW TO LISTEN TO GOD. C. Stanley**
- 5. References. [Got Questions.org](http://GotQuestions.org) /
[Standard Lesson.com](http://StandardLesson.com) / Logos.com**