

Ezekiel 47:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus saith the Lord GOD; This shall be the border, whereby ye shall inherit the land according to the twelve tribes of Israel: Joseph shall have two portions.

Analysis

Thus saith the Lord GOD; This shall be the border, whereby ye shall inherit the land according to the twelve tribes of Israel: Joseph shall have two portions—Land division: גָּבֹל (gēbûl, 'border/boundary') for שְׁנֵי עָשָׂר שָׁבָטִי וְשְׁנָאָל (shēnê 'āsār shivtê yiśrā'ēl, 'twelve tribes of Israel'). (yôsēph hābālîm, 'Joseph [receives] two portions').

Joseph's double portion (through Ephraim and Manasseh—Genesis 48:5) maintains twelve tribal divisions despite Levi receiving no land (Numbers 18:20, 23-24). This fulfills Jacob's blessing (Genesis 48:22) and rewards Joseph's faithfulness. The vision's detailed boundaries (47:13-48:29) demonstrate God's sovereignty over land distribution and covenant faithfulness to patriarchal promises (Genesis 12:7, 15:18-21). Israel's restoration includes territorial restoration—fulfilled partially in post-exilic return, completely in millennial kingdom.

Historical Context

Original tribal allotments (Joshua 13-21) gave Joseph's sons (Ephraim, Manasseh) territories, while Levi received cities. Ezekiel's vision prescribes different boundaries—more symmetrical than historical allotments—suggesting idealized future distribution. Whether literal millennium or symbolic, the vision demonstrates God's faithfulness to land promises. Modern Israel's existence (since

1948) reflects ongoing fulfillment, though complete realization awaits Messiah's return.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Why does Joseph receive double portion even in millennial land distribution?
2. How do Ezekiel's boundaries differ from Joshua's original allotments?
3. What is the relationship between modern Israel and prophetic land promises?

Interlinear Text

אָשֶׁר	גָּבוֹל	גַּם	הָיָה	אָדָם	אָמַר	כִּי	כְּ
H3541	Thus saith	the Lord	GOD	This	shall be the border		H834
	H559	H136	H3069	H1454		H1366	
שָׁבֵט	רֵשֶׁת	לְשָׁבֵן	וְ	פָּאָרֶץ	תְּנַחַל	וְ	תְּ
tribes	H6240	H8147	H776	the land	according to the twelve	H853	whereby ye shall inherit
	H7626						H5157
יְשָׁרָאֵל	וְיַעֲשֵׂה	מְבָלִים					
of Israel	Joseph	shall have two portions					
H3478	H3130	H2256					

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 3:18 (References Israel): In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers.

Genesis 48:5 (Parallel theme): And now thy two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, which were born unto thee in the land of Egypt before I came unto thee into Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine.

Jeremiah 31:1 (References God): At the same time, saith the LORD, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

1 Chronicles 5:1 (References Israel): Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel, (for he was the firstborn; but, forasmuch as he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given unto the sons of Joseph the son of Israel: and the genealogy is not to be reckoned after the birthright.

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