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VISION OF THE TEMPLE WATERS

EZEKIEL XLVII. 1—12.

The closing chapters of Ezekiel present to us a vision of a temple, resembling that built by Solomon, but far exceeding it in dimensions, in magnificence, and in the services of which it was the scene. By this is doubtless represented the glorious state of the Church in New Testament times. The New Testament writers employ the same figure for the same purpose, (1 Cor. xii 16, 17; 2 Cor. vi 16, 18), although in none of them with the minuteness of detail, which is so characteristic of this prophet. In the descriptions here given, it is seen that this temple was to be the special seat of the manifestations of the divine glory. Hence it was to be of vast compass—holy in every part, and having every thing connected with it in perfect order for the salvation of God's people. With it there arises a new and more glorious worship, an acceptable priesthood, a divine ruler, under whom, justice and righteousness should reign in the whole community, and altogether a new state of things, productive of unbounded blessings to the Israel of God.

But what is the aspect of this new state of things to the world without. Is it to be confined to one spot of earth, and its blessings

to be monopolized by a single people? In this passage, as in a former one (chap. xvii,) it is shown that the Kingdom of God is expansive in its nature,—that it is to go forth to bless mankind—to cause the barren face of nature to become clothed with verdure, and the scenes of moral death to become instinct with life.

This beautiful thought is here presented to the prophet under a very pleasing image. His guide leads him to the door of the temple, where he beholds a stream of water issuing from beneath the threshold, and flowing to the South East. He is then brought forth by the North, beyond the temple grounds, that he may witness the rapid progress of the waters and their beneficent effects. By these waters is plainly meant the gospel. Both the Old and New Testament writers exhibit it under the same figure.—(Isa. 55, 1; Zech. 14, 8; John 7, 37; Rev. 22, 17.) But the particular description of Ezekiel brings under our notice several special points, which we shall now notice.

1. Their Rise. It was from beneath the threshold of the Temple. There God had his dwelling, and, as in the temple beheld by John, a pure river of water of life issued from the throne of God and of the Lamb, (Rev. 22, 1,) so He sends out the Gospel for the salvation of sinners. "The Lord shall