

# Through The Bible In One Year

## The Adventure of Many Lifetimes

Unpublished Work, December 2005, David W. Shockey.

### Daily Scripture Selection

#### Week 47

**Day 323.** Ezekiel 39.1-40.27; James 2.18-3.18;  
Psalm 118.1-18; and Proverbs 28.2.

**Day 324.** Ezekiel 40.28-41.26; James 4.1-7;  
Psalm 118.19-29; and Proverbs 28.3-5.

**Day 325.** Ezekiel 42.1-43.27; James 5.1-20;  
Psalm 119.1-16; and Proverbs 28.6-7.

**Day 326.** Ezekiel 44.1-45.12; 1 Peter 1.1-12;  
Psalm 119.17-32; and Proverbs 28.8-10.

**Day 327.** Ezekiel 45.46.24; 1 Peter 1.13-2.10;  
Psalm 119.33-48; and Proverbs 28.11.

**Day 328.** Ezekiel 47.1-48.35; 1 Peter 2.11-3.7;  
Psalm 119.49-64; and Proverbs 28.12-13.

**Day 329.** Daniel 1.1-2.23; 1 Peter 3.8-4.6;  
Psalm 119.65-80; and Proverbs 28.14.

### Through The Bible In One Year: Week 47 Sunday Worship Lessons

First Lesson (Old Testament): Ezekiel 47.1-12  
Psalm: 118.19-29

Second (New Testament) Lesson: 1 Peter 3.15-4.5

Theme: Jump In The River! (God's Great River of Grace)

### **Sunday Scripture Selection and Theme Explanation, Week 47:**

“Who loves you, baby’ the tough cop Kojac used to ask the criminals he arrested on the old TV show. It’s really a question we all ask ourselves all the time. All people naturally long to be loved, because God made us to be fulfilled in loving relationships. The problem is, we do not experience the love we long for from others, and we no longer know how to love others as we ought. It all begins with God. Many, if not most, people fear that God is angry with them because of the wrong they have done to him and others. Ezekiel, the prophet, was given an extraordinary vision of the heavenly temple: water flowing from the altar, shallow at first, deepening until it became a deep river. It is the river of grace—of God’s forgiving love—that cleanses and restores to life. Like the river St. John saw flowing from the throne in the heavenly Jerusalem in the book of Revelation, trees which bring healing and bear fruit every month grow on either side of the river. Peter talks about the waters of life in Holy Baptism by which people are saved by being joined to Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection. By passing through the river of life—Baptism into Christ-believers are saved from the flood of sins that would otherwise drown them.

### **Alternate Readings & Themes:**

1. **“The Living Dead Or The Dead Who Are Living?”**. Faith without works is dead, James declares. Sadly, many who bear the title of Christian only mimic faith. They are actually dead in spirit, and their lives do not evidence a living faith. God does not really impact their life, and, as a result, they have no impact in the world for God. In Ezekiel, God promises to bring his people back from captivity, shine his face on them, and pour out his Spirit on them, bringing them back from death to life as it were. Believers are called to a living faith, active in works, that demonstrates the living presence of God. **Ezekiel 39.21-29; Psalm 118.1-9; James 2.18-26.**
2. **“Me, A Priest of the Living God? No Sweat!”**; Peter proclaims the amazing truth: all who believe in Jesus Christ are together a royal priesthood, consecrated to proclaim the saving acts of God who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. Ezekiel receives from God instructions about how priests are to be and function in the new temple God promises to create: holy, even as God is holy. They aren’t even supposed to sweat in their service of God, so perfect are they to be. Christ’s sacrifice has fulfilled the prophecy, creating a holy priesthood of people redeemed through forgiveness and faith in him. Everyone can share in the crucial role, finding meaning and purpose for their life as they serve God by serving people for God. **Ezekiel 44.17–28; Psalm 119.73-80; 1 Peter 2.1-10.**