

Ezek 47:6 (NIV), He asked me, "Son of man, do you see this?"

Then he led me back to the bank of the river.

Ezek 47:7 (NIV), When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river.

Ezek 47:8 (NIV), He said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, where it enters the Sea. When it empties into the Sea, the water there becomes fresh.

Ezek 47:9 (NIV), 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.

Ezek 47:10 (NIV), Fishermen will stand along the shore; from En Gedi to En Eglaim there will be places for spreading nets. The fish will be of many kinds--like the fish of the Great Sea.

Ezek 47:11 (NIV), But the swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt.

Ezek 47:12 (NIV), 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, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing."

\* \* \* \* \*

Rev 22:1-2 (NIV), Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

26-47-02 --The Force of the River is Revival (River of God, Part 2) Pentecost, Holy Spirit, water, revival, evangelism, healing

Ezek 47:6-12

Getting carried away with God's presence can transform the world.

**INTRODUCTION:** (Text read as Scripture reading)

--**When God's blessing is flowing, learn to *get carried away with it!*** carried away with *the source* (presence of God in you), carried away with *the course* (growing depth of His control over you) and carried away with *the force!* (what God wants to accomplish)...

--Star Wars films spoke of a supernatural "force" that was the essence of all life, having both a good side and a dark side to it. This pantheistic concept of God is not the God clearly revealed in Scripture. The true God reveals Himself by the River of Ezekiel's vision as a good God, a giving God, and God whose presence is meant to bless, and nourish and heal.

--v.6a, He asked me, "Son of man, do you see this?"-- He is asking us today, "*Do you see how I want you to go deeper in My Spirit?*" The River is the *Holy Spirit*, and title. Why God wants us carried away with this River is so that **the power of His presence will flow out from among us and transform the spiritual desert of this world.**

## I. Revival is Life-giving

- A. God wants us to know that His presence has the power to transform-- v.6b-7, "*Then he led me back to the bank of the river. When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river.*"
  1. Why does God let us hear or read about revivals? To get our attention off words about Him to relationship with Him.
  2. When God's presence meets with human need, life rises out of death; light shines from the darkness [view of the Nile River from an orbiting satellite shows two green bands running along it in the midst of a solid brown area. *Life among deadness* -- an orbital view at night shows the Nile as a bright curving line of light in the darkness]
  3. Revival starts in the temple, but its power must flow out into the desert of lost and suffering humanity-- God doesn't want His blessing to be bottled up in churches or in us!
- B. What kind of life does revival bring?
  1. abundant life-- John 10:10 (NKJV), "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more *abundantly.*"
    - a. ***this word's meaning:*** "exceeding some number or measure or rank

or need, over and above, more than is necessary, something further, more, much more than all, extraordinary, surpassing, uncommon"

- b. Some people say they have "tried everything," but are still looking for something more to life. [the TRY GOD pin sent out by a Christian ministry to encourage people to wear, but the question is: "Has this God you worship done anything surpassing the norm? Something uncommon, extraordinary? Does He give you a life that is more than enough, more than you need, so that your overflow meets the needs of others?" They are looking for the abundant life of revival]
2. abiding life-- John 15:4, 6a (NKJV), "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.... If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered..." (*Revival is not sorrow about sin or feeling spiritual excitement. It may come with both of those, but revival is coming alive from spiritual deadness by a connection or re-connection with the source of LIFE.)*)
3. abounding life-- John 15:5 (NKJV), "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. (God's objective in sending revival is "much fruit"--we are too easily satisfied with wading in the River of God. He wants us to "go with the flow," first letting it reach deeply into us, then letting Christ in us flow out to others to reproduce in them the life we know in Him.)

**TRANS:** The force of the River is *revival*. Revival is life-giving! For Christians, revival gets us back to our first love for Christ. It's getting **caught up and carried away with His presence in us and in our brothers and sisters.** It can **transform the world,** because, for those who do not yet know God in a personal way...

## II. Revival is Life-saving (read v.8)

- A. The "Arabah" is the desert region of the Jordan Valley which ultimately ends in the "Sea" (the Dead Sea)--
1. [Called the "Dead Sea" because of the life-killing brine which gets stronger as more fresh water flows in from the Sea of Galilee with evaporation as the only outlet: all that's left is salt.] -- (In this life is a constant flow of God's grace, but trying to hold on to things of this life ultimately chokes off true spiritual life.)
  2. [Salt's deadly effect is its ability to suck the moisture right out of living things which need water to survive.] The Jordan's normal flow will

not change the Dead Sea [Tremendous energy is needed to take dissolved salt out of water; it's easier to let the Sun take the water out.]

3. But *revival* is not the normal flow of grace: when the River of God "*empties into the Sea, the water there becomes fresh.*"
- B. When the Holy Spirit of God starts flowing out to the lifeless world of humanity, revival takes place: life-saving revival.
1. Just as revival brings "much fruit" in the lives of Christians, it also brings "swarms" of the newly saved into God's kingdom-- "*Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows*"
  2. God's energy is released in a special way-- In revival, not just a few of those thought to be beyond salvation find that Jesus can miraculously take the salt out!-- (**read v.9**)
- C. When revival comes, get your poles out: fishing gets to be easy, not just locally, but around the world (**read v.10**-- [the Great Sea, the Mediterranean, meant international waters])
1. When Jesus said He'd make His disciples "fishers of men," He was looking beyond just local Jewish fishing holes.
  2. One earmark of *revival* is a renewed interest in missions.

**TRANS:** Getting carried away with God's presence can **transform the world.** Revival is life-saving, soul-saving. It stirs us to evangelism and missions. But finally,...

## III. Revival is Life-sustaining (read v.12)

- A. This world is hungry for real food, and God wants us to be the fruit trees available for people to come to us and find a meal.
- B. Our bodies grow old and tired, but when the River of God sustains us, our leaves will not wither, nor will our fruit fail.
- C. The world gets transformed as we get carried away in this River, because part of the power flowing through us is healing power: "*Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.*"

## CONCLUSION:

--Sermons are forgotten, prayers are not! We must PUSH pray for revival; and WUSH before we PUSH! All will enjoy this River in Heaven (**Rev.22:1-2**), but the world needs it's flow today! What can keep us from seeing revival in our day? I saved **v.11** for last... It's a sobering warning for those who aren't open to the flow of this River of God, the Holy Spirit--no life, no fish, no healing.