

# Ezekiel 48 - Allocation of the Land

## III. Restoration of Israel (Ezek 33:1—48:45)

### (7) Restored Temple (Ezek 40:1—48:35)

#### (C) Land (Ezek 47:1—48:35)

##### (c) Division of the land (47:21—48:29)

##### (ii) Among the tribes (48:1-29)

##### (a) Seven northern tribes (48:1-7)

##### (b) Prince's portion (48:8-22)

##### (c) Five southern tribes (48:23-29)

##### (d) City (48:30-35)

##### (i) Gates (48:30-34)

##### (ii) Size (48:35a)

##### (iii) Name (48:35b)

## Ezekiel 48

##### (ii) Among the tribes (48:1-29)

##### (a) Seven northern tribes (48:1-7)

**1** "Now these are the names of the tribes: from the northern extremity, beside the way of Hethlon to Lebo-hamath, as *far* as Hazar-enan *at* the border of Damascus, toward the north beside Hamath, running from east to west, Dan, one *portion*.

**1** "Now these are the names of the tribes: from the northern extremity, beside the way of Hethlon to Lebo-hamath, as *far* as Hazar-enan *at* the border of Damascus, toward the north beside Hamath, running from east to west, Dan, one *portion*.

**1** "These are the names of the tribes from the northernmost extremity westward along the road from Hethlon to the entrance of Hamath, Hazar-enan (a border of Damascus) northward to the coast of Hamath. The perimeter is to run east-to-west; the tribe of Dan with one portion;

**1** Now these are the names of the tribes. From the north end to the coast of the way of Hethlon, as one goeth to Hamath, Hazarenan, the border of Damascus northward, to the coast of Hamath; for these are his sides east and west; a portion for Dan.

Although the land will have twelve tribal divisions, these subdivisions will differ from those in the Book of Joshua. Ezek 48:1-7 describes the northern subdivisions for 7 of the 12 tribes. From north to south they will be: Dan (v1), Asher (v2), Naphtali (v3), Manasseh (v4), Ephraim (v5), Reuben (v6) and Judah (v7).

## Tribe of Dan

- Dan, so long locally and morally semi-heathen, is to have the least honorable place, at the extreme north (Judges 18:1-31).
  - Dan had the largest population (Num 1:39) but the smallest allocation, W of Benjamin
  - It lost territory after death of Sampson (Judges 16-21) and resettled at Laish in the North: "Leap from Bashan" - Deut 33:22; [Josephus, *Antiq.* 5:3:1]
  - "Lost" long before Assyrian Invasion (1 Chr 1-8; Rev 7).
  - Song of Deborah: Why did Dan remain in his ships? (Judges 5:17)

2 Beside the border of Dan, from the east side to the west side, Asher, one *portion*.

2 Beside the border of Dan, from the east side to the west side, Asher, one *portion*.

2 running along the border of the tribe of Dan from the eastern perimeter to the western perimeter, the tribe of Asher with one portion;

2 And by the border of Dan, from the east side unto the west side, a portion for Asher.

3 Beside the border of Asher, from the east side to the west side, Naphtali, one *portion*.

3 Beside the border of Asher, from the east side to the west side, Naphtali, one *portion*.

3 running along the border of the tribe of Asher from the eastern perimeter to the western perimeter, the tribe of Naphtali with one portion;

3 And by the border of Asher, from the east side even unto the west side, a portion for Naphtali.

4 Beside the border of Naphtali, from the east side to the west side, Manasseh, one *portion*.

4 Beside the border of Naphtali, from the east side to the west side, Manasseh, one *portion*.

4 running along the border of the tribe of Naphtali from the eastern perimeter to the western perimeter, the tribe of Manasseh with one portion;

4 And by the border of Naphtali, from the east side unto the west side, a portion for Manasseh.

5 Beside the border of Manasseh, from the east side to the west side, Ephraim, one *portion*.

5 Beside the border of Manasseh, from the east side to the west side, Ephraim, one *portion*.

5 running along the border of the tribe of Manasseh from the eastern perimeter to the western perimeter, the tribe of Ephraim with one portion;

5 And by the border of Manasseh, from the east side unto the west side, a portion for Ephraim.

6 Beside the border of Ephraim, from the east side to the west side, Reuben, one *portion*.

6 Beside the border of Ephraim, from the east side to the west side, Reuben, one *portion*.

6 running along the border of the tribe of Ephraim from the eastern perimeter to the western perimeter, the tribe of Reuben with one portion;

6 And by the border of Ephraim, from the east side even unto the west side, a portion for Reuben.

7 Beside the border of Reuben, from the east side to the west side, Judah, one *portion*.

7 Beside the border of Reuben, from the east side to the west side, Judah, one *portion*.

7 and running along the border of the tribe of Reuben from the eastern perimeter to the western perimeter, the tribe of Judah with one portion."

7 And by the border of Reuben, from the east side unto the west side, a portion for Judah.

- Reuben—doomed formerly for incest and instability; "not to excel" (Gen 49:4)

— So no distinguished prophet, priest, or king had come from it

— Of it were the notorious Dathan and Abiram, the mutineers. A pastoral and Bedouin character marked it and Gad (Judges 5:16).

(b) Prince's portion (48:8-22)

8 "And beside the border of Judah, from the east side to the west side, shall be the allotment which you shall set apart, twenty-five thousand *cubits* in width, and in length like one of the portions, from the east side to the west side; and the sanctuary shall be in the middle of it.

8 "And beside the border of Judah, from the east side to the west side, shall be the allotment which you shall set apart, 25,000 *cubits* in width, and in length like one of the portions, from the east side to the west side; and the sanctuary shall be in the middle of it.

8 "Running along the border of the tribe of Judah from the eastern perimeter to the western perimeter you are to set apart the Terumah, 25,000 units wide, with its east-west length equal to one of the other apportionments, from the eastern perimeter to the western perimeter, with the Temple in the middle of it.

8 And by the border of Judah, from the east side unto the west side, shall be the offering which ye shall offer of five and twenty thousand reeds in breadth, and in length as one of the other parts, from the east side unto the west side: and the sanctuary shall be in the midst of it.

- This verse refers to the location of the Millennial Mountain. It will be at the south end of Judah's border and will serve as the dividing line between the seven northern tribes and five southern tribes.

9 The allotment that you shall set apart to the LORD *shall be* twenty-five thousand *cubits* in length and ten thousand in width.

9 The allotment that you shall set apart to the LORD *shall be* 25,000 *cubits* in length and 10,000 in width.

9 The Terumah that you are to give to the LORD is to be 25,000 units wide."

9 The oblation that ye shall offer unto the LORD shall be of five and twenty thousand in length, and of ten thousand in breadth.

### **Allotments for the Priests**

10 The holy allotment shall be for these, *namely* for the priests, toward the north twenty-five thousand *cubits in length*, toward the west ten thousand in width, toward the east ten thousand in width, and toward the south twenty-five thousand in length; and the sanctuary of the LORD shall be in its midst.

10 The holy allotment shall be for these, *namely* for the priests, toward the north 25,000 *cubits in length*, toward the west 10,000 in width, toward the east 10,000 in width, and toward the south 25,000 in length; and the sanctuary of the LORD shall be in its midst.

10 "The holy Terumah is to be reserved for these, the priests: Toward the north, 25,000 units in length; toward the west, 10,000 units in width; toward the east, 10,000 units in width; and toward the south, 25,000 units in length. The LORD's sanctuary is to be in its midst.

10 And for them, even for the priests, shall be this holy oblation; toward the north five and twenty thousand in length, and toward the west ten thousand in breadth, and toward the east ten thousand in breadth, and toward the south five and twenty thousand in length: and the sanctuary of the LORD shall be in the midst thereof.

11 *It shall be* for the priests who are sanctified of the sons of Zadok, who have taken the responsibility I gave them, who did not go astray when the sons of Israel went astray as the Levites went astray.

11 *It shall be* for the priests who are sanctified of the sons of Zadok, who have kept My charge, who did not go astray when the sons of Israel went astray as the Levites went astray.

11 It is to be for use by priests from the descendants of Zadok, who have observed the things with which I charged them and who did not wander astray when the Israelis went astray, just as the descendants of Levi wandered astray.

11 It shall be for the priests that are sanctified of the sons of Zadok; which have kept my charge, which went not astray when the children of Israel went astray, as the Levites went astray.

12 It shall be an allotment to them from the allotment of the land, a most holy reserve, by the border of the Levites.

12 It shall be an allotment to them from the allotment of the land, a most holy place, by the border of the Levites.

12 It is to be a Terumah for them from the allotment of the land, a Most Holy Place, adjoining the border of the descendants of Levi."

12 And this oblation of the land that is offered shall be unto them a thing most holy by the border of the Levites.

13 And alongside the border of the priests, the Levites *shall have* twenty-five thousand *cubits* in length and ten thousand in width. The entire length *shall be* twenty-five thousand *cubits* and the width ten thousand.

13 Alongside the border of the priests the Levites *shall have* 25,000 *cubits* in length and 10,000 in width. The whole length *shall be* 25,000 *cubits* and the width 10,000.

13 "Alongside the border of the priests, the descendants of Levi are to be allotted 25,000 units in length and 10,000 units in width. The entire length is to be 25,000 units and its width 10,000 units.

**13** And over against the border of the priests the Levites shall have five and twenty thousand in length, and ten thousand in breadth: all the length shall be five and twenty thousand, and the breadth ten thousand.

14 Moreover, they shall not sell or exchange any of it, or allow this choice *portion* of land to pass *to others*; for it is holy to the LORD.

14 Moreover, they shall not sell or exchange any of it, or alienate this choice *portion* of land; for it is holy to the LORD.

14 Furthermore, they are not to sell or exchange any part of it, nor transfer these first fruits of the land, because it is holy to the LORD.

14 And they shall not sell of it, neither exchange, nor alienate the firstfruits of the land: for it is holy unto the LORD.

**15** "The remainder, five thousand *cubits* in width *and* twenty-five thousand in length, shall be for common use for the city, for homes and for open spaces; and the city shall be in its midst.

**15** "The remainder, 5,000 *cubits* in width and 25,000 in length, shall be for common use for the city, for dwellings and for open spaces; and the city shall be in its midst.

**15** "The rest, 5,000 units wide and 25,000 units along its front, will serve as a common portion for use by the city for housing and open spaces, since the city is to be in its midst.

**15** And the five thousand, that are left in the breadth over against the five and twenty thousand, shall be a profane place for the city, for dwelling, and for suburbs: and the city shall be in the midst thereof.

**16** And these *shall be* its measurements: the north side, 4,500 *cubits*, the south side 4,500 *cubits*, the east side 4,500 *cubits*, and the west side, 4,500 *cubits*.

**16** These *shall be* its measurements: the north side 4,500 *cubits*, the south side 4,500 *cubits*, the east side 4,500 *cubits*, and the west side 4,500 *cubits*.

**16** These are to be its dimensions: the north side, 4,500 units; the south side, 4,500 units; the east side, 4,500 units; and the west side 4,500 units.

**16** And these shall be the measures thereof; the north side four thousand and five hundred, and the south side four thousand and five hundred, and on the east side four thousand and five hundred, and the west side four thousand and five hundred.

**17** The city shall have open spaces: on the north 250 *cubits*, on the south 250 *cubits*, on the east 250 *cubits*, and on the west 250 *cubits*.

**17** The city shall have open spaces: on the north 250 *cubits*, on the south 250 *cubits*, on the east 250 *cubits*, and on the west 250 *cubits*.

**17** The city is to have urban areas set aside: on the north 250 units; on the south, 250 units, on the east, 250 units; and on the west, 250 units.

**17** And the suburbs of the city shall be toward the north two hundred and fifty, and toward the south two hundred and fifty, and toward the east two hundred and fifty, and toward the west two hundred and fifty.

**18** The remainder of the length alongside the holy allotment shall be ten thousand *cubits* toward the east and ten thousand toward the west; and it shall be alongside the holy allotment. And its produce shall be food for the workers of the city.

**18** The remainder of the length alongside the holy allotment shall be 10,000 *cubits* toward the east and 10,000 toward the west; and it shall be alongside the holy allotment. And its produce shall be food for the workers of the city.

**18** "The remainder of the length that borders the holy Terumah is to be 10,000 units long eastward and 10,000 units westward. It is to lie adjacent to the holy Terumah. Its harvest will produce food for those who work in the city.

18 And the residue in length over against the oblation of the holy portion shall be ten thousand eastward, and ten thousand westward: and it shall be over against the oblation of the holy portion; and the increase thereof shall be for food unto them that serve the city.

19 And the workers of the city, out of all the tribes of Israel, shall cultivate it.

19 The workers of the city, out of all the tribes of Israel, shall cultivate it.

19 The city workers who cultivate it are to come from all the tribes of Israel.

19 And they that serve the city shall serve it out of all the tribes of Israel.

20 The whole allotment *shall be* twenty-five thousand by twenty-five thousand *cubits*; you shall set apart the holy allotment, a square, with the property of the city.

20 The whole allotment *shall be* 25,000 by 25,000 *cubits*; you shall set apart the holy allotment, a square, with the property of the city.

20 The entire Terumah is to be 25,000 units by 25,000 units—you are to reserve it as a holy Terumah in the form of a square within the city limits."

20 All the oblation shall be five and twenty thousand by five and twenty thousand: ye shall offer the holy oblation foursquare, with the possession of the city.

### **The Allotment for the Regent Prince**

**21** "The remainder *shall be* for the prince, on the one side and on the other of the holy allotment and of the property of the city; in front of the twenty-five thousand *cubits* of the allotment toward the east border and westward in front of the twenty-five thousand toward the west border, alongside the portions, *it shall be* for the prince. And the holy allotment and the sanctuary of the house shall be in the middle of it.

**21** "The remainder *shall be* for the prince, on the one side and on the other of the holy allotment and of the property of the city; in front of the 25,000 *cubits* of the allotment toward the east border and westward in front of the 25,000 toward the west border, alongside the portions, *it shall be* for the prince. And the holy allotment and the sanctuary of the house shall be in the middle of it.

**21** "Now the remainder of the allotment on either side of the holy Terumah is to be for the Regent Prince and for city property—adjoining the 25,000 units along the eastern border and adjoining the 25,000 units along the western border, and parallel to the allotments. These are to be for the Regent Prince. The holy Terumah and the sanctuary of the Temple is to stand in the middle of it.

**21** And the residue shall be for the prince, on the one side and on the other of the holy oblation, and of the possession of the city, over against the five and twenty thousand of the oblation toward the east border, and westward over against the five and twenty thousand

toward the west border, over against the portions for the prince: and it shall be the holy oblation; and the sanctuary of the house shall be in the midst thereof.

22 And exclusive of the property of the Levites and the property of the city, *which are* in the middle of that which belongs to the prince, *everything* between the border of Judah and the border of Benjamin shall belong to the prince.

22 Exclusive of the property of the Levites and the property of the city, *which are* in the middle of that which belongs to the prince, *everything* between the border of Judah and the border of Benjamin shall be for the prince.

22 Except for what belongs to the descendants of Levi and the city property, which will stand in the middle of what belongs to the Regent Prince, whatever is between the border of Judah and the border of Benjamin is to belong to the Regent Prince."

22 Moreover from the possession of the Levites, and from the possession of the city, being in the midst of that which is the prince's, between the border of Judah and the border of Benjamin, shall be for the prince.

(c) Five southern tribes (48:23-29)

**23** "As for the rest of the tribes: from the east side to the west side, Benjamin, one *portion*.

**23** "As for the rest of the tribes: from the east side to the west side, Benjamin, one *portion*.

**23** "Now as to the rest of the tribes: from the east side to the west side, Benjamin is to retain one portion.

**23** As for the rest of the tribes, from the east side unto the west side, Benjamin shall have a portion.

24 Beside the border of Benjamin, from the east side to the west side, Simeon, one *portion*.

24 Beside the border of Benjamin, from the east side to the west side, Simeon, one *portion*.

24 Adjacent to the border of Benjamin running from east to west, Simeon is to retain one portion.

24 And by the border of Benjamin, from the east side unto the west side, Simeon shall have a portion.

25 Beside the border of Simeon, from the east side to the west side, Issachar, one *portion*.

25 Beside the border of Simeon, from the east side to the west side, Issachar, one *portion*.



25 Adjacent to the border of Simeon running from east to west, Issachar is to retain one portion.

25 And by the border of Simeon, from the east side unto the west side, Issachar a portion.

26 Beside the border of Issachar, from the east side to the west side, Zebulun, one *portion*.

26 Beside the border of Issachar, from the east side to the west side, Zebulun, one *portion*.

26 Adjacent to the border of Issachar running from east to west, Zebulun is to retain one portion.

26 And by the border of Issachar, from the east side unto the west side, Zebulun a portion.

27 Beside the border of Zebulun, from the east side to the west side, Gad, one *portion*.

27 Beside the border of Zebulun, from the east side to the west side, Gad, one *portion*.

27 Adjacent to the border of Zebulun running from east to west, Gad is to retain one portion.

27 And by the border of Zebulun, from the east side unto the west side, Gad a portion.

28 And beside the border of Gad, at the south side toward the south, the border shall be from Tamar to the waters of Meribath-kadesh, to the brook *of Egypt*, to the Great Sea.

28 And beside the border of Gad, at the south side toward the south, the border shall be from Tamar to the waters of Meribath-kadesh, to the brook *of Egypt*, to the Great Sea.

28 Adjacent to the border of Gad to the south and extending toward the south, the border is to proceed from Tamar to the waters of Meribath-kadesh, then to the Wadi of Egypt, and from there to the Mediterranean Sea.

28 And by the border of Gad, at the south side southward, the border shall be even from Tamar unto the waters of strife in Kadesh, and to the river toward the great sea.

29 This is the land which you shall divide by lot to the tribes of Israel for an inheritance, and these are their *several* portions," declares the Lord GOD.

29 This is the land which you shall divide by lot to the tribes of Israel for an inheritance, and these are their *several* portions," declares the Lord GOD.

29 This is the land that you are to allocate by lottery to the tribes of Israel as their inheritance, and these are their respective divisions," declares the Lord GOD.

29 This is the land which ye shall divide by lot unto the tribes of Israel for inheritance, and these are their portions, saith the Lord GOD.

## **The Millennial Jerusalem**

Ezekiel's description of Millennial Jerusalem adds details not found elsewhere. He describes the city's four sides, along with the gates and their names (after Jacob's twelve sons). The north side (Ezek 48:30–31) will measure 10 miles (v30); its three gates will be: Reuben, Judah, and Levi (v31). The eastern side (v32) will measure 10 miles (v32a); its gates will be Joseph, Benjamin, and Dan (v32b). The southern side (v33) will measure 10 miles (v33a) having Simeon, Issachar, and Zebulun as its gates (v33b). Finally, the western side (v34) will also measure 10 miles (v34a) with its gates named after Gad, Asher, and Naphtali (v34b). This 10-mile square city's name will not be Jerusalem (v35a), but *Jehovah Shammah*, meaning "Jehovah is there" (v35b). Since the Messiah will personally reign from this city, not only will it fulfill its prior name's meaning (city of peace) but also its new name. For this same reason the city will also be called Jehovah Our Righteousness, according to Jer 33:16.

(d) City (48:30-35)

(i) Gates (48:30-34)

**30** "Now these are the exits of the city: on the north side, 4,500 *cubits* by measurement,  
**30** "These are the exits of the city: on the north side, 4,500 *cubits* by measurement,  
**30** "These are the exits to the city: On the north side, 4,500 units by measurement,  
**30** And these are the goings out of the city on the north side, four thousand and five hundred measures.

31 shall be the gates of the city, named for the tribes of Israel, three gates toward the north: the gate of Reuben, one; the gate of Judah, one; *and* the gate of Levi, one.

31 shall be the gates of the city, named for the tribes of Israel, three gates toward the north: the gate of Reuben, one; the gate of Judah, one; the gate of Levi, one.

31 are to be the gates of the city. Named after the tribes of Israel, three gates are to serve the north site: one named the Reuben Gate, one named the Judah Gate, and one named the Levi Gate.

31 And the gates of the city shall be after the names of the tribes of Israel: three gates northward; one gate of Reuben, one gate of Judah, one gate of Levi.

- Reuben was the firstborn of Jacob's 12 sons, Judah was the royal tribe, and Levi was the tribe of the priesthood

- All three were children of Jacob's first wife Leah (Gen 29:31-35)

32 On the east side, 4,500 *cubits*, shall be three gates: the gate of Joseph, one; the gate of Benjamin, one; *and* the gate of Dan, one.

32 On the east side, 4,500 *cubits*, shall be three gates: the gate of Joseph, one; the gate of Benjamin, one; the gate of Dan, one.

32 On the east side, 4,500 units by measurement, there are to be three gates: one named the Joseph Gate, one named the Benjamin Gate, and one named the Dan Gate.

32 And at the east side four thousand and five hundred: and three gates; and one gate of Joseph, one gate of Benjamin, one gate of Dan.

- The tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh were combined as the tribe of Joseph (Gen 48:1)
- Joseph and Benjamin were both sons of Rachel (Gen 30:22-24; 35:16-18)
- Dan was the first son of Rachel's servant Bilhah, who became Jacob's concubine (Gen 30:4-6)

33 On the south side, 4,500 *cubits* by measurement, shall be three gates: the gate of Simeon, one; the gate of Issachar, one; *and* the gate of Zebulun, one.

33 On the south side, 4,500 *cubits* by measurement, shall be three gates: the gate of Simeon, one; the gate of Issachar, one; the gate of Zebulun, one.

33 On the south side, 4,500 units by measurement, there are to be three gates: one named the Simeon Gate, one named the Issachar Gate, and one named the Zebulun Gate.

33 And at the south side four thousand and five hundred measures: and three gates; one gate of Simeon, one gate of Issachar, one gate of Zebulun.

- These three were also born to Leah (Gen 29:33; 30:17-20)
- Since each of these tribes was relocated in the southern portion of the land the gates faced their inheritances (Ezek 48:24-26)

34 On the west side, 4,500 *cubits*, *shall be* three gates: the gate of Gad, one; the gate of Asher, one; *and* the gate of Naphtali, one.

34 On the west side, 4,500 *cubits*, *shall be* three gates: the gate of Gad, one; the gate of Asher, one; the gate of Naphtali, one.

34 On the west side, 4,500 units by measurement, there are to be three gates: one named the Gad Gate, one named the Asher Gate, and one named the Naphtali Gate.

34 At the west side four thousand and five hundred, with their three gates; one gate of Gad, one gate of Asher, one gate of Naphtali.

- These three tribes descended from sons of Jacob's concubines
  - Gad and Asher were born to Zilpah (Gen 30:9-13)
  - Naphtali was born to Bilhah (Gen 30:7-8)

(ii) Size (48:35a)

(iii) Name (48:35b)

35 *The city shall be* eighteen thousand *cubits* all around; and the name of the city from *that day shall be*, '**The LORD is there.**'"

35 *The city shall be 18,000 cubits round about; and the name of the city from that day shall be, 'The LORD is there.'*"

35 A perimeter is to measure 18,000 units, and the name of the city from that time on is to be:

'THE LORD IS THERE.'"

35 It was round about eighteen thousand measures: and the name of the city from that day shall be, The LORD is there.

- "...The LORD is there" - Jehovah *Shammah*

- The city will also be called "Jehovah Our Righteousness" - Jehovah *Zidkenu* (Jer 33:16)

Other passages give further descriptions of this Millennial Jerusalem: Ps 48:1-13; 87:1-7; 122:1-9; 147:1-20; Is 1:26-27; 4:3-6; 14:32; 33:20-24; 52:1-10; 60:10-14; 62:1-12; 65:18-19; 66:10-14; Jer 3:17; 31:6,38-40; 33:9-11; Joel 3:17; Micah 4:6-8; Zeph 3:14-17; Zech 1:14-17; 2:1-5,10-12; 8:1-8,20-22; 14:9-11,20-21.