

## The River Flowing from the Temple

Ezekiel 47:1-12

Key Verse: 12

Context: After both human and spiritual evil is finally defeated (Eze 38-39), chapters 40-46 relate the final temple vision Ezekiel receives. In contrast to the abominations in chapters 8-11, he now sees a vision of a new temple. After precise measurements of the temple (40-42), he witnesses the glory of the Lord returning to fill his temple (43:1-12). He is also given specific instructions for a renewed worship (43:13-46:24). Ezekiel's vision does not end with the temple. The city and the land are described (47-48), in the midst of which, is the new temple in the very center. The entire vision concludes with the promise: the name of the city is "The LORD Is There" (48:35). This vision gives the future hope in a symbolic way that is relevant even to us today.

1. Ezekiel 47:1-12 is a continuation of the vision of a new temple in chapters 40-46. Consider what Ezekiel saw, especially in Eze 43:1-5 (cf. Eze 10:4,18,19; 11:23). What is the significance of the new temple for God's people including the exiles?
2. Read verse 47:1-2. Where was Ezekiel brought in his vision and what did he see? What is the significance of the water and its source (cf. Gen 2:10; Isa 55:1; Zech 14:8)?
3. Read 47:3-6a. What did the man do and what happened to the river as it flowed from the temple? How did it grow deeper and differ from natural rivers? Why would this image of a miraculously growing river be significant to the exiles?
4. Read 47:6b-12. Where would the river flow? What blessings does this water from the sanctuary bring wherever it flows? What is the significance of "where the river flows everything will live" (9b)? What is the meaning of the trees on either side of the river that bear fruit every month (cf. Gen 1:29; 2:9)?
5. How does this vision look forward to Christ and the gospel in the New Testament (cf. Jn 7:37-39; 4:14)? How are Ezekiel 47:1,12 and Revelation 21:22 and 22:1-2 similar and different?
6. What are the implications of the passage for your life today? What was the most important thing about Ezekiel's vision to you?