

- I) V1-12 INTRO: Then he brought me back to the door of the temple and there was water, flowing from
  - a) Ch 47 and 48 give closing details related to the division of the land of Israel in the millennium
    - 1) KEY: God had made a promise to Abraham that his descendants would occupy the land
    - 2) Gen 12:7 The LORD appeared to Abram and said To your descendants I will give this land
    - 3) FACT: the actual geography is larger than the boundaries given to Moses in Num 34:1-15
  
- II) THE GIVING OF THE LAND: To the Jews fulfills God's promises to restore them to the land
  - a) They had been scattered from it, and at last they are brought back to once again live there
    - 1) It is divided into parcels for the tribes, the sanctuary, land for priests/Levites, and the prince
    - 2) JERUSALEM: Will be a square, with each side being 1.5 miles for a total of 6 miles
  
- III) V1-12 GIVES US: A vision of what could be called living water
  - a) This water flows out of the temple, from under the threshold and comes from the altar
    - 1) All blessings from God begin *at the altar*
  
- IV) IN NT TERMS: All blessings originate at the altar, the *place of sacrifice*
  - a) All blessings begin at the cross of Jesus Christ, and come by His grace by His sacrifice
    - 1) It is through Jesus' death on the cross that God made provision for us to experience Him
    - 2) Jn 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.
  
- V) V1 THE WATER: That is flowing from the altar symbolizes the Holy Spirit
  - a) Water is a common picture of the Holy Spirit in scripture
    - 1) FACT: Water is a source of life, because without it the world would be dry and desolate
  
- VI) OBVIOUSLY: Without God, man is dry and barren so God promised to pour water on man
  - a) Is 44:3 I will pour water on him who is thirsty, and floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, and My blessing on your offspring
  
- VII) KEY: It requires someone to actually recognize a spiritual thirst, and to seek God
  - a) Ps 63:1 O God, You *are* my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water.
  
- VIII) NOTICE: The progression of the depth of the water, coming from the place of sacrifice
  - a) V3 The water came up to my ankles: symbolizing the walk of a believer
    - 1) Gal 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit
  - b) V4 The water came up to my knees: the prayer life of a believer
    - 1) Jude 20 Building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit
  - c) V4 The water came up to my waist: the service of a Christian
    - 1) Ro 8:8 those who are in the flesh cannot please God
  - d) V5 The water was too deep, water in which *one must swim*
    - 1) This speaks of the abundance of the Spirit in the life of a Spirit filled believer
  
- IX) THE HOLY SPIRIT IS COMPARED TO LIVING WATER FROM A RUNNING SPRING
  - a) This is something we see clearly in the New Testament
    - 1) Remember how the Lord spoke to the woman at the well of this living water
  
- I) JESUS WENT INTO SAMARIA: Stopped by a well at noon

- a) A woman came to the well, and Jesus told her to give Him a drink
  - 1) She wonders how a Jew can speak to a Samaritan, but Jesus says He is more than what she sees
  - 2) He tells her if she knew who He was, she would want Living Water
  
- II) WHERE: Are you going to get this living water from, are you greater than Jacob?
  - a) Jesus' response still applies to us today:
    - 1) Jn 4:13-14 *Whosoever* drinks of this water will thirst again, but *whosoever* drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.
    - 2) KEY: The Spirit is in every way superior to the stagnant wells of this world
  
- III) IMMEDIATELY: She wanted the water He was offering, but Jesus told her to call her husband
  - a) She said that she had no husband, and Jesus said you have had five, and living with a man
    - 1) She became religious: We worship on this mountain, you say it is in Jerusalem people worship!
    - 2) RESPONSE: God is Spirit, those who worship do so in Spirit and truth
  
- IV) A GREAT PASSAGE: Detailing the Water of the Spirit is found in the gospel of John
  - a) Jn 7:37-39
  
- V) V37-39 INTRO: On *the last day*, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out If anyone thirsts
  - a) Jesus is in Jerusalem, celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles, an eight-day feast
    - 1) TABERNACLES: Commemorated the 40 years that the Jews wandered in the desert
    - 2) They were commanded to remember that they had lived in booths in the wilderness
  
- VI) ON THE LAST DAY OF THE FEAST: The people gathered together in front of the altar of sacrifice
  - a) A priest led a procession to the pool of Siloam (1000 yards S of the temple) to draw water
    - 1) A golden pitcher was filled with 2 pints of water, and brought back to the inner temple area
    - 2) The water would then be poured out into a bowl beside the altar, from which the water would run down a tube into the base of the altar of sacrifice
    - 3) *THE WATER*: Was to remind them that God had provided water for them in the wilderness
  
- VII) IN THE A.M.: The priest went to the pool of Siloam to draw the water (1000 yards south of Temple)
  - a) Worshipers would accompany him, marching in a procession carrying branches
    - 1) They returned to the temple as the morning sacrifice was being offered
  
- VIII) THIS WAS A JOYOUS PROCESSION: The people would be singing, playing music, and dancing
  - a) As they entered in through the Water Gate, they would recite Scripture
    - 1) Is 12:3 With joy shall you draw water out of the wells of salvation!
  
- IX) AS THE PRIEST CARRIED THE WATER TO THE ALTAR: The worshippers held palm branches
  - a) At this point, they would be singing the psalms of praise from Ps 113-118
  
- X) THE WORSHIPPERS: Would shout and raise the branches toward the altar
  - a) The priests would march around the altar seven times before pouring out the water
    - 1) It would become very quiet as the water was poured
    - 2) It is not difficult to figure out what part of the ceremony Jesus interrupted
  
- I) V37 NOTICE: Jesus *stood* and *cried* out, saying If *anyone thirsts*, let him come to Me and drink!

- a) STOOD: A Rabbi normally sat with His disciples when He taught them
  - 1) AGAIN: He cried out, perhaps with emotion to those who were there!
  
- II) HE GAVE AN *INVITATION*: If you are thirsty, *come to Me* and drink
  - a) Drinking water in a wilderness is a picture of blessings that are associated with Messiah
    - 1) Is 55:1 Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters!
    - 2) POINT: In coming to Me and believing in Me, your deepest thirst shall be forever quenched
  
- III) *FIRST*: The invitation was to *anyone who is thirsty*
  - a) God loves the world and desires to draw all people to forgiveness and fulfillment in Him
    - 1) Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.
  
- IV) *SECOND*: To find relief, the people need to *come to Him*
  - a) They need to thirst for Him, not just simply out of curiosity listen to Him
    - 1) They are to come to Him in faith, receiving His promises
    - 2) Ps 27:4 One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.
  
- V) *THIRD*: They need to drink of the water, personally
  - a) Drinking the Living Water satisfies the deepest desires of our heart
    - 1) If you are spiritually thirsty, *He* will meet your spiritual thirst
  
- VI) *REMEMBER*: This is occurring at a religious festival during a time of great celebration
  - a) Yet it is entirely possible to be part of a religious celebration, and to be completely dry inside
    - 1) It is possible to be participating in a church service, and your spirit is dry and thirsty
    - 2) *SOMETIMES*: We may substitute the Spirit of God with Religious Activity
  
- VII) *RELIGION IS EMPTY*: It will never fill you, it will never satisfy your deepest inner longings
  - a) If we only trust in our religion: We will simply remain spiritually empty!
    - 1) This is because religion alone cannot meet our deepest longings:
    - 2) It can only dress up our outer man, our façade but cannot touch our inner man
  
- VIII) *V38 QUESTION*: How can I have this living water? By responding to the invitation
  - a) *KEY*: I must come to Him and ask, believing Him at His word
    - 1) Lu 11:11-13 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit *to those who ask Him!*
  
- IX) *V38 NOTICE*: *Out of his heart* will flow rivers of living water
  - a) *He* satisfies our own souls and we are to overflow to others
    - 1) *THE JESUS MOVEMENT*: Has always been a movement of the Holy Spirit
    - 2) God's Holy Spirit came pouring forth from our lives
    - 3) I would like to encourage all of us to live lives that are earmarked by the Spirit
  
- I) *WHEN WE FINISHED THIS BUILDING*: We had a strong rainstorm
  - a) The roof flooded and some of the water began to seep through the ceiling and drip on the floor

- 1) One of the guys went to the roof, stuck his hand down the drain pipe and dislodged debris
- 2) When the debris was removed, the water flowed

II) SOME IN THIS ROOM: Need debris removed from their lives

a) You need to deal with your anger, adultery, bitter unforgiving hearts, callousness to sin, envy, fornication, greed, hatred, indifference, jealousy, spiritual laziness, lust, pride, resisting the spirit, selfishness, profane vulgarity, willful rejection of being a good husband, father, mother, or role model

III) V39 BUT THIS: He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive

a) Pentecost had yet to occur:

- 1) At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit fell upon the 120 and they were empowered
- 2) The water began to flow through the disciples, and continues to this day

IV) V6-12 FINALLY: The application related to the flowing of God's blessings from the altar

a) PRACTICALLY: God will heal the water of the Dead Sea, and it will be a tremendous blessing

1) Though the Dead Sea is about 6 times as salty as the ocean, it will be purified

2) Zech 14:8 In that day it shall be *That* living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, Half of them toward the eastern sea And half of them toward the western sea; In both summer and winter it shall occur.

3) Joel 3:18 And it will come to pass in that day *that* the mountains shall drip with new wine, The hills shall flow with milk, And all the brooks of Judah shall be flooded with water; A fountain shall flow from the house of the LORD And water the Valley of Acacias.

V) 48:35 FINALLY: The curse is removed, God is blessing, and The LORD is there