

Exegetical Analysis — John 7:37-38

37-38 – Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. [38] He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.' (37. Ἐν δὲ τῇ ἐσχάτῃ ἡμέρᾳ τῇ μεγάλῃ τῆς ἑορτῆς εἰστίκει ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ ἔκραξεν λέγων· ἐάν τις διψᾷ ἐρχέσθω πρὸς με καὶ πινέτω. 38. ὁ πιστεύων εἰς ἐμέ, καθὼς εἶπεν ἡ γραφή, ποταμοὶ ἐκ τῆς κοιλίας αὐτοῦ ρεύσουσιν ὕδατος ζῶντος)

This text was never to be read backwards into Ezekiel 47. This is an error on your part regarding Hermeneutics. You can't account for the passage, so you spiritualize it, just like the ancient fathers did (Origen, Augustine, Philo, Ambrose, Clement, etc.). Jesus is the living water, that doesn't mean anytime *water* is used that it refers to Jesus or the Spirit. This is an error. Nowhere is Ezekiel 47 being quoted for you to make this erroneous conclusion. If Jesus had wanted to communicate the consummation of Ezekiel's temple, we wouldn't have 8 chapters of hyper specific detail to only find out Jesus wasn't talking about a literal building. It's just nonsensical.

Let's look at chapter 47:

A) Water flows under the threshold of the house, a specific direction, and then going from the right side of the house from the south of the altar. None of this is applied to God.

Ezekiel 47:1 NASB

Then he brought me back to the door of the house; and behold, water was flowing from under the threshold of the house toward the east, for the house faced east. And the water was flowing down from under, from the right side of the house, from south of the altar.

B) Water is trickling from the south side. This is literal water trickling, not the Spirit or Jesus.

Ezekiel 47:2 NASB

He brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate by way of the gate that faces east. And behold, water was trickling from the south side.

C) Now Ezekiel is being "led through the water" and the water is "reaching the ankles", not a reference to Jesus or the Spirit.

Ezekiel 47:3 NASB

When the man went out toward the east with a line in his hand, he measured a thousand cubits, and he led me through the water, water reaching the ankles.

D) Now the water is reaching his knees, and then to the loins, meaning the literal water is getting *deeper*.

Ezekiel 47:4 NASB

Again he measured a thousand and led me through the water, water reaching the knees. Again he measured a thousand and led me through the water, water reaching the loins.

E) Now it's river, and the water has risen enough that you could swim in it, how do you get spiritualism out of any of this?

Ezekiel 47:5 NASB

Again he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not ford, for the water had risen, enough water to swim in, a river that could not be forded.

F) Now we're at the bank of the river.

Ezekiel 47:6 NASB

He said to me, "Son of man, have you seen this?" Then he brought me back to the bank of the river.

G) Now there are trees, on *one side and on the other*, of what? Jesus, or the river, which he was just walking through?

Ezekiel 47:7 NASB

Now when I had returned, behold, on the bank of the river there were very many trees on the one side and on the other.

H) Now, we have water moving eastern, into Arabah, which is a location, and toward the sea. Are not rivers attached to the sea? The waters of the sea become fresh? How? Because of the river?

Ezekiel 47:8 NASB

Then he said to me, "These waters go out toward the eastern region and go down into the Arabah; then they go toward the sea, being made to flow into the sea, and the waters of the sea become fresh.

I) Now there are fish, in the waters, and the waters become fresh, based upon where the river is. None of this is spiritualized.

Ezekiel 47:9 NASB

It will come about that every living creature which swarms in every place where the river goes, will live. And there will be very many fish, for these waters go there and the others become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes.

J) Now fishermen are standing beside the water, spreading nets over the water, and catching fish... I mean how can this be spiritual?

Ezekiel 47:10 NASB

And it will come about that fishermen will stand beside it; from Engedi to Eneglaim there will be a place for the spreading of nets. Their fish will be according to their kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea, very many.

K) Now the swamps and marshes are now fresh waters because of the river that flows out of the temple.

Ezekiel 47:11 NASB

But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt.

L) Now there are banks on the river, and the river grows fruit, and now water is flowing from where? From the sanctuary.

Ezekiel 47:12 NASB

By the river on its bank, on one side and on the other, will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither and their fruit will not fail. They will bear every month because their water flows from the sanctuary, and their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing."

In conclusion, a proper walkthrough of the passage demonstrates the miraculous nature of the river that flows from the sanctuary. Not anything to spiritualize.