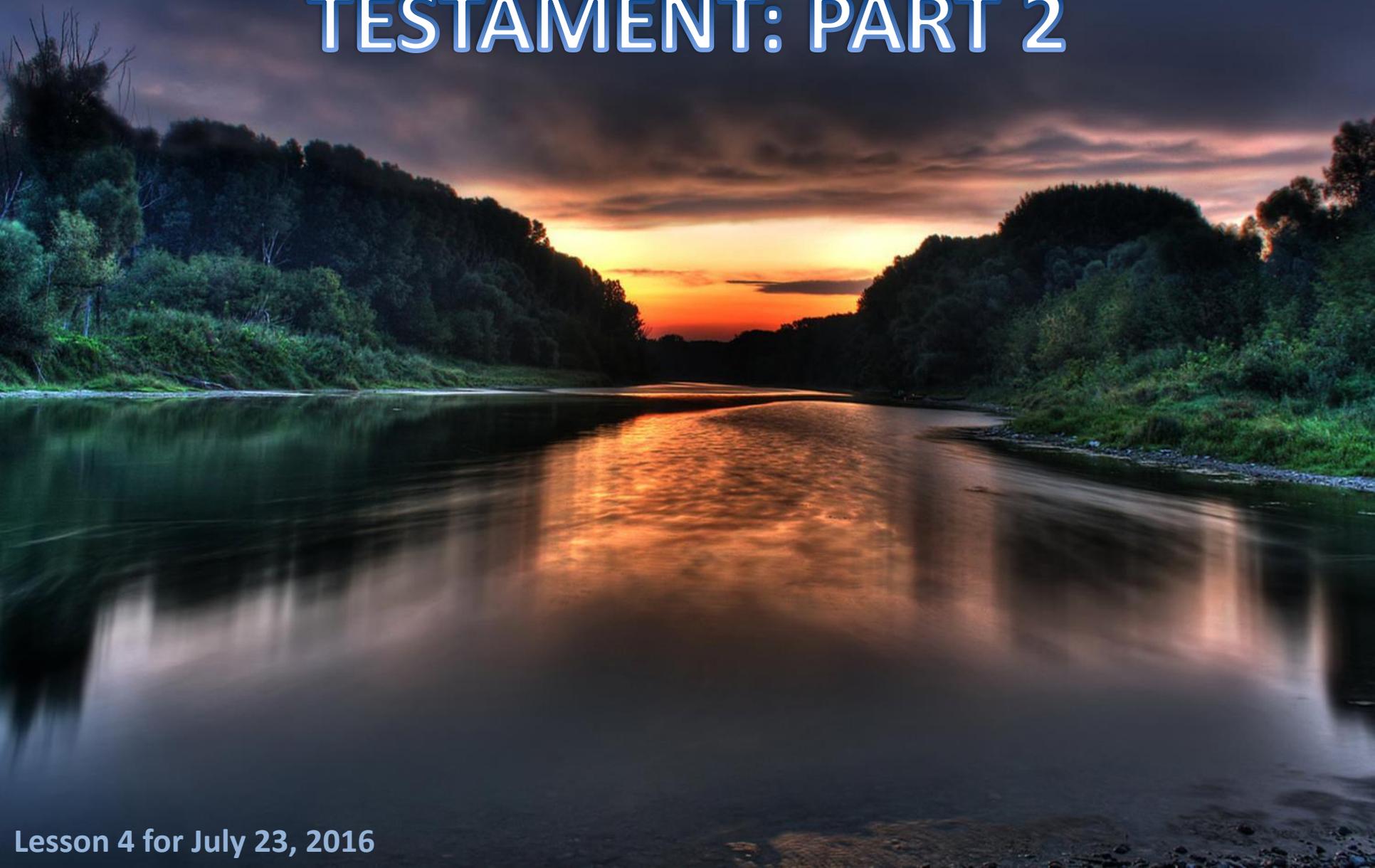


# JUSTICE AND MERCY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: PART 2



**God's ideal for His Church is found in the message of justice and mercy that the prophets announced. The Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is called to fulfill that ideal.**



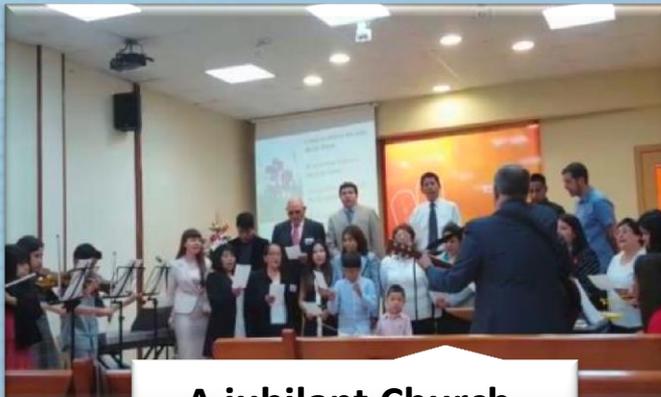
**A Church that revives.  
Ezekiel 37:1-14.**



**A Church that grows.  
Ezekiel 47:1-8.**



**A Church that brings life.  
Ezekiel 47:9-12.**



**A jubilant Church.  
Isaiah 61:1-11.**



**A Church that transforms.  
Micah 6.**

# A CHURCH THAT REVIVES

**"I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken it and performed it," says the Lord." (Ezekiel 37:14)**

**Ezekiel saw a valley filled with dry bones. Then ligaments, veins, flesh and even skin grew on them. The people of God that was languishing in exile received new strength. Nevertheless, an essential element was missing; the Spirit that brings life. When the Spirit entered them, they were a large army ready to battle.**

**The people of God today must be that large army revived by God's Spirit to fulfill his mission. Which mission are we assigned when God recreates us with His Spirit? Ephesians 2:10.**

**We are "created in Christ Jesus for good works." That's the fruit of our revitalizing relationship with Christ.**



# A CHURCH THAT GROWS

"Then he said to me: 'This water flows toward the eastern region, goes down into the valley, and enters the sea. When it reaches the sea, its waters are healed.'" (Ezekiel 47:8)

Ezekiel saw a little spring that spouted from the Temple of Jerusalem towards the east. Then it flowed towards the south, crossed the desert and ran into the Dead Sea.

That spring was miraculous, because it didn't receive water from any inflowing rivers but it still grew larger and became an imposing and wide river.

That waters represented the blessings that came from the people of God. Those blessings should gradually fill the earth.

The Church that began modestly is that river which flows with spiritual life. It's a light that lights the whole earth (Matthew 5:16).



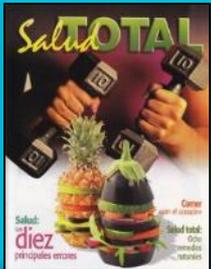
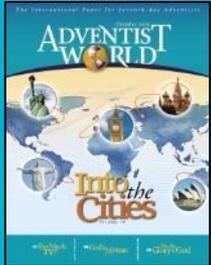
# A CHURCH THAT BRINGS LIFE

“It shall be that fishermen will stand by it from En Gedi to En Eglaim; they will be places for spreading their nets. Their fish will be of the same kinds as the fish of the Great Sea, exceedingly many.” (Ezekiel 47:10)

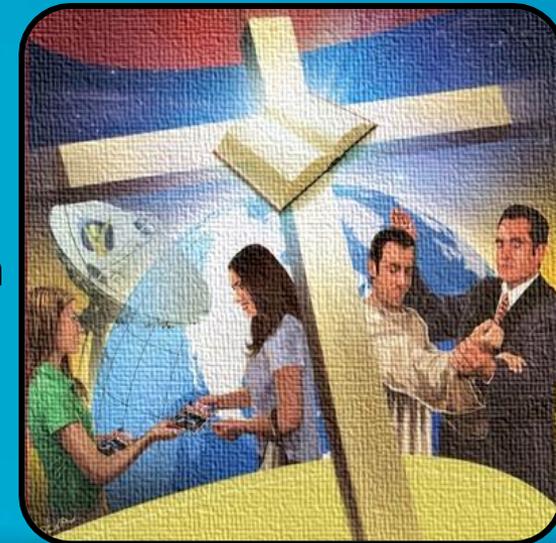


Fishing in the Dead Sea as if we were fishing in the Mediterranean Sea? That river that flows from the Temple is able to bring life where there is none.

The Church must reach those places where there is no spiritual life and fill them with the life-giving power of Christ.



Our “nets” must be cast and ready for the work. We are called to spread the Adventist message of physical, mental and spiritual health to our community. Christ will use our work to bring abundant healing and life to those who accept Him.



# A JUBILANT CHURCH

**"I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its bud, as the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations." (Isaiah 61:10-11)**



**Jesus proclaimed "the acceptable year of the Lord" by healing, comforting and preaching (Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:18).**

**Isaiah encouraged us to follow His example by becoming priests and ministers who rejoice in salvation (Isaiah 61:4-6).**

**The way we live, the things we do and our joy are infectious. They cause "righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations."**



# A CHURCH THAT TRANSFORMS



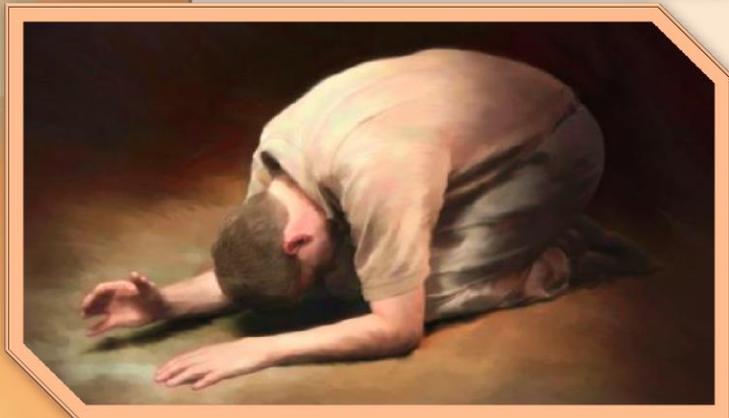
**"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."  
(Micah 6:8 NIV)**

**Is strictly obeying the doctrines worthy if my life is loveless?**



**I'm a follower of Jesus because of what I am, not because of what I do.**

**God expects justice, love and humbleness from me. That qualities are shown by the way I worship God and by the way I relate to those around me.**



**When we are motivated by those principles, Christ is able to work through His people to reach out and minister to others in a very practical and powerful way.**

**“From the beginning God has wrought through His people to bring blessing to the world... Everyone in whose heart Christ abides, everyone who will show forth His love to the world, is a worker together with God for the blessing of humanity. As he receives from the Saviour grace to impart to others, from his whole being flows forth the tide of spiritual life.”**

E.G.W. (The Acts of the Apostles, cp. 1, pg. 13)