

Ezekiel 47:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall come to pass, that in what tribe the stranger sojourneth, there shall ye give him his inheritance, saith the Lord GOD.

Analysis

And they shall be unto you as born in the country among the children of Israel; they shall have inheritance with you among the tribes of Israel— Resident aliens treated כִּי־אֶזְרָח (kē'ezrāh, 'as native-born') among (bēnē בְּנֵי) יִשְׂרָאֵל (yisrā'ēl, 'children of Israel'). וְכֹי לְכֶם לְנַחַלָה בְּתוֹךְ שָׁבֵטִי יִשְׂרָאֵל (wěhāyū lākhem lēnahālāh bētōkh shivtē yisrā'ēl, 'and they shall be to you for inheritance among the tribes of Israel').

Full equality: foreigners receive נַחַלָה (nahālāh, 'inheritance') among tribes—not separate territory but integrated into tribal structures. This transcends ethnic Israel, defining membership by residence, faithfulness, and reproduction in community rather than pure genealogy. It prefigures new covenant: believers adopted as sons (Romans 8:15, Galatians 4:5), receiving full inheritance (Romans 8:17, Ephesians 1:11, 1 Peter 1:3-4), equal with natural branches (Romans 11:17). No second-class citizens in God's kingdom—all share equally in Messiah's inheritance.

Historical Context

Ruth (Moabite) became Israelite through marriage and faithfulness, entering Messiah's genealogy (Ruth 4:13-22, Matthew 1:5). Rahab (Canaanite) similarly joined Israel (Joshua 6:25, Matthew 1:5). These examples prefigure Ezekiel's principle: foreigners fully incorporated. Ezekiel's vision universalizes this: all

resident aliens receive inheritance. New covenant fulfills completely: every believer, regardless of ethnicity, is Abraham's seed (Galatians 3:7-9, 28-29), inheriting equally.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does full inheritance for foreigners teach about God's inclusive grace?
2. How do Ruth and Rahab prefigure Ezekiel's foreign inclusion?
3. How does equal inheritance in millennial kingdom relate to equal standing in Christ?

Interlinear Text

וְיֹאכַל	בְּשֵׁבֶת	אֲשֶׁר	רֹאשׁ	רֹאשׁ
H1961	And it shall come to pass that in what tribe	H834	sojourneth	the stranger
	H7626		H1481	H1616

וְיֹאכַל	שָׁם	תַּתֵּן	וְנַחֲלָת	יְהוָה:	אָדָם	יְהוָה:
H854	H8033	there shall ye give	him his inheritance	saith	the Lord	H3068
		H5414	H5159	H5002	H136	