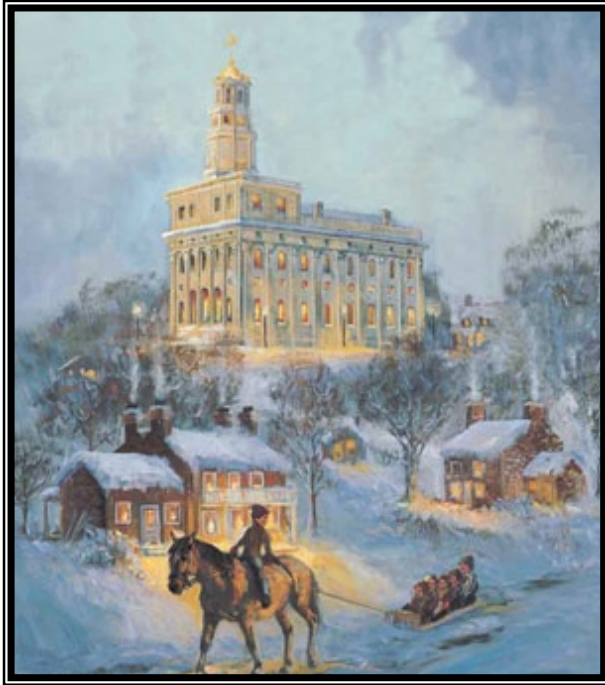


December 1, 2002

Next Weeks Lesson “If I perish, I perish” ([Daniel 1; 3; 6](#); [Esther 3; 4; 5](#); [7-8](#))

**Today’s Lesson: “Every Thing Shall Live Whither the River Cometh”**  
**(Ezekiel 43; 44; 47)**

1. **Ezekiel 43:1-2: “What can be learned about the temple from these verses?”**
  - A. The Glory of the Lord fills the temple. (vs [2](#), [4-5](#))
  - B. The temple is a place of [the Lord’s] throne. (vs [7](#))
  - C. The Lord walks in the temple. (vs [7](#))
  - D. The temple is a place where the Lord may “[dwell in the midst](#)” of his people.
  - E. We learn about the laws of the Lord in the temple. (vs [11](#))
  - F. There are ordinances that the Lord wants us to preform in the temple. ([11](#))
  - G. Even the grounds surrounding the temple “[shall be most holy](#)” (vs [12](#))
  - H. Only those who are worthy should enter the temple. ([44:6-9](#))
  - I. In the temple we learn the difference between holy and profane. ([44:23](#))
  
2. **Ezekiel 47:1, 6-12 “The Waters of Life”**
  - A. What did Ezekiel see coming from the east doors of the temple? (vs [1](#))
  - B. Where did the water go? (vs [8](#))
  - C. The Judean wilderness is a barren desert, and the Dead Sea is too salty to sustain animal life. What changes will take place in this wilderness and the Dead Sea because of the river flowing from the temple? (vs [6-12](#))
  
3. **Revelations 22:1-3 “John the Baptist sees the Throne of God.**
  - A. What flowed from the throne of God in John the Revelators vision? (vs [1](#))
  - B. What is the “water of life”? ([John 4:10-14](#))
  - C. Elder Bruce R. McConkie explained that living water is “the words of eternal life, the message of salvation, the truths about God and his kingdom; it is the doctrines of the gospel”
  - D. How can we open a conduit to the Lord so that living water can flow in our lives? One way to receive living water is to go to the temple, the house of the Lord, where we may be endowed with power and understanding, be instructed by the Lord, and feel peace and joy. Point out that worship in the temple was an important protection for the Israelites in Hezekiah’s time, and it can also be an important protection for us today.
  
4. **Ezekiel 47:12 The trees that grew along the banks of the river.**
  - A. What did the trees have in common with the waters of the river? (They had healing and life-giving powers.)
  - B. What grew along the banks of the river in John’s vision? ([Revelation 22:2](#))
  - C. How does the love of God heal and give life? What spiritual and physical wounds will God’s love heal?



5. **Ezekiel measures the river's depth. (Ezekiel 47:2-5.)**

- A. How deep was the river the first time Ezekiel waded across it? (vs 4-5)
- B. How deep was it the second, third, and fourth times he waded across? (4-5)
- C. What truth do these verses suggest about the temple?

Wonderful truths are taught in the temple, many through symbols. If at first our understanding of these truths or of temple ordinances is only "ankle deep," what should we do? We should wade into the "river" again and again--or, in

other words, attend the temple as often as possible.

6. **Psalms 24:3-4** "Who shall <sup>a</sup>ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his <sup>b</sup>holy place? He that hath <sup>a</sup>clean <sup>b</sup>hands, and a <sup>c</sup>pure <sup>d</sup>heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto <sup>e</sup>vanity, nor <sup>f</sup>sworn <sup>g</sup>deceitfully."

**Psalms 26:6-8** "I will <sup>a</sup>wash mine hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O LORD: That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy <sup>a</sup>wondrous works. LORD, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine <sup>a</sup>honour dwelleth."

**Psalms 27:1** "THE LORD is my <sup>a</sup>light and my <sup>b</sup>salvation; whom shall I <sup>c</sup>fear? the LORD is the <sup>d</sup>strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

**Psalms 27: 4-6** "One *thing* have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may <sup>a</sup>dwel in the <sup>b</sup>house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the <sup>c</sup>beauty of the LORD, and to <sup>d</sup>enquire in his temple. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his <sup>a</sup>pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a <sup>b</sup>rock. And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD."

**Psalms 65:4** "Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach *unto thee*, that he may dwell in thy <sup>a</sup>courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, *even* of thy holy temple."

**Psalms 84:** “HOW <sup>a</sup>amiable<sup>•</sup> are thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts! My soul longeth, yea, even <sup>a</sup>fainteth<sup>•</sup> for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God. Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, *even* thine altars, O LORD of hosts, my King, and my God. Blessed *are* they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah. Blessed *is* the man whose <sup>a</sup>strength<sup>•</sup> *is* in thee; in whose heart *are* the ways of *them*. *Who* passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools. They go from strength to strength, *every one of them* in Zion <sup>a</sup>appeareth<sup>•</sup> before God. O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer: give ear, O God of Jacob. Selah. Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed. For a day in thy courts *is* better than <sup>a</sup>a<sup>•</sup> thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the LORD God *is* a <sup>a</sup>sun<sup>•</sup> and <sup>b</sup>shield<sup>•</sup>: the LORD will give <sup>c</sup>grace<sup>•</sup> and glory: no good *thing* will he <sup>d</sup>withhold<sup>•</sup> from them that <sup>e</sup>walk<sup>•</sup> uprightly. O LORD of hosts, blessed *is* the man that trusteth in thee.”

**Psalms 122:** “I WAS glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the <sup>a</sup>house<sup>•</sup> of the LORD. Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together: Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, <sup>a</sup>unto<sup>•</sup> the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the LORD. For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David. Pray for the <sup>a</sup>peace<sup>•</sup> of Jerusalem: they shall <sup>b</sup>prosper<sup>•</sup> that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, *and* prosperity within thy palaces. For my brethren and companions’ sakes, I will now say, <sup>a</sup>Peace<sup>•</sup> *be* within thee. Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek thy good.”

**Psalms 134:** “BEHOLD, bless ye the LORD, all ye servants of the LORD, which by <sup>a</sup>night<sup>•</sup> stand in the house of the LORD. Lift up your <sup>a</sup>hands<sup>•</sup> *in* the sanctuary, and bless the LORD. The LORD that made heaven and earth <sup>a</sup>bless<sup>•</sup> thee out of Zion.”

7. **President Howard W. Hunter said:** “I invite the Latter-day Saints to look to the temple of the Lord as the great symbol of your membership. It is the deepest desire of my heart to have every member of the Church worthy to enter the temple. It would please the Lord if every adult member would be worthy of--and carry--a current temple recommend. The things that we must do and not do to be worthy of a temple recommend are the very things that ensure we will be happy as individuals and as families” (in Conference Report, Oct. 1994, 8; or [Ensign, Nov. 1994, 8](#)).