

Heaven River

Ezekiel 47:1-12

Discover

Heaven is the spiritual realm where God lives; there is no evil, pain, conflict, or death. A river is a stream of water flowing into another body of water like a lake or an ocean.

Ezekiel saw a vision of the Holy Spirit moving as a river flowing from the throne room of God to fill the whole earth with living water and abundant blessings. Wherever the river flows, life flourishes in every season. (Ezekiel 47:9)

King David wrote a song about God as our Shepherd who leads us beside quiet waters. This Heaven River is a righteous pathway where we are refreshed in his presence as long as we do not wander away. (Psalms 23:1-3)

As fresh water is essential to life on earth, so is the living water of Jesus to the spiritual health and eternal life of every child of God. The Garden of Eden was watered by a flowing river, so that fruit could be produced in every season to sustain life and nourish the land. (Genesis 2:10-15)

A living water river will flow from the throne room of God through the streets of the New Jerusalem in heaven. The Holy Spirit will produce consistent waves of crops to sustain life forever in Jesus' coming kingdom. (Revelation 22:1-5)

We want to become like Jesus as we follow him. Jesus practiced continual rest in the Father through the Holy Spirit, enabling him to fulfill God's will. (John 14:10-12)

This lesson will introduce disciples to the role of the Holy Spirit as our Wonderful Counselor and Life Navigator. We will experience the fruitfulness of heaven overflowing through our lives as we journey with him wherever he goes.



HEAVEN RIVER



EZEKIEL 47:1-12

Draw

Heaven's Throne Room: temple, sunrise, & streams - The Holy Spirit flows out of the Father and the Son. The temple faces east illustrating Jesus' return. Multiple streams flowing illustrates the Holy Spirit moving across all nations. (47:1-2)

Walking Deeper: Jesus, Ezekiel, & water - The river is both wide and deep illustrating how the Holy Spirit is available to all who desire him. He helps us experience the glory of God as we surrender more to his guidance. Our calling is to seek rest in the Holy Spirit and float wherever he flows. (47:3-5)

Riverbank Forest: river, man, & trees - Wherever the Holy Spirit goes, there are people of peace who drink the living water and become disciples. The prophet has now fully surrendered to the Holy Spirit and depends completely on the Lord: resting in Jesus and flowing by faith. (47:6-7)

Abundant Life: river, fish, fruit tree, & animal - God is the Creator of life and light. The Holy Spirit brings the resurrection life of Jesus wherever our Father directs him. Living water creates new life and produces fruit. (47:7-9)

Catching Fish: fisher, net, & fish - The fishers are disciples on mission engaging the nations with the gospel. The Holy Spirit is present and moving. Those nearby desire Jesus' peace message and become committed disciples. (47:10)

Rotten Water: swamp & stench - The river goes everywhere desiring to rescue everyone, but many people will reject the living water. They are like still water with a bad stench, because their minds are selfish and spiritually dead. (47:11)

Fresh Fruit: shining fruit & bowl - The fruit of earth spoils quickly after harvest, but God's fruit is always fresh because of his power. Our role as Jesus' disciples is inviting anyone not in his kingdom to see and taste his healing fruit. (47:12)

Discuss

Read verses 3-6 again. This river is huge! Why does Jesus lead Ezekiel deeper into the river? How has your life changed as you have followed Jesus over many years?

Read verse 8 again. Why does the river flow into the Dead Sea? What is significant about the river transforming the foul sea into fresh water? Has this story revealed any places of your heart that need fresh water from the Holy Spirit?

Consider the differences between verses 11 and 12. Have you ever rejected the flow of the Holy Spirit in your life? In contrast, how does it feel to be a channel for blessing as the Holy Spirit moves through your life? Give an example.

Take a look at Matthew 11:28-30. Jesus promises to give comfort to anyone troubled in heart. How is this comfort related to Ezekiel 47? Describe a time when you were suffering and how it felt for Jesus to send relief your way.

Disciple

Let's get practical. What is one next step we can take to practice the presence of God more this week? Is there anything preventing you from walking in the Holy Spirit? Confess to God any "foul water" in your life. Pray, and invite the Holy Spirit to fill you more with the life of Jesus. What is one specific way you can be a blessing to others this week?

Dedicate

Father, thank you for teaching us about your Heaven River. We repent of any foul water in our lives. Please shine your light into the deepest places of our hearts. Expose the bad water, and pour fresh water inside to cleanse us. Please show us how to be a river of fresh water to everyone around us, in Jesus' name and for his glory we pray, amen.