

**November 16, 2014**  
**Ezekiel 47:1, 3-12 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar.

<sup>3</sup> As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and then led me **through water that was ankle-deep.**

<sup>4</sup> He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water **that was knee-deep.** He measured off another thousand and led me through water **that was up to the waist.**

<sup>5</sup> He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and **was deep enough to swim in—a river that no one could cross.**

<sup>6</sup> He asked me, "Son of man, do you see this?" Then he led me back to the bank of the river.

<sup>7</sup> When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river.

<sup>8</sup> He said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, where it enters the Dead Sea. When it empties into the sea, the salty water there becomes fresh.

<sup>9</sup> Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>0</sup> Fishermen will stand along the shore; from En Gedi to En Eglaim there will be places for spreading nets. The fish will be of many kinds—like the fish of the Mediterranean Sea.

<sup>11</sup> But the swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt.

<sup>12</sup> Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing."

Good Morning, my sisters and brothers in Christ, I greet you in the name of Jesus. The modern day psalmist says:

My Jesus, My Saviour,  
 Lord there is no one like you,  
 All of my days, I want to praise  
 The wonders of Your mighty love.

My comfort, my shelter,  
 Tower of refuge and strength  
 Let every breath, all that I am  
 Never cease to worship You.

Chorus:  
 Shout to the Lord, all the earth let us sing,  
 Power and majesty, praise to the King!  
 Mountains bow down and the seas will roar,  
 At the sound of your name!  
 I sing for joy at the work of your hands,  
 Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand  
 Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.<sup>1</sup>

For the past two Sundays we have wrestled with the words sent by God and spoken by the prophet Ezekiel. We have acknowledged that Ezekiel was in Babylon with the first group of captives taken there from Jerusalem. We know that the things Ezekiel told the Children of Israel were things designed to bring them hope during their 70 years of exile. As we have considered the words of Ezekiel we have searched for ways to apply the message of 560 B.C. to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. For the past two weeks we have applied all references to the "temple" as not being a physical building in Jerusalem, but rather our bodies where the Holy Spirit dwells when we invite God into our lives. Today we are challenged to look at the many references to water in Ezekiel 47:1-12 and ask God for the application for here and now.

I invite you to pray with me and for as we consider this question.

**ARE YOU JUST WADING IN THE WATER OR TRYING TO GET HOME?**

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.stlyrics.com/songs/m/michaelwsmith2601/myjesusmysaviour310697.html>

## SHALL WE PRAY!

God who was, who is and still yet to be, we your children come this morning, this Sunday morning of our revival weekend and ask you to revive us. We are asking because we know that you can, we know that you will if we would just humble our hearts and seek your face. God as we prepare to hear the message you have sent please open our hearts, our eyes and our ears. Make us receptive to your Word and open to your Call. Abba, I ask that the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you. In the name of your Son Jesus the Christ we pray. AMEN and AMEN.

## ARE YOU JUST WADING IN THE WATER OR TRYING TO GET HOME?

One afternoon I picked Jamie up from day care and we went straight to run errands. We went to the mall in Cal City and then we got on Interstate 80 and went to Orland. By the time we finished at Orland it was dinnertime and so we went to Panera. When we had rested, eaten our meal and played a few games on the phone we walked outside and it was dark. I begin to point out the stars and discuss the shape of the moon when Jamie said "Grandmother, do you know where home is?"

It was such a simple question yet it implied so much.

- I am tired and I want to go home.
- We have been in the street too long do you know how to get home?
- I have been so many places that I don't know how to get home, do you?
- Grandmother, are you trying to get home?

## ARE YOU JUST WADING IN THE WATER OR TRYING TO GET HOME?

In my home church, Friendship on the west side, we often sang a very slow and at that time boring song: ***Lord, I am coming home.***

1. I've wandered far away from God,  
Now I'm coming home;  
The paths of sin too long I've trod,  
Lord, I'm coming home.

○ *Refrain:*  
 Coming home, coming home,  
 Nevermore to roam;  
 Open wide Thine arms of love,  
 Lord, I'm coming home.<sup>2</sup>

We sang it as the invitational at least once a month and we sang it every night of our weeklong revival for as long as I can remember. The song was boring to me until I begin to understand that I too needed to come home.

### **ARE YOU JUST WADING IN THE WATER OR TRYING TO GET HOME?**

Last night Minister Denine Webb and her godson Brother Sidney Caldwell asked a two-part question "Is God ALIVE in you? And Are You ALIVE in God? Now these may not be the words they used but what I heard was: in order for God to be alive in you, you have to leave the old stuff behind and find a new home. And in order for God to stay alive in you, you have to continue to build this new home and tear down the old house, daily. That will allow God to be ALIVE in you. But if you are going to be ALIVE in God there ought to be some evidence. Your life ought to be such that you not only are home, but you are able to bring someone else home.

### **ARE YOU JUST WADING IN THE WATER OR TRYING TO GET HOME?**

Someone is scratching their head and asking why is she talking about home, when the focus of the lesson is water. Stay with me I am trying to take you somewhere.

<sup>1</sup> *The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar.*

In Chapter 43 we learned that the glory of God was in the temple, filled the temple and spoke from the temple. So the water, in chapter 47 must be coming from God, if it is coming **out of the temple.**

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<sup>2</sup> [http://library.timelesstruths.org/music/Lord\\_Im\\_Coming\\_Home/](http://library.timelesstruths.org/music/Lord_Im_Coming_Home/)

This water that Ezekiel is seeing has implications far beyond the hope it offers to the Children of Israel when they return from captivity. This water has significance for us here and now.

- The water coming out of the temple can turn salt water into fresh water.
- The water coming out of the temple does not have any streams feeding it, it come comes straight from the One who spoke it into being.
- The water coming out of the temple produced food, and life and beauty.

The first measurement of water that Ezekiel stands in is only **ankle deep**.

Some of us are only **ankle deep** in our journey home. We have confessed Jesus as Lord. We have buried our old selves in the baptism pool and we have come up out of the water a new creation is Christ. But we have only committed ourselves to be in “ankle deep”.

- In **ankle deep** water we are still in control.
- In **ankle deep** water we don't have to worry about our clothes,
  - our hair or our image
- In **ankle deep** water we are just trying out Jesus, but we have not surrendered.

Then the guide leads Ezekiel to **knee deep** water. Some of us are standing in **knee deep** water.

- In **knee deep** water we can feel the current,
  - but we are still standing on our own.
- In **knee deep** water we can feel the true temperature of the water,
  - but the water is not deep enough to impact our temperature.
- In **knee deep** water we have moved beyond the trying out stage
  - and into the thinking about testing Jesus.

**But the guide still needs to teach some more and so he leads Ezekiel to waist high water.**

- In **waist high** water someone looking at you will know you have been in the water.
- In **waist high** water about half of you is trusting Jesus, but you are still close enough to the shore to turn around
- In **waist high** water you can float and move a bit closer to Jesus, but you still have control of the direction in which you move.

**Finally, the guide shows Ezekiel water deep enough to cover his head, water deep enough to swim, and water **too** deep to swim across.**

- When we get in this water God is in control – God determines the path we take and the speed.
- In this water we have placed all of our trust in God – we are resting on the promises of God.
- In this water we are totally committed – His way has become our way and His plans have become our plans and we are not looking backward toward the shore.

Well, I started with a question:

### **ARE YOU JUST WADING IN THE WATER OR TRYING TO GET HOME?**

In order to **get to the water** you must confess that He is Lord.

*<sup>9</sup> If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.<sup>3</sup>*

Once you get to the water **you have to get in the water**

*<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. <sup>4</sup>*

**When you get in the water** you have declared that this place is not my home, I have got another home and it is a mansion in the sky.

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<sup>3</sup> Romans 10:9

<sup>4</sup> Matthew 3:13

**But in order to get home  
in order to get home  
you have got to get wet – all over  
in order to get home  
you have got to trust the maker of the earth and the seas  
in order to get home  
you have got to declare I have come to far to turn around**

**If you are in this place this morning I want to believe it is because  
you wish to get home.**

**Home – no more weeping and wailing  
Home – where every day is Sunday and the Sabbath will have  
no end  
Home – where we can walk around heaven all day**

**Here is what you need to do to get home.**

- **Make sure you are in the water**
- **Get away from the shore and move into deeper water**
- **Swim when you can, float when you are weary, let the water carry you where you need to go**
- **Remember He has promised to be with you until the end of time!**

**ARE YOU JUST WADING IN THE WATER OR  
TRYING TO GET HOME?**

*Is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid?  
Your heart does the Spirit control?  
You can only be blest,  
And have peace and sweet rest,  
As you yield Him your body and soul.<sup>5</sup>*

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.cyberhymnal.org/htm/i/s/isyoural.htm>