

Lesson II.

THE LIFE-GIVING STREAM

October 8, 1911

Ezekiel 47 : 1-12. Read Revelations 22 : 1-5—Memory Verse, 9.

Golden Text—Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.—Revelation 22 : 17.

1 Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house ; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward : for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar.

2 Then brought he me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the utter gate by the way that looketh eastward ; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side.

3 And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters ; the waters were to the ankles.

4 Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters ; the waters were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through ; the waters were to the loins.

5 Afterward he measured a thousand ; and it was a river that I could not pass over : for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over.

6 And he said unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen this ? Then he brought me, and caused me to return to the brink of the river.

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

8 Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea : which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed.

9 And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live : and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither : for they shall be healed ; and every thing shall

live whither the river cometh.

10 And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from En-ge'di even unto En-eg'laim ; they shall be a place to spread forth nets ; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many.

11 But the miry places thereof and the marshes thereof shall not be healed ; they shall be given to salt.

12 And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed : it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary : and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Some years after the last Lesson, Ezekiel had another vision. He dreamed that the angel of the Lord brought him to the door of the temple at Jerusalem, and there he saw, flowing from under the door, a stream of water.

It was not a very deep stream, but as the angel led him eastward from the temple, he found the water had risen to his ankles. They went on farther, till the waters reached the knees, then the waist, and at last they became a great and mighty river that no man could cross. The angel took Ezekiel to the bank of the river, and when he looked about him, he saw beautiful trees growing on the banks on both sides.

"Do you see this great river?" said the angel to Ezekiel. "Its waters run down eastward to the desert, and behold, the desert is no longer a desert, but trees such as these

grow where once all was barren, and the leaves of the trees possess a healing power and never wither, and their branches bear fruit every month.

"This healing river shall flow also to the Dead Sea," continued the angel, "and instead of being salty and poisonous, it shall become pure and sweet, with fish and other creatures living in it. Fishermen shall dwell on its banks, and cast their nets into what was once that poisonous water, and so obtain food for themselves and their children. For, wherever these waters of the temple come, they bring life and healing."

This strange vision of Ezekiel's had, of course, a meaning for God's people Israel, and he was given the vision that he might tell it to them again. The river is a beautiful picture of the blessings to His people that come from God, who dwelt in the temple.