

Study Hints for Thinking Further
International Bible Lessons

Ezekiel 47:1-12

Sunday, November 16, 2014

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be the answers to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. Do you know of any other interpretations of Ezekiel’s temple and river than the ones discussed in this lesson?

Some think that God will have the temple constructed at some point in the future according to Ezekiel’s vision and sacrifices will resume as in Old Testament times.

2. How is Ezekiel 47:1 and Revelation 22:1 different?

The water flows from the temple in Ezekiel. The water flows from the throne of God and of the Lamb (Jesus Christ, the Son of God) in Revelation.

3. How does the river in Ezekiel differ from natural rivers and streams?

In Ezekiel, the river has one source and gets increasingly deeper instead of more shallow: the volume of water increases from the one source that is God. In nature, usually rivers and streams flow into rivers and streams that are downstream, and these streams and rivers increase the volume of water in the river.

4. What was the most important part of Ezekiel's vision to you?

The River of Life or the River of God flowed through a desert and brought new life to the Dead Sea, which produced new trees and new fish for the benefit of others. In a similar way, the spiritual water that Jesus gives us when we believe in Him as Christ the Lord and our Savior will bring us spiritual life, and God will bless others through us, and when we die physically God will raise our bodies from the dead when Jesus returns.

5. In what way is Ezekiel 47:12 similar to Revelation 22:2?

The trees provide food and the leaves provide healing.

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