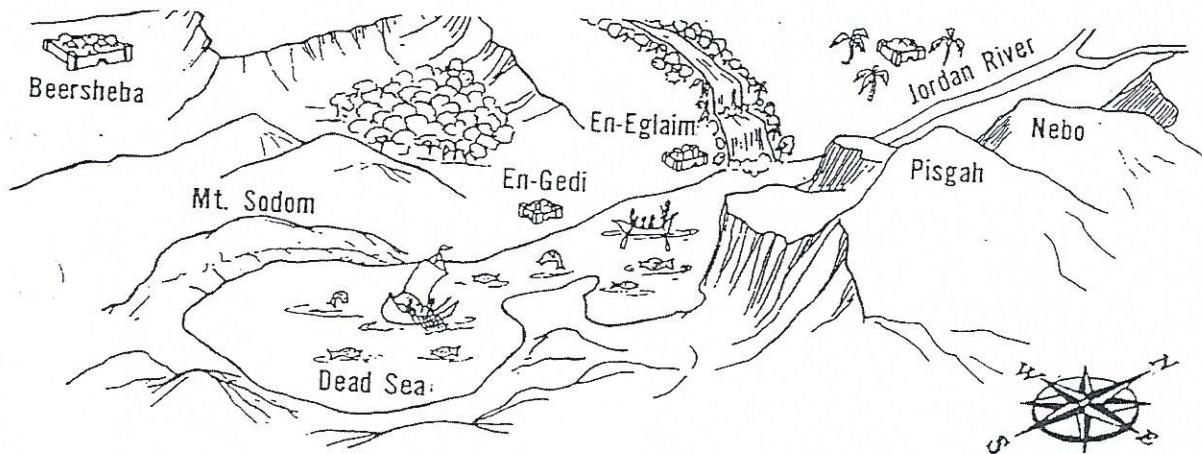
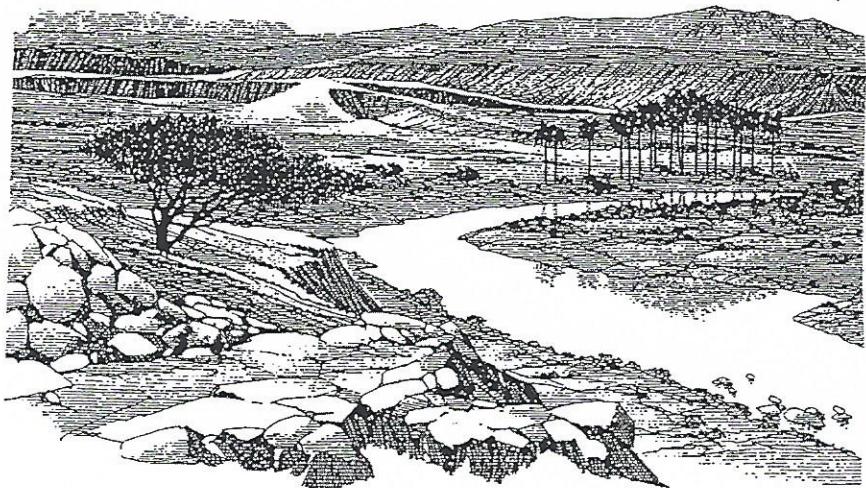
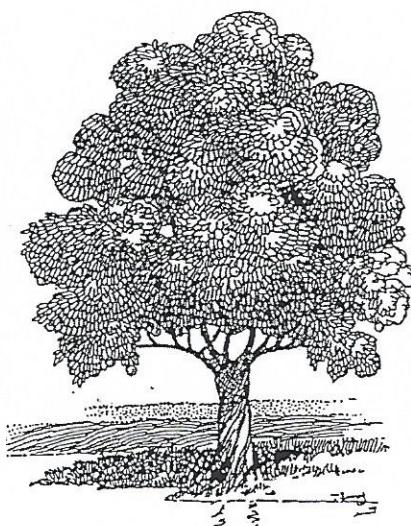


The Dead Sea: Its Magnificent Future



THE DEAD SEA IN PROPHECY

All those who visit the southern end of the Dead Sea are overwhelmed by the scene of desolation and death before their eyes. The burned mountains round about, the stench of sulphur in the air, and the deadly silence all around impress on the visitor the evidence of the divine destruction which occurred here 4000 years ago.

Students of the prophetic Word, however, can stand on the shores of the Dead Sea and visualize the miraculous transformation of the deadliest place on earth into a lake of fresh water, teeming with millions of fish. Along its shores, fishermen will spread their nets. Lush vegetation will grace the countryside.

1A. The scene of mass burial

Before the healing of the Dead Sea waters at the Second Advent of Christ, its eastern shore will see a mass burial of enormous proportions. In a valley preappointed and already named by Ezekiel, millions of corpses at the battle of Gog and Magog will be buried here. When Russia and her satellites invade Israel at the mid-point of the Tribulation, swift divine judgment will result in the death of the invaders. Their mortal remains will be interred in the valley of Hamon-gog east of the Dead Sea.

Ezekiel 39:11-13

¹¹ And it shall come to pass in that day, *that I will give unto Gog a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers on the east of the sea: and it shall stop the noses of the passengers: and there shall they bury Gog and all his multitude: and they shall call it The valley of Hamongog.*

¹² And seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them, that they may cleanse the land.

¹³ Yea, all the people of the land shall bury *them*; and it shall be to them a renown the day that I shall be glorified, saith the Lord GOD.

2A. A shield for persecuted Jews

Until the rapture, the U.S.A. appears to be Israel's protector. At the beginning of the Tribulation, Antichrist signs a covenant of protection with Israel. After three and one-half years he breaks the covenant. As he moves his military headquarters to Israel, he desecrates the temple, forcing the Jews to escape for their lives. At that time, the mountains to the east of the Dead Sea, covering the area of Ammon, Moab and Edom, will be a refuge for Israel. Antichrist and Satan, who empowers him, will be furious as the Lord establishes the Jordan River and the Dead Sea as a barrier beyond which Israel is safe from their imaginations.

Daniel 11:41

⁴¹ He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many *countries* shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, *even* Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.

Matthew 24:15-16

¹⁶When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

¹⁶ Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

Revelation 12:6, 14-17

⁶ And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

¹⁴ And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

¹⁶ And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

¹⁸ And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

¹⁷ And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

3A. The supply of salt

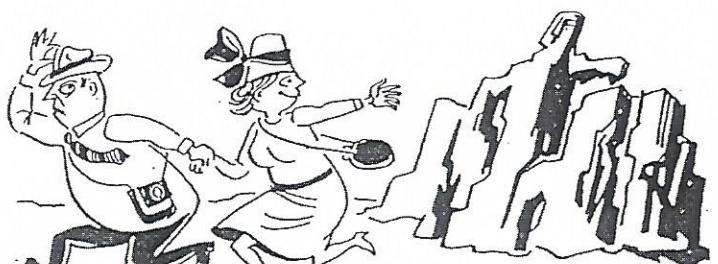
When the curse is lifted from nature soon after the Second Advent of Christ, the Dead Sea will be transformed into a freshwater lake. The only area not totally healed will be the salt flats at its southern shore. This area to the east and south of Mt. Sodom, a salt mountain 300 feet high and five miles long will be given to salt throughout the Millennium. Perhaps the salt will be refined as table salt, suitable for the preparation of food. Then too, as salt was required for certain Old Testament sacrifices, similarly, some memorial sacrifices in the millennial temple will require salt. Finally, it may be that the Lord will leave a small area of the Dead Sea to show how effective His healing power was on the deadeast of all earthly areas. For 1000 years, mankind will have an impressive picture of the ruination of sin juxtaposed to the redemption of nature through the Savior.

Ezekiel 47:11

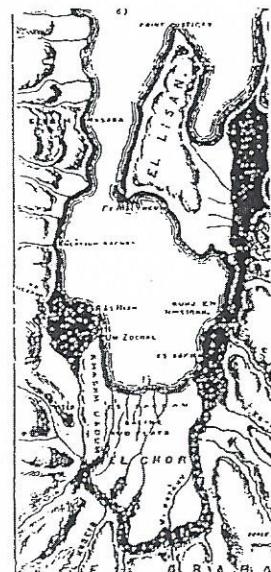
¹¹ But the miry places thereof and the marshes thereof shall not be healed; they shall be given to salt.

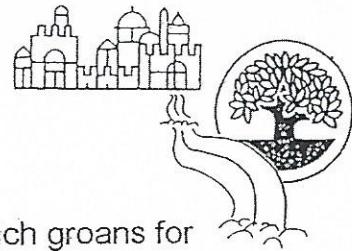
Ezekiel 43:21 24

²¹ Thou shalt take the bullock also of the sin offering, and he shall burn it in the appointed place of the house, without the sanctuary.



'But his wife (of Lot) looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt'.





4A. A source of fresh water

The healing power of the Savior in His physical creation which groans for deliverance from the curse of sin (Romans 8:19-21) is magnificently illustrated by Ezekiel's millennial vision. He is shown a living stream, emerging from the presence of the Lord, flowing eastward and healing the desert and the Dead Sea. The presence of the Lord occasions both spiritual and physical life.

Ezekiel 47:8

⁸ Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: *which being* brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed.

5A. A sea of marine life

The Dead Sea, now eight times saltier than the ocean, will be completely salt free. The waters of the Dead Sea will be filled with a great number and great variety of fish, as the waters of the Mediterranean. The Dead Sea today, barely sustaining microorganisms, will become a fisherman's delight.

Ezekiel 47:9-11

⁹ And it shall come to pass, *that* every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither; for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh.

¹⁰ And it shall come to pass, *that* the fishers shall stand upon it from Engedi even unto Eneglaim; they shall be a *place* to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many.

¹¹ But the miry places thereof and the marshes thereof shall not be healed; they shall be given to salt.

6A. A setting for a fishing industry

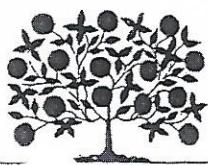
As a result of the magnificent and multiplied marine life in the former Dead Sea, a fishing industry will emerge, especially on the northwestern shore, from "En Gedi to En Eglaim" (perhaps the present-day En Feshka near Qumran). Fisherman will spread out their nets.

Ezekiel 47:10

¹⁰ And it shall come to pass, *that* the fishers shall stand upon it from Engedi even unto Eneglaim; they shall be a *place* to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many.

7A. A spectacle of living streams

Repeatedly, the Holy Spirit predicts for the millennial land of Israel a new river emerging from the temple in Jerusalem, one branch flowing westward into the Mediterranean, the other cascading eastward downhill, healing the desert and rejuvenating the Dead Sea. Along its banks, in the present wilderness of Judea, a miraculous tree will grow, producing a different fruit each month. Its leaves will provide healing for the nations. However, this microcosm of the changes in the



millennial land of Israel will be multiplied a thousand times over when not just all the rivers of Judah will flow with water, many of them issuing into the Dead Sea, but in wilderness areas all over the world, there will be "streams in the desert."

Zechariah 14:8

⁸ And it shall be in that day, *that* living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.

Ezekiel 47:7-8

⁷ Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other.

⁸ Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: *which being* brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed.

Psalm 46:4

⁴ *There is* a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.

Joel 3:18

¹⁸ And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim.

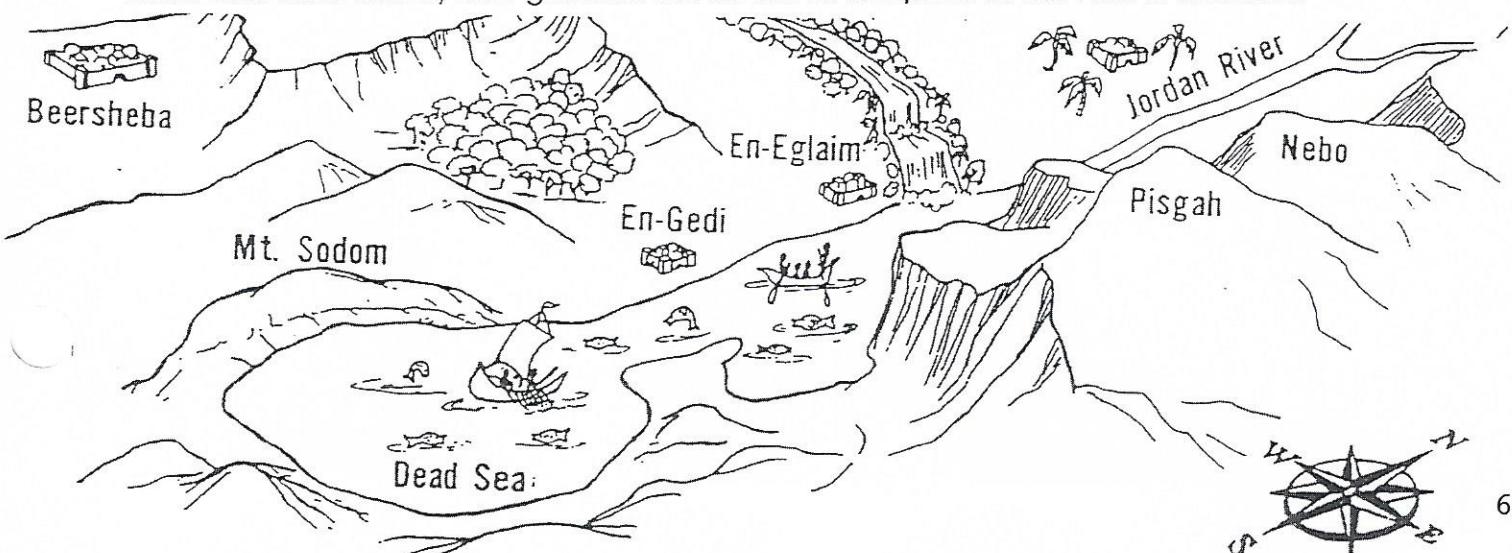
Joel 2:23

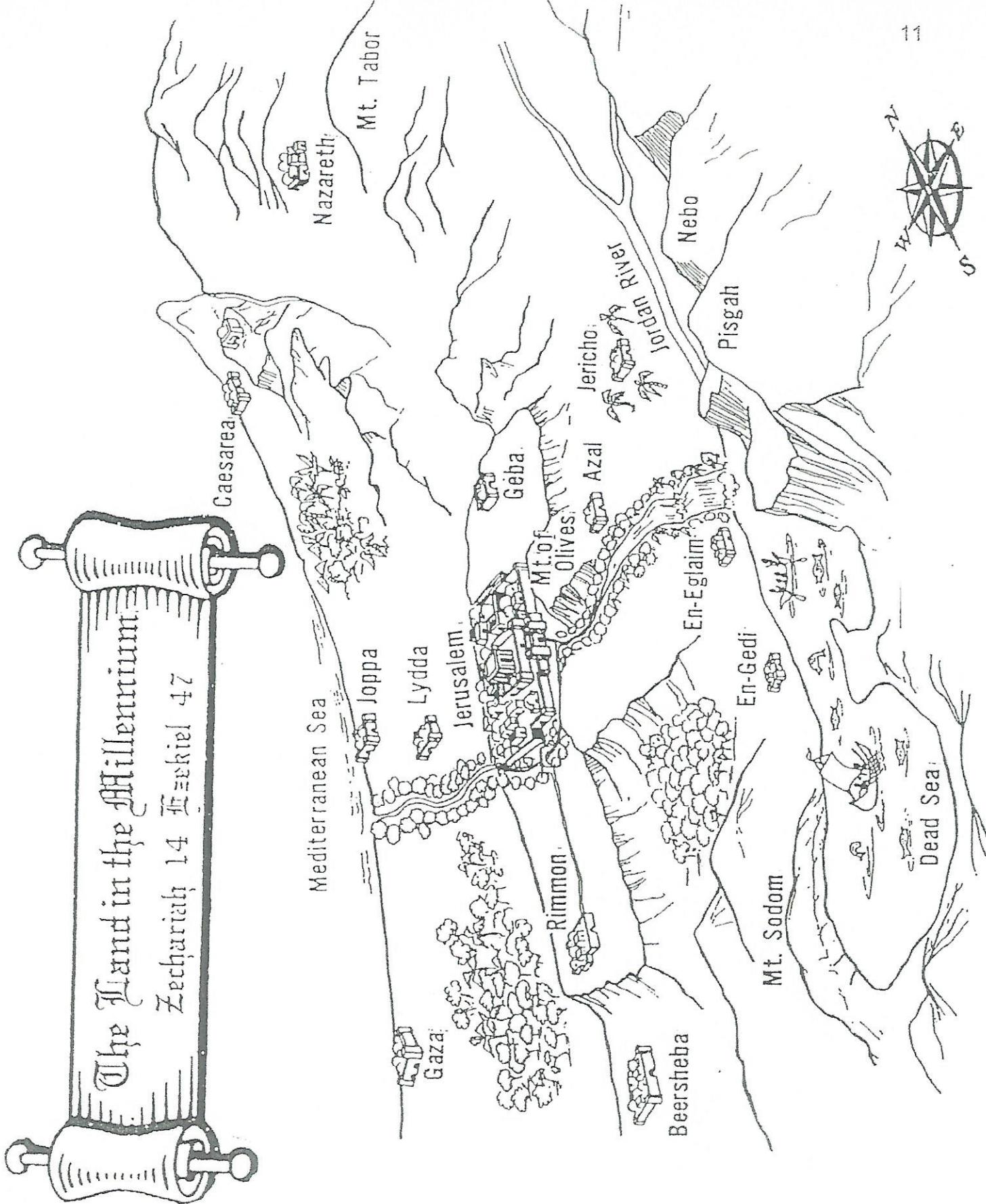
²³ Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

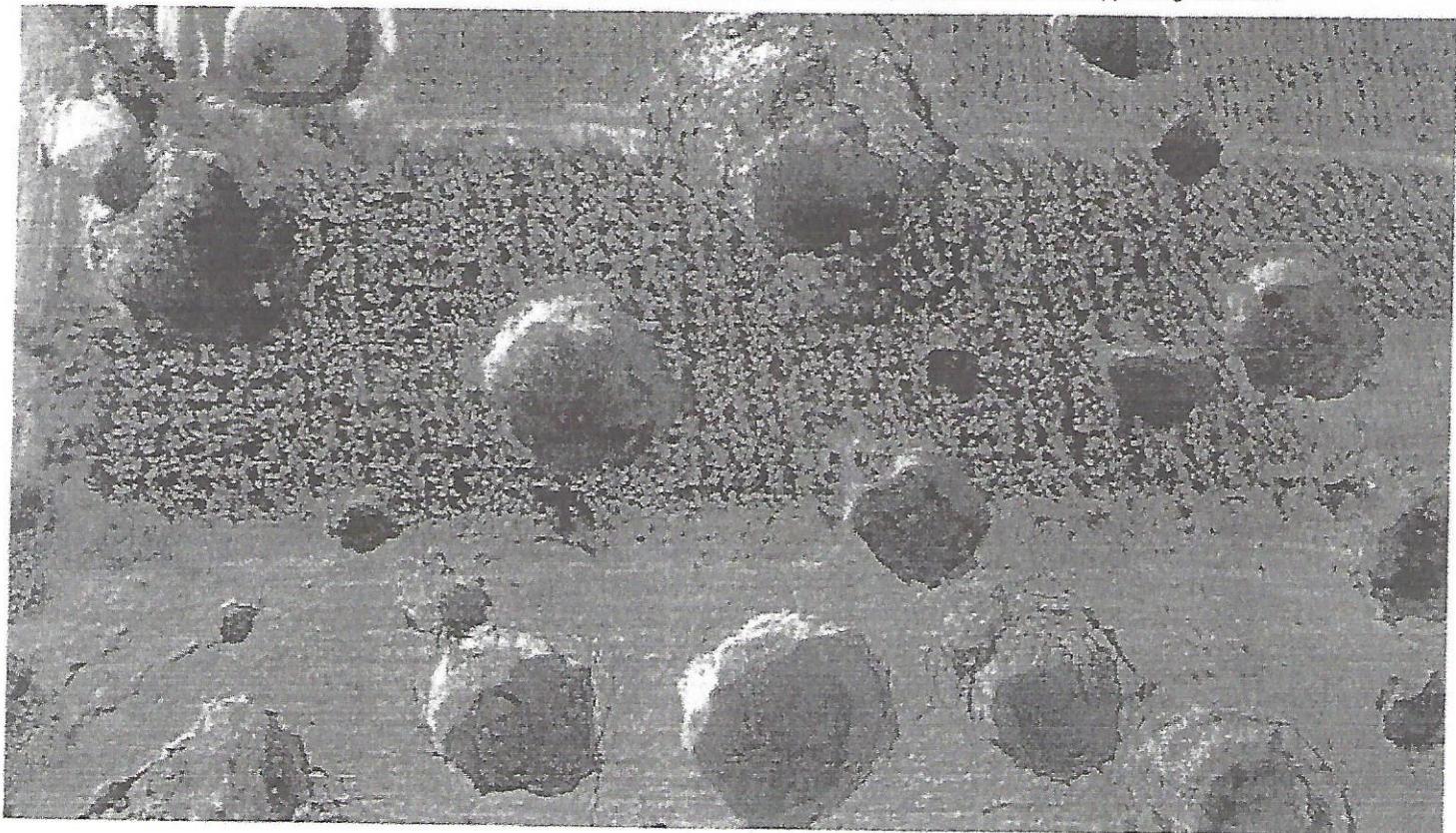
8A. A symbol of divine redemption

The prophetic promise of life on the millennial earth envisions an abundance of spiritual as well as physical life.

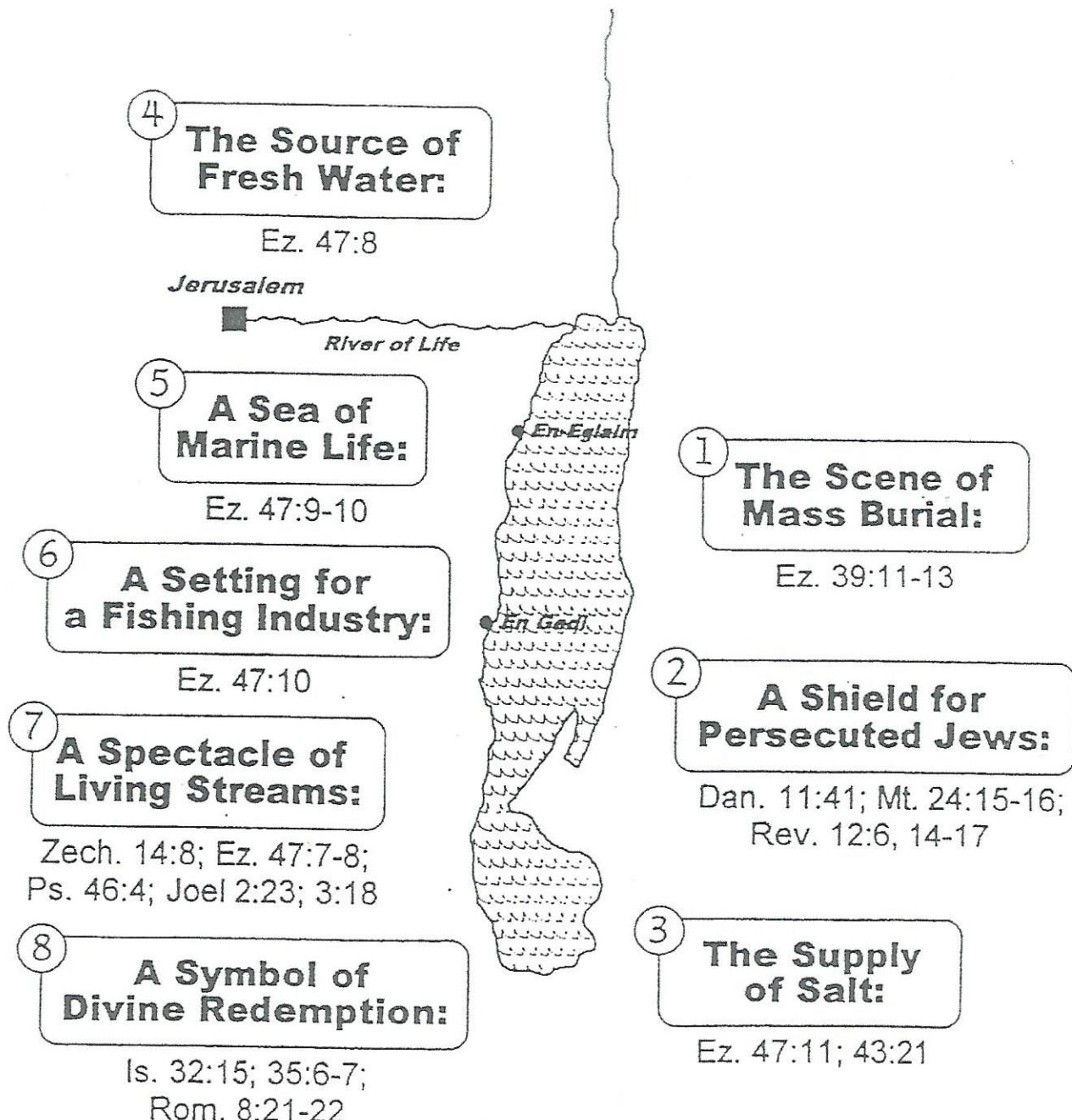
Christ's final redemptive work involves the regeneration of man and creation. It is through Adam's disobedience that "sin entered into the world and death by sin" (Romans 5:12). The result of Adam's sin and its effect on creation are nowhere more graphically manifest than in the condition of the Dead Sea. Its total transformation and rejuvenation through the Lord of Life employing the Spirit of Life affords a splendid symbol of the transforming power of God. If God can beautify such a dreadful scene of death and destruction, how glorious will be the redemption of the rest of creation!







The Dead Sea in Prophecy



Manfred E. Kober, Th.D.

