

EZEKIEL

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Ezekiel chapter 47 as we continue our study through the Word of God and we finish up this fascinating book this evening. Keep in mind that these last nine chapters of Ezekiel can be broken down as follows. In Ezekiel chapters 40 through 43 we saw the description of the Temple and we covered that already. Then, in Ezekiel chapters 44 through 46 we saw the worship that takes place in the Temple and we covered that section already as well. And lastly, in Ezekiel chapters 47 and 48 we see the description of the land around the Temple and we will conclude with this portion of Ezekiel this evening.

Before we get to our text this evening, let me share these words with you from David Legge. This is what he wrote regarding the last two chapters of Ezekiel,

During the American Civil War a delegation from the Southern states, from the Confederation, came to Abraham Lincoln and spread before him a large map of the United States of America. The Confederates of the South drew a line right across the middle of it, dividing it from North to South. They said to Abraham Lincoln: "South of that line it will be alright to keep people as slaves, but north of that line it will be illegal". Of course, history tells us that Lincoln placed his huge hand upon the whole of the map of United States, and he said: "I claim it all in the name of freedom".

There is a day coming very soon when our Lord Jesus Christ will come to this earth and He will land His feet upon the Mount of Olives, and He will put His nail-pierced hand on the whole of this planet, and He will reign and He will claim this world for Himself. Now, it's very difficult, I think, for us to imagine what the millennial reign of Christ will be like - simply because our world, as we speak, is so full of sin, immorality, unrighteousness and abomination towards God. There is so much war, so much hatred in the hearts of men and women, so much trouble around us, sadness, death, sickness and poverty. But the Scriptures speak prophetically, right throughout the Old and the New Testaments, of a time when men will make war no more, when men with joy shall draw out of the wells of God's salvation, when a child shall die at 100 years of age because few in those days will say: "I am sick". The Bible speaks of a time of unequalled prosperity, when the desert will blossom as the rose. There will be no more poverty, no more famine, no more want of anything. A day, as Revelation 20 tells us, when Satan will be bound and the Lord Jesus Christ, for one thousand years, will reign from shore to shore in righteousness - not in heaven, but upon the earth.

Not only does the Bible tell us that there will be a spiritual reign for one thousand years, and spiritual changes, moral changes, national changes, and governmental changes - but the prophet Ezekiel comes to us in these last few chapters and tells us that during the thousand year reign of Christ there will also be geographical changes. That is what we're looking at tonight: chapters 47 and 48, and Ezekiel is given by the Holy Spirit a vision of the new Holy Land during the millennial kingdom.

- <http://www.preachtheword.com/sermon/ezek24.shtml>

With that as our introduction let's begin reading in Ezekiel chapter 47 beginning in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

EZEKIEL 47

VERSES 1-2

1. Keep in mind that we are speaking of the Kingdom Age here and during the Kingdom Age there will be a river that will flow from the Temple area eastward towards the Dead Sea and westward towards the Mediterranean Sea. But, as we are going to see, this river is far different than any rivers we know of today.

2. Now there is great controversy over this river. Some are saying that the Temple could not be built where many claim it was because there was no spring of water to wash the blood from the sacrifices. One writer said this,

Many ancient historians site a spring at the true temple location. The Roman historian Tacitus recorded that the temple at Jerusalem had a natural spring of water that welled from its interior. Again, these references could only be describing the Gihon Spring. It is located close to what is referred to as the Ophel, which is a bulge of the earth abutting the City of David (Zion) laying just to the south, and roughly about 1,000 feet, from the Temple Mount. There are no springs, however, on top of the Temple Mount. A spring is crucial for the true temple locale.

- <http://khouse.org/articles/2015/1223>

Because of this they say that the site of the Temple Mount today can't be correct because it is not close enough to the Gihon Spring. Thus, if there was no water then how can there be all this water we are reading of here in Ezekiel. First of all I truly don't agree with what they are saying regarding the location of the Temple. Secondly, Jesus can make water come out of a rock, so I don't think that is truly an issue.

But there is evidence that there was water that was used under the Temple Mount. Listen to what we are told in this article,

Based on previous research and excavations in the area, Shukron was immediately convinced they had stumbled on an enormous underground well from the First Temple Period. The finding is significant because it is the first evidence of stored water next to the Temple. Previously, experts believed that pilgrims and residents used to hike to the Gihon Spring – located in a wadi at the bottom of the City of David Park – in order to get water for rituals and daily life around the First Temple.

“It gives us an opportunity to understand their day-to-day life,” said Shukron on Thursday.

At roughly one-tenth the size of an Olympic swimming pool, the reservoir measures 12 meters by 5 meters by 4.5 meters and can hold approximately 250 cubic meters of water.

Shukron dates the reservoir to the First Temple Period because it uses the same type of plaster as other reservoirs in the Gihon Spring area, from the same era.

He is fairly certain that the pool was a public reservoir because the private wells could only hold a few dozen cubic meters of water.

While the reservoir was in use, spring water running downhill from the Temple Mount would have seeped through one side of the reservoir and filled the entire room to capacity. On Thursday, a pool of fresh water was still standing at the bottom in one of the corners, even though it is the end of summer.

Dr. Tvika Tsuk, the chief archeologist of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority and an expert on ancient water systems, said the reservoir was similar to ones found in Beit Shemesh and Beersheba from the same time period.

“Presumably the large water reservoir, which is situated near the Temple Mount, was used for the everyday activities of the Temple Mount itself and also by the pilgrims who went up to the Temple and required water for bathing and drinking,” he said. The excavations were carried out by the Antiquities Authority, funded by the Ir David Foundation, and with the support of the Nature and Parks Authority.

Even today, the handprints of the laborers who added the plaster are still visible.

- <http://www.jpost.com/Jewish-World/Jewish-News/Massive-reservoir-discovered-beneath-Western-Wall>

3. And the bottom line is this. The topography of the area is going to be changed. In Zechariah 14:8-9 we read of this river and the joy of the Lord ruling over all the earth and how when the Lord returns and places His foot on the Mount of Olives it will cleave in half, making a large valley. This is what we are told regarding this water that will flow from Temple and out the east gate, **“And in that day it shall be that living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and half of them toward the western sea; in both summer and winter it shall occur. And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be – ‘The LORD is one,’ and His name one.”**

We also see this river spoken of in Joel 3:18 where we are told, **“And it will come to pass in that day That the mountains shall drip with new wine, The hills shall flow with milk, And all the brooks of Judah shall be flooded with water; A fountain shall flow from the house of the Lord And water the Valley of Acacias.”**

As we continue on we will see some amazing features of this river that we can apply to our own lives today.

VERSES 3-6

1. We have seen Ezekiel being led out the north gate because no man, only the Lord was to enter through the east gate and now it is shut because the Lord will never leave His people. And as Ezekiel is led out this north gate he comes to this river.

And this is kind of interesting because as this river starts out it is not very impressive but the farther you get from the Temple the deeper this river gets. Ezekiel is led some 1,750 feet out into this river, about one-quarter of a mile and at this point the river is only up to his ankles. Then he is led out farther, another 1750 feet and now the water is deeper, it has come up to his knees.

But he is not done. He is led out another 1750 feet and now the water is up to his waist. And finally, he is led one more time into this water and now the water is over his head. Now we do see rivers start out small and gradually get bigger as they go because there are these tributaries that are feeding it and the water is faster and deeper as these waters fill it.

But that is not the case here. There are no tributaries flowing into this river that comes from the Temple and yet it gets deeper and deeper and deeper, so much so that it is now over the head of Ezekiel. That tells me that this is not just some natural flowing river but this is supernatural, this is something that God has done.

And after all that he is brought to the bank of the river, his feet are placed upon dry ground once again.

2. I do think there is an application for us to apply to our lives today. Yes this is seen in the Kingdom Age or the Millennial Reign of Christ but there is application that I think is important for us to understand and apply to our lives!

In John chapter 7 we read, **“On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”** John 7:37-39.

The Feast of Tabernacles lasted seven days and began on the 15th day of the month of Tisri. And for the first seven days water from the Pool of Siloam was carried in a golden pitcher and poured out at the altar to remind everyone of the water God miraculously provided for a thirsty Israel in the wilderness. It seems that on the eighth day there was no pouring of water - only prayers for water - to remind them that they came into the Promised Land. Not only that God had provided for them but it looked forward to the coming Messiah and His kingdom.

One writer points this out for us that this feast was only seven days long as he wrote, But the eighth day was not properly one of the feast days; the people ceased to dwell in the tabernacles on the seventh day. . . .” (Alford)

Now here on the seventh day they would not just circle the altar once before pouring out the water, as they did on the previous six days, but they would circle the altar seven times before pouring out the water. It speaks of completion.

Then, on the eighth day a holy convocation, and as I said, there was no water that was poured out on this day. And at this point, as the people are all around, Jesus stands up and says **“If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”** John 7:37-38.

Think about this for a minute. No more water is being poured out and yet the people are still thirsty and Jesus is telling them that if they want to satisfy that thirst in their souls, they need to take Him into their lives! Jesus is pointing to the Holy Spirit filling their lives, refreshing them.

Thus, I believe this river here in Ezekiel is a representation of the Holy Spirit. You see, this river started from the altar and flowed outward. That is where the sacrifices were offered.

What that means to me is that we must first appropriate the finished work of Christ into our lives and that is done as we go to the cross. He is the Lamb of God who has come to take away the sins of the world! Thus, as we surrender our life to Jesus we come into that saving faith! Paul put it this way in Ephesians 2:8-9, **“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”** Thus, the river of the Holy Spirit brings us to Christ, we get saved! But it doesn’t end there! Remember, we are only in this water a tiny bit at this point, not even up to our ankles.

But now, as we are led out farther into this river we now are up to are ankles in water. Now this is a pretty simple question and I think all of you can answer it. “How did you get there?” The obvious answer is that you walked!

Paul, in Galatians 5:16 said “**I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.**” This is speaking of our walk in the Spirit. It is a step of faith that leads us on and if we refuse to walk we will never get out into that Spirit filled life, we will wander in the wilderness you might say!

In Ephesians 4:1-3 Paul tells us how we are to walk. He says “**I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**” So as we surrender to the Spirit, allow Him to led our lives we can walk worthy of that calling! And so as the waters come up to our ankles, it speaks of our walk in the Spirit. But it doesn’t end there!

As we are led farther into these waters, into this river of life you might say, now the water comes up to our knees. And I think the idea here is that of a life of prayer. You are appropriating that power into your life as you are on your knees before the Lord!

It is as Jesus said in John 14:12-14, “**Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.**”

First of all what does Jesus mean when He says that we will do greater works than Him, that is not even possible, is it? Think about all He did in His earthly life, He raised the dead, how can you do greater than that?

We need to understand that He is not speaking of doing greater works in magnitude, what can be more sensational than raising the dead? He is speaking greater in scope. You see, in His earthly ministry Jesus was limited to being at one place at one time but now as He works in all believers He can work throughout the world and thus, we will do greater in scope than He did in His earthly ministry.

And again, this is important. When Jesus says that whatever we ask in His name He will do is not some blank check that Jesus gives to us and we can write whatever amount we want! Not at all. When we ask in Jesus' name we are asking in His place you might say, that we would be asking the Father what Jesus would be asking for as we are His representative! The key here is not our will, but His sovereign rule.

It is as John tells us in I John 5:14-15, "**Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.**" Make no mistake about it, there is power in prayer and yet, it doesn't end there!

We are led even deeper into the water and now we are up to our waist! What does that mean to us? It is possible that this is speaking of our spiritual reproduction or that as people hang around us, they are getting saved.

It is as Jesus said in Luke 24:49, "**Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.**" That power from on high is the power to be a witness of Jesus, to live for Him! We need those waters of the Holy Spirit to fill our lives so people may see Jesus! But again, it does not end there!

As we are led to the deepest part of the river now that water is over our head! And I think what this means, what this is a picture of is that you are no longer a vessel that contains God but a channel from which God can flow through and touch the lives of others. Torrents of living water will flow from your life!

Now understand this, you have the Holy Spirit as a believer. The moment you are saved the Holy Spirit moves from a position of being alongside of you and drawing you to Christ, to indwelling you. The question you need to ask yourself is this, “Does the Holy Spirit have me?”

If your life is dry, if things are not flowing, you need to open up and let the Holy Spirit have you! Ask Him to empower you for service. To mold you and shape you into the man or woman that He wants you to be and you will find yourself overflowing with torrents of living water! It is as Jesus said, **“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”** Acts 1:8.

What a wonderful picture of the Spirit filled life and the last thing we see here is that Ezekiel is led to the banks of the river or his feet are placed upon the rocks. For us, it is a picture of resting upon the sure foundation of Jesus, the Rock!

3. Now as we read on we will see the life that these rivers of living water will bring to the areas around it. Whatever it touches will burst forth with life!

VERSES 7-12

1. How many of you have gone fishing in the Dead Sea? If you raised your hand I am worried about you. You see, right now the Dead Sea is just that, it is **DEAD!** There is no life in it! The Dead Sea is the saltiest body of water (approximately 25 percent saline content) and is presently unable to support life.

It is also the lowest point on earth, with its surface 1,300 feet below sea level and the water itself 1,300 feet deep. Right now we see that the waters from the Jordan River flow into it bringing many different kinds of minerals into it. Because of that and there is no outlet for the waters to flow, it is some 6 times saltier than ocean waters and thus, unable to support life. It is a Dead Sea!

But what we see here is that God is going to heal those waters to the point where there will be an abundance of life in it! If you book a spot by the Dead Sea for this period of time, bring your fishing poles because this water that was once dead is now filled with fish and fishermen who will be fishing!

2. What is interesting is that the Dead Sea is healed but the marshy areas around the Dead Sea will remain in their former state. That sounds strange and maybe the reason for this is to provide salt to the people, since we do need salt. That is why I love potato chips, I just need the salt!

3. How does this relate to us? I think the picture is pretty simple. You see, many Christians are like the Dead Sea. They come to church, they get fed and they are soaking up the things of God, they have a great reservoir of minerals or wealth in them, but their life is barren, there is no fruit, there is no life, because they are not using what God has given to them, they have no outlet!

As Christians we do need to receive the things of God but not to become a reservoir to contain God. We are to be a channel from which God can flow through and touch the lives of others. If you are missing that, ask God to show you how He wants to use you for His glory!

4. We also see trees that are used for medicine - having healing properties. We have that today with plants, but this is far different, you will be completely healed by these plants or trees.

Also, when God creates a new heavens and a new earth we read in Revelation 22:1-2 something that is very similar to what we see here in Ezekiel. It says, **“And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”**

Keep in mind that the trees here and the tree of life in Revelation 22 are not the same. The trees here in Ezekiel are during the Millennial Reign of Christ and the one in Revelation chapter 22 is from the eternal state in the new heavens and new earth!

And so we see in the Kingdom Age and when God creates a new heavens and a new earth that there is this river and healing properties in these plants.

5. So during the Kingdom Age we see the source of life, the source of healing, the fruitfulness in people's lives comes from the Temple of God where Jesus is at! He needs to be ruling and reigning from the throne of our hearts today, may we let Him!

VERSE 13

1. Here we see the borders of the land in the Kingdom Age. The Jews will get the portion of land that God had promised them but they never fully entered into it prior to this time because of their lack of faith and not driving out the enemy. But in the Kingdom Age they will get all of it!

We are also told that Joseph will get a double portion and many wonder why that is. The reason for Joseph getting a double portion is because the Levites portion was the Lord; they did not get a land portioned to them as the other tribes did. And thus, to get 12 tribes you have to include Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh.

VERSES 14-23

1. Now we see here the boundaries of the land and as we get into chapter 48 of Ezekiel we will see how the land is divided in the Kingdom Age between the twelve tribes of Israel.

Keep in mind that God promised Abraham this land back in Genesis 13:14-17. We are told, "**And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: 'Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are - northward, southward, eastward, and westward; for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered. Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you.'**" (Also see Genesis 15:17-21).

In Numbers 34:1-12 we see the boundaries of the land, **“Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Command the children of Israel, and say to them: “When you come into the land of Canaan, this is the land that shall fall to you as an inheritance - the land of Canaan to its boundaries. Your southern border shall be from the Wilderness of Zin along the border of Edom; then your southern border shall extend eastward to the end of the Salt Sea; your border shall turn from the southern side of the Ascent of Akrabbim, continue to Zin, and be on the south of Kadesh Barnea; then it shall go on to Hazar Addar, and continue to Azmon; the border shall turn from Azmon to the Brook of Egypt, and it shall end at the Sea. As for the western border, you shall have the Great Sea for a border; this shall be your western border. And this shall be your northern border: From the Great Sea you shall mark out your border line to Mount Hor; from Mount Hor you shall mark out your border to the entrance of Hamath; then the direction of the border shall be toward Zedad; the border shall proceed to Ziphron, and it shall end at Hazar Enan. This shall be your northern border. You shall mark out your eastern border from Hazar Enan to Shepham; the border shall go down from Shepham to Riblah on the east side of Ain; the border shall go down and reach to the eastern side of the Sea of Chinnereth; the border shall go down along the Jordan, and it shall end at the Salt Sea. This shall be your land with its surrounding boundaries.””**

2. Here is what these boundaries are. The western boarder is the Mediterranean Sea or the Great Sea. The northern boundary is Damascus or modern Syria. The eastern border is the Jordan River. And the southern boundary is the brook of Egypt, a river bed in west Sinai.

And again, keep in mind that the Jews have never occupied all this land that God had promised them nor has this promise ever been rescinded! And so the borders we see here will be similar to those promised to Israel during the time of Moses in Numbers 34:1-12. It is the Lord's land and He will divide it as He sees fit. He won't have to go to the United Nations to get approval for the Land because it is all His!

EZEKIEL 48

VERSES 1-8

1. Here we see the division of the land, sectioned off in rectangular units from north to south. And we start out with the seven tribes that will occupy the land to the north of the Temple. They are from north downward: Dan, Asher, Naphtali, Manasseh, Ephraim, Reuben and Judah.
2. What is interesting to me is that as you read in the book of Revelation, chapter 7, you will see that 12,000 from each of the twelve tribes are sealed during the Tribulation Period. But Dan and Ephraim are not sealed. Which seems very strange and you may be wondering why they were not sealed during the Tribulation Period.

The reason for this was their idolatry and God was holding them accountable for their actions. In Deuteronomy 29:14 -21 God warned His people by saying, **“I make this covenant and this oath, not with you alone, but also with him who stands here with us today before the LORD our God, as well as with him who is not here with us today (for you know that we dwelt in the land of Egypt and that we came through the nations which you passed by, and you saw their abominations and their idols which were among them - wood and stone and silver and gold); so that there may not be among you man or woman or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations, and that there may not be among you a root bearing bitterness or wormwood; and so it may not happen, when he hears the words of this curse, that he blesses himself in his heart, saying, ‘I shall have peace, even though I walk in the imagination of my heart’ - as though the drunkard could be included with the sober. The LORD would not spare him; for then the anger of the LORD and His jealousy would burn against that man, and every curse that is written in this book would settle on him, and the LORD would blot out his name from under heaven. And the LORD would separate him from all the tribes of Israel for adversity, according to all the curses of the covenant that are written in this Book of the Law.”**

That was the warning and then in Judges 18:30 we see that Dan is the first tribe to go into idolatry as they entered the land, causing the other tribes to follow them. Ephraim was also not sealed in Revelation chapter 7 and the reason for this is told to us in Hosea 4:17-19, where we read, **“Ephraim is joined to idols, let him alone. Their drink is rebellion, they commit harlotry continually. Her rulers dearly love dishonor. The wind has wrapped her up in its wings, and they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices.”**

Also keep in mind that Jeroboam was from the tribe of Ephraim and when the nation was divided up into the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah, Jeroboam led the Northern Kingdom of Israel into idolatry, he led them away from the Lord!

But now we have moved into the Kingdom Age here in Ezekiel, the Millennial Kingdom, and as the land is divided up we see that Dan is first to be mentioned and Ephraim is also mentioned. Even though they were not sealed during the Tribulation Period because of their idolatry, we see God give them their portion of the land in the Kingdom Age! That tells me we serve a God who is gracious and merciful. A God who forgives! Isn't He good!

VERSES 9-22

1. Here we see the division of the land for the priests, the Levites, the city and the prince. In the center section, 8.3 miles long and 3.3 miles wide, is where the Temple is located and where the priests will live. Then above them, in another area that is 8.3 miles long and 3.3 miles wide, is where the Levites lived. And on the bottom, an area of 8.3 miles long and 1.75 miles wide is the city where some of the Jews will live and there will be farmland on either side. The area for the Prince extends eastward to the Jordan River and westward to the Mediterranean Sea.

Keep in mind that in the Kingdom Age the Levites are no longer scattered throughout the land in forty-eight cities as we see in Joshua chapter 21.

VERSES 23-28

1. Now we see the land given to the remaining five tribes of Israel and this land was to the south. We see Benjamin, Simeon, Issachar, Zebulun and Gad. Keep in mind as we have looked at where these 12 tribes are situated that it is different than when they first came into the land under Joshua.

Remember that Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh stayed on the east side of the Jordan River; they did not enter the Promise Land. But now they are all in the land of Israel, the land that God had promised them and the Lord is with them! Now how can we be so sure that this is the land they will occupy? Because what we read in verse 29, I think that makes it very clear. Look at what is said.

VERSE 29

1. The land that God had promised them they will possess! You see, God's promises never fail and we need to remember that. I know it is easy to lose sight of the fact that God is in control, that He is on the throne when we see things happen in our life or things that happen around us. But we need to be clear on this. He is in control and nothing happens without His knowledge and without His approval.

And in the end, everything is moving towards this new day, the ***KINGDOM AGE!***

VERSES 30-34

1. The city will be 2.25 miles square, 1½ miles on each side and have 12 gates. There will be 3 gates on each side and each one representing one of the 12 tribes of Israel. The tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh are represented by Joseph and Levi is added as well.

2. Now think about this for a minute. We have spent a lot of time dealing with how big the Temple is, how big the city is, the gates of the city, where the tribes of Israel will be located in the Kingdom Age and-so-on. And you may be asking yourself, “Who cares about this stuff? Why are we so concerned about this?” I think the last verse of this book gives to us the answer!

VERSE 35

1. Here is the answer – YHWH SHAMMAH or THE LORD IS THERE! That is the reason we have all these things before us, because it is showing us what this land will look like but more importantly that the King of kings and Lord of lords will be there!

And for the Jews in captivity, this was great news, it gave them great hope! For us today living in a world full of violence, full of sin, it is great news, it should give us great hope!

It is as Isaiah 40:10-11 says, **“Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him; behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him. He will feed His flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young.”**

Also, in Isaiah 11:6-9 we are told, **“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord As the waters cover the sea.”** What a glorious day it will be!

As one writer put it, “The name: The city is called YHWH Shammah, “the Lord is There.” The departed glory of God, (chapters 8-11) has returned, (44:1-2) and His dwelling, the temple, is in the very center of the district given over to the Lord. With this final note, all of the unconditional promises which God had made to Israel in the Abrahamic Covenant, the Priestly Covenant, The Davidic Covenant and the New Covenant have been fulfilled. So this final verse provides the consummation of Israel’s history – the returned presence of God!” (Source Unknown)

2. I don’t know where you are at this evening but wherever it is, whatever you are going through, I want you to remember this one thing because it is the most important thing you can take with you! YHWH SHAMMAH or THE LORD IS THERE! He will never leave you nor forsake you!

As I close let me share with you these words from Don Francisco in a song he wrote called, “I Don’t Care Where You’ve Been Sleeping.” It goes like this,

I loved you long before the time
Your eyes first saw the day
And everything I’ve done has been
To help you on the way

But you took all that you wanted
And at last you took your leave
And traded off a kingdom
For the lies that you believe

And although you’ve chosen darkness
With its miseries and fears
Although you’ve gone so far from me
And wasted all these years

Even though my name's been spattered
 By the mire in which you lie
 I'd take you back this instant
 If you turn to me and cry

I don't care where you've been sleepin'
 I don't care who's made your bed
 I already gave My life to set you free
 There's no sin you could imagine
 That is stronger than My love
 It's all yours if you come home again to Me

When you come back to your senses
 And you see who's then to blame
 Remember all the good things
 Are yours with just My name

Then don't waste another thought
 Before you change the way you're bound
 I'll be runnin' out to meet you
 If you'll only turn around, turn around

I don't care where you've been sleepin'
 I don't care who's made your bed
 I already gave My life to set you free
 There's no sin you could imagine
 That is stronger than My love
 It's all yours if you come home again to Me

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May we not forget that fact! There is nothing that is stronger than His love and all He asks of you is for you to come home again to Him, to return to Him. He is there!

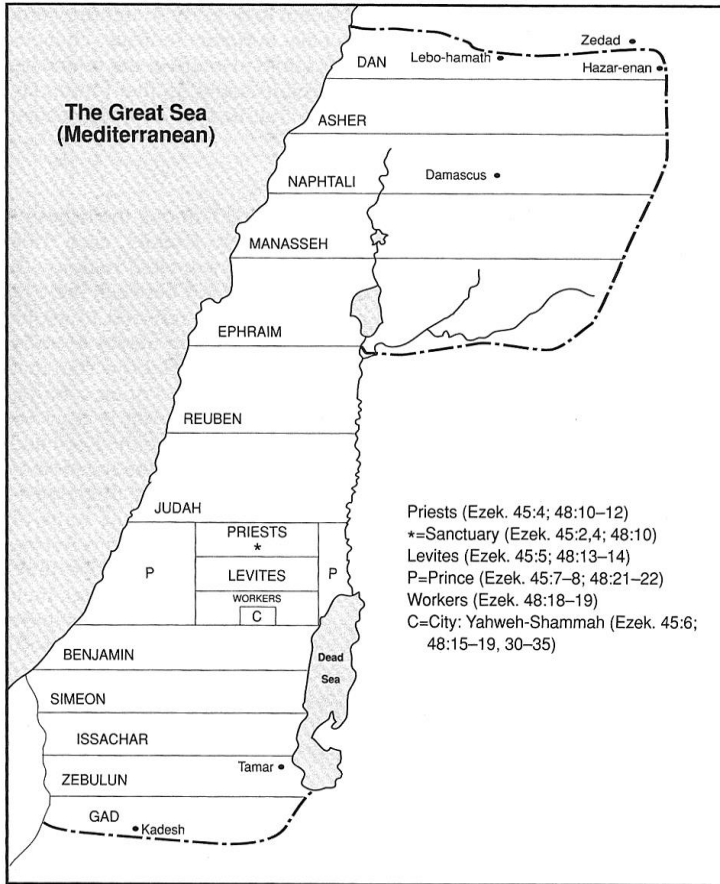
Remember what we opened up with because this is what the Lord will do, He will place Himself right in the middle of this world and make it His own. And I will leave you with this, I promise. Remember what I opened up with,

There is a day coming very soon when our Lord Jesus Christ will come to this earth and He will land His feet upon the Mount of Olives, and He will put His nail-pierced hand on the whole of this planet, and He will reign and He will claim this world for Himself. Now, it's very difficult, I think, for us to imagine what the millennial reign of Christ will be like - simply because our world, as we speak, is so full of sin, immorality, unrighteousness and abomination towards God. There is so much war, so much hatred in the hearts of men and women, so much trouble around us, sadness, death, sickness and poverty. But the Scriptures speak prophetically, right throughout the Old and the New Testaments, of a time when men will make war no more, when men with joy shall draw out of the wells of God's salvation, when a child shall die at 100 years of age because few in those days will say: "I am sick". The Bible speaks of a time of unequalled prosperity, when the desert will blossom as the rose. There will be no more poverty, no more famine, no more want of anything. A day, as Revelation 20 tells us, when Satan will be bound and the Lord Jesus Christ, for one thousand years, will reign from shore to shore in righteousness - not in heaven, but upon the earth.

- <http://www.preachtheword.com/sermon/ezek24.shtml>

We long for that day and it is getting closer! YHWH SHAMMAH or THE LORD IS THERE and He is here with us!

THE DIVISION OF THE LAND IN THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM



Map of Israel in the Kingdom --John Schmitt

