



## JEFFERSONVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fall/Winter 2016-2017 Adult Bible Study

*Ezekiel*

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## EZEKIEL LESSON 14: THE NEW WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY

### THE NEW WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY

- ♦ The Closed Gate (44): Admissions, Foreigners and Leviticans
- ♦ The Holy District (45): Weights & measures, Offerings and Festivals
- ♦ Regulations (46): Coming in & going out, offerings and the Sabbath
- ♦ Water Flowing (47): Rivers of Life -bearing fruit and growing trees
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# EZEKIEL: GOD IS STRONG

## The River of Life

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; 4 they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true, for the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place."

"See, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

## Epilogue and Benediction

I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me; but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your comrades the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God!"

And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy."

"See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates. Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and fornicators and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

"It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."  
And let everyone who hears say, "Come."  
And let everyone who is thirsty come.  
Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this book; 19 if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away that person's share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.





The New Heaven and the New Earth Revelation 21-22

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,  
‘See, the home of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell with them;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them;  
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.’

And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children. But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, the murderers, the fornicators, the sorcerers, the idolaters, and all liars, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.’

Vision of the New Jerusalem

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. It has the glory of God and a radiance like a very rare jewel, like jasper, clear as crystal. It has a great, high wall with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates are inscribed the names of the twelve tribes of the Israelites; on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city has twelve foundations, and on them are the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

The angel who talked to me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width; and he measured the city with his rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal. He also measured its wall, one hundred forty-four cubits by human measurement, which the angel was using. The wall is built of jasper, while the city is pure gold, clear as glass. The foundations of the wall of the city are adorned with every jewel; the first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. And the twelve gates are twelve pearls, each of the gates is a single pearl, and the street of the city is pure gold, transparent as glass.

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

Biblical Weights and Measures

Lengths			
<a href="#">Finger</a>	0.73 inches	1.85 centimeters	<a href="#">Jeremiah 52:21</a>
<a href="#">Handbreadth</a> (4 fing.)	2.92 inches	7.4 centimeters	<a href="#">Exodus 25:25</a>
<a href="#">Span</a>	9 inches	22.86 centimeters	<a href="#">Exodus 28:16</a>
<a href="#">Cubit</a>	18 inches	45.72 centimeters	<a href="#">Matthew 6:27</a>
<a href="#">Long Cubit</a>	20.4 inches	51.9 centimeters	<a href="#">Ezekiel 40:5</a>
<a href="#">Fathom</a>	6 feet	1.829 meters	<a href="#">Acts 27:28</a>
<a href="#">Reed</a> (6 cubits)	8.75 feet	2.73 meters	<a href="#">Ezekiel 40:5</a>
<a href="#">Furlong</a>	1/8 mi., 660 feet	201.2 meters	<a href="#">Revelation 14:20</a>
<a href="#">Stadion</a>	697 feet	185.4 meters	<a href="#">Luke 24:13</a>
<a href="#">Sabbath day’s journey</a>	3/5 mile	0.9656 kilometers	<a href="#">Acts 1:12</a>
<a href="#">Day’s journey</a>	20 miles	32.19 kilometers	<a href="#">1 Kings 19:4</a>

Weights			
<a href="#">Gerah</a>	1/50 ounce	0.567 grams	<a href="#">Ezekiel 45:12</a>
<a href="#">Bekah</a> (10 gerahs)	1/5 ounce	5.67 grams	<a href="#">Genesis 24:22</a>
<a href="#">Pim</a> (2/3 shekel)	1/3 ounce	9.45 grams	<a href="#">1 Samuel 13:21</a>
<a href="#">Shekel</a> (2 bekahs)	2/5 ounce	11.34 grams	<a href="#">Exodus 30:23</a>
<a href="#">Mina</a> (50 shekels)	1.25 pounds	0.567 kg.	<a href="#">Ezra 2:69</a>
<a href="#">Talent</a> (60 minas)	75 pounds	34.02 kg.	<a href="#">Ezra 8:26</a>

Liquid Measures			
<a href="#">Log</a>	0.65 pints	0.31 liters	<a href="#">Leviticus 14:10</a>
<a href="#">Kab</a> (4 logs)	2.6 pints	1.2 liters	<a href="#">2 Kings 6:25</a>
<a href="#">Hin</a> (12 logs)	0.98 gallon	3.7 liters	<a href="#">Numbers 15:4</a>
<a href="#">Bath</a> (6 hins)	5.9 gallons	22 liters	<a href="#">Isaiah 5:10</a>
<a href="#">Homer</a> (10 baths)	59 gallons	220 liters	<a href="#">Ezekiel 45:11</a>
<a href="#">Kor</a> (10 baths)	59 gallons	220 liters	<a href="#">Ezekiel 45:11</a>
<a href="#">Metretes</a>	10 gallons	37.85 liters	<a href="#">John 2:6</a>

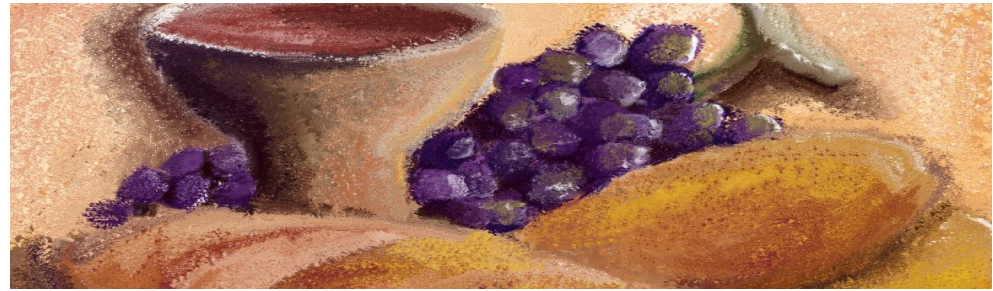
Dry Measures			
<a href="#">Kab</a> (1/18 ephah)	2.6 pints	1.2 liters	<a href="#">2 Kings 6:25</a>
<a href="#">Omer</a> (1/10 ephah)	2.3 quarts	2.2 liters	<a href="#">Exodus 16:36</a>
<a href="#">Seah</a> (1/3 ephah)	7.7 quarts	7.3 liters	<a href="#">2 Kings 7:1</a>
<a href="#">Ephah</a> (10 omers)	0.63 bushels (5.9 gal.)	22 liters	<a href="#">Ruth 2:17</a>
<a href="#">Lethech</a> (5 ephaths)	3.16 bushels (29 gal.)	110 liters	<a href="#">Hosea 3:2</a>
<a href="#">Homer</a> (10 ephaths)	6.33 bushels (59 gal.)	220 liters	<a href="#">Leviticus 27:16</a>
<a href="#">Kor</a> (10 ephaths)	6.33 bushels (59 gal.)	220 liters	<a href="#">Ezekiel 45:14</a>

## Questions for Discussion:

1. No Foreigners Allowed! In Chapter 44:4-9, God lays down the rules of admission to His Temple: Why do you think God forbids foreigners from entering His New Temple, and who would you consider a foreigner? Read Romans 2:29
2. Decently and in Good Order. In Chapter 46:9, God describes the ritual of how people are to proceed through the temple - how do we (or can we) use this as a way to “prepare”, “enter” into worship?
3. Sacrificial Food. In Chapter 46:19-20, the meat from the sacrifices was for the priests. It was their food. This meat was holy; there were special rooms where they had to eat it (also 42:13). How do we incorporate this into our worship services in the Christian Church today?

### A few Questions on Water (46)

1. Living Water. At its source, the stream was very small, and Ezekiel hadn't noticed it before. Why do you think he didn't notice it prior to his last visit to the Temple? How did the Priests, the worshippers and the Prince cross it? Why is it significant?
2. Bearing Fruit. We all know that without water, trees can bear no fruit. How does this fact affect how we live out our faith in the world today? Read Isaiah 61:1-3 and Galatians 5:22-23.
3. Trees Please. How are we like the trees? Read Psalm 1:1-3. Trees bear food (fruit). What are other significant attributes of trees and how do they express the attributes of God's grace?



### The Passover Ritual

The Feast of Passover commemorates God's redemption of Israel from its 400-year enslavement in Egypt. Over 3,000 years ago, the children of Israel suffered under the severe oppression of the Pharaoh. As the Book of Exodus records, God sent Moses to deliver them from the Egyptians, but Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites leave Egypt for the Promised Land.

Due to the hardness of Pharaoh's heart, God proceeded to pour out a series of ten plagues upon the Egyptians, culminating in the final plague, the slaying of firstborn sons of Egypt. God protected the Israelite children with the marking of the doorposts and the lintels of their homes with the blood of a lamb (Ex. 12:1-30).

The Jewish people commemorate this event every year through a ceremonial meal known as the Passover Seder. Throughout the world, Jewish families gather to remember the events of the Exodus and to celebrate the faithfulness of the God of Israel. The word "seder," which in this instance means order or procedure, refers to the retelling of the account through a special book known as the "haggadah" (telling of the story). One of the most important purposes of the Passover Seder is to teach the sacred history of the Jewish people to the children of each emerging Jewish generation.

There is an added dimension of celebration for Jewish and non-Jewish followers of Jesus the Messiah, for Jesus celebrated this meal with His disciples on the evening before His death. Known in Christian faith as the Last Supper (Mat. 26:17-30), the New Testament records how the Passover elements of the unleavened bread and the wine have become the basis of the Lord's Supper, or Communion.

As Jesus and the disciples celebrated God's redemption of Israel, Jesus foretold how His death would provide redemption from sin (Mat. 26:26-29). The themes of Passover prepared the nation for the redemption God provides through Jesus' death and resurrection.