

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What significance does the various depths of the River of God have?
2. What applications can we make of the River of God?
3. If we would apply the river of God to a Christian's life, how would we describe it?

SUMMARY:

The source of this river of God is another indication that all good things begin with Him. The very source of life that was seen in this river had its origin at the altar.

We can see many applications of this revelation of God and perhaps the one most relevant to us is the life that we experience in our commitment to Him. The river of life, grace and salvation, is inexhaustible, being a never-ending supply to as many as turn to Him. No one need go away empty. No one need continue in a life of sin and separation because the healing provided continues to eternity.

The prophet did reveal though, that very near to the river of life were marshes and salt water. Many today come so near to this river but never taste the sweetness of its life-giving qualities. Are you so near, yet still wallowing in the marshes?

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #6

May 12, 2013

Second Quarter

THE RIVER OF GOD

LESSON TEXT: *Ezekiel 47:1-12*

LESSON SETTING: Ezekiel continues to receive prophetic visions and instructions from God.

TIME: Approximately 574 B.C.

I. THE SOURCE Ezekiel 47:1-2

- A. From the Temple of God (vs. 1) Revelation 22:1
- B. At the Altar (vs. 1) Psalm 46:4

II. THE SIZE Ezekiel 47:3-5

- A. Ankle Deep (vs. 3)
- B. Knee Deep (vs. 4)
- C. Waist Deep (vs. 5)
- D. Too Deep to Cross – Growth of the Kingdom (vs. 5)
Isaiah 9:7; 60:5; Mark 4:31-32

III. THE SUFFICIENCY Ezekiel 47:6-12

- A. Inexhaustible (vs. 8) Revelation 7:17
- B. Spiritual Life (vs. 9) Psalm 1:3; 92:14; Jeremiah 17:8
- C. Spiritual Healing (vs. 9) Isaiah 53:5; Luke 4:18; Revelation 22:2

GOLDEN TEXT: *EVERY THING SHALL LIVE WITHER THE RIVER COMETH.*

Ezekiel 47:9

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Daniel 1:1-21

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Proverbs 23:29-35;
Romans 14:7-21;
1 Corinthians 9:24-27;
2 Peter 1:1-11

QUARTERLY THEME: God's People in Captivity

TOPIC: DANIEL'S WISE DECISION

INTRODUCTION:

The story of Daniel and his three friends is evidence of training by God-fearing parents. To think that these young men, referred to as children, were able to take a firm stand on their convictions is a testimony of lives devoted to God!

Because they desired to be separated to God and refused the king's meat, they grew and were especially blessed of God even so much that they appeared ten times better than the others and found special favor with the king. We can truly say of him as scripture does of Jesus, "he advanced in stature and in favor with God and man."

The lesson for us is that we too ought to separate ourselves from many of the seemingly harmless things of life—things that would keep us so busy—so that we can grow in spiritual stature and in favor with God.

CENTRAL TRUTH: The gospel brings life, significance, and satisfaction to the seeking soul.

GOLDEN TEXT: *DANIEL PURPOSED IN HIS HEART THAT HE WOULD NOT DEFILE HIMSELF WITH THE PORTION OF THE KING'S MEAT, NOR WITH THE WINE WHICH HE DRANK.*

Daniel 1:8

How strongly have you stood on your convictions?

As we think of Daniel and his three friends we can see how cunning was the temptation laid before them. These young men were chosen for advancement by the king and were given privileges and benefits allotted to only a few. Wasn't this something to be cherished? Why not partake of this "better diet" with all of its rich foods? The results of the test of time revealed that those who resolved to abstain appeared much better almost immediately and at the end of the assigned time were ten times better than any others.

In our present day we see so many who take the name of Christian who allow themselves many of the pleasures of the world in entertainment, sports, food and drink, and fellowship with others. These have only a limited value. They do not appear to suffer in the spiritual growth until they are compared with those who have not "defiled themselves with the king's meat." When we look for meek and quiet spirits, holy lives, separation to God, filling of the Spirit and the many special attributes of one really living for Him, then we can detect a vast difference.

May we follow Daniel's example of separation and refuse to be defiled.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF May 13 – 19

M. Warning Against Strong Drink. Proverbs 23:29-35
T. Refusal to Drink Wine. Jeremiah 35:5-14
W. *Daniel and His Friends. Daniel 1:1-7
T. *Daniel's Wise Decision. Daniel 1:8-20
F. Called to Glorify God. 1 Corinthians 1:26-31
S. Choosing God's Way. Hebrews 11:23-29
S. The Christian's Choice. 2 Timothy 3:10-17

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