

## Lesson XI.

## THE LIFE-GIVING STREAM

September 10, 1905

Ezekiel 47: 1-12. Commit to memory vs. 3-5.

**GOLDEN TEXT**—Whoever will let him take the water of life freely.—Revelation 22: 17.

1 Afterward he brought me <sup>2</sup>again unto the door of the house; and, behold, water issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house <sup>3</sup>stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, <sup>4</sup>at the south side of the altar.

2 Then brought he me out <sup>5</sup>of the way of the gate northward, and led me <sup>6</sup>about the way without unto the <sup>7</sup>utter gate by the way <sup>8</sup>that looketh <sup>9</sup>eastward; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side.

3 <sup>10</sup>And when the man <sup>11</sup>that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he <sup>12</sup>brought me through the waters; <sup>13</sup>the waters were to the ankles.

4 Again he measured a thousand, and <sup>12</sup>brought me through the waters; <sup>13</sup>the waters were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and <sup>12</sup>brought me through <sup>14</sup>; the waters were to the loins.

5 Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass <sup>15</sup>over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed <sup>15</sup>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 <sup>16</sup>brink of the river.

7 Now when I had returned, behold, <sup>17</sup>at the bank

**Revised Version**—1 And he; <sup>2</sup>back unto; <sup>3</sup>was; <sup>4</sup>on the south of the altar; <sup>5</sup>by; <sup>6</sup>round by; <sup>7</sup>outer; <sup>8</sup>of the gate; <sup>9</sup>toward the east; <sup>10</sup>Omit And; <sup>11</sup>went forth eastward with the line in his hand; <sup>12</sup>caused me to pass; <sup>13</sup>waters that were to; <sup>14</sup>the waters, waters that were to; <sup>15</sup>through; <sup>16</sup>bank; <sup>17</sup>upon; <sup>18</sup>forth; <sup>19</sup>eastern region; <sup>20</sup>shall; <sup>21</sup>Arabah; <sup>22</sup>they shall go toward; <sup>23</sup>into the sea shall the waters go which are made to issue forth; and the waters; <sup>24</sup>living creature; <sup>25</sup>swarmeth, in every place whither; <sup>26</sup>Omit shall; <sup>27</sup>for; <sup>28</sup>are; <sup>29</sup>and the waters of the sea; <sup>30</sup>whithersoever; <sup>31</sup>Omit the; <sup>32</sup>they shall be a place for the spreading of nets; <sup>33</sup>after; <sup>34</sup>up to; <sup>35</sup>every tree; <sup>36</sup>with; <sup>37</sup>fail; <sup>38</sup>every month; <sup>39</sup>the waters thereof issue; <sup>40</sup>healing.

of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other.

8 Then said he unto me, These waters issue <sup>19</sup>out toward the <sup>20</sup>east country, and <sup>21</sup>go down into the <sup>22</sup>desert, and <sup>23</sup>go into the sea: <sup>24</sup>which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed.

9 And it shall come to pass, that every <sup>24</sup>thing that liveth, which <sup>25</sup>moveth, whithersoever the rivers <sup>26</sup>shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, <sup>27</sup>because these waters <sup>28</sup>shall come thither: <sup>29</sup>for they shall be healed; and every-thing shall live <sup>30</sup>whither the river cometh.

10 And it shall come to pass, that <sup>31</sup>the fishers shall stand <sup>32</sup>upon it from En-ge'di even unto En-eg'laim; <sup>33</sup>they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be <sup>34</sup>according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many.

11 But the miry places thereof and the marishes thereof shall not be healed; they shall be given <sup>35</sup>to salt.

12 And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow <sup>36</sup>all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not <sup>37</sup>fade, neither shall the fruit thereof <sup>38</sup>be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit <sup>39</sup>according to his months, because <sup>40</sup>their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for <sup>41</sup>medicine.

## THE LESSON EXPLAINED

**Time and Place**—572 B.C.; Tel-Abib on the river Chebar, near Babylon.

**Connection**—In 598 King Jehoiachin, with the best part of Jerusalem's population, was carried captive to the neighborhood of Babylon, 2 Kgs. 24: 10-16. Among the captives was Ezekiel, a priest. He became a prophet to his companions and those who were afterwards brought to that strange land (see Lesson X.). He assures them that the Lord will bring them back to their own land, and the Lesson is a picture of the prosperity they will then enjoy.

**I. THE UNFAILING SOURCE.**—1, 2. Afterward. The "man" of ch. 40: 3 (perhaps an angel) had just shown Ezekiel in a vision the pattern of a new temple to take the place of the one destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar. (See Lesson X.) He brought me again (in vision) to the door of the house. Picture this door of the temple looking eastward, with a square court in front, having in the centre an altar. Behold waters; flowing from God's house. This is the first lesson for us: all our blessings come from God. These waters flowed round the altar. The court had four gates opening into an outer court, north, east, south and west. The east gate was kept closed on working days because the Lord had entered through it, ch. 44: 2; 46: 1. Hence the prophet was taken out by the gate northward into the outer court and round to the gate looking eastward. Here he saw the waters again.

**II. THE BROADENING STREAM.**—3-5. Three times "the man" measured a thousand cubits,

that is, about a third of a mile, a cubit being about a foot and a half. At the end of the first thousand cubits, the stream reached to the ankles; at the end of the second to the knees; at the end of the third, it was a broad, deep river. How this pictures the progress of Christ's kingdom.

### III. THE LIFE GIVING EFFECTS.

—6-8. The prophet's attention is now turned to the banks of the stream. Here he sees many trees on either side. So, on the barren tracts found in some parts of the West, trees soon grow up when they are irrigated. We think of the "tree of life" growing on each bank of the river in John's vision of heaven, Rev. 22: 1, 2. Go . . . into the desert . . . into the sea; the Dead Sea, in which nothing lives. The waters shall be healed;



Ezekiel: From an Engraving