

# Ezekiel 48:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

**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.** This verse specifies that the priestly portion surrounds the sanctuary. The repetition of dimensions with directional markers (north, west, east, south) emphasizes the sanctuary's central position within the priests' allotment.

The phrase *těrûmat-haqqodeš* (תְּרוֹמַת־הַקֹּדֶשׁ, "holy oblation") intensifies the previous verse's *těrûmâ*—this isn't merely dedicated land but **holy dedicated land**, sacred at the highest level. The priests' inheritance isn't tribal territory but proximity to God's presence. **"The sanctuary of the LORD shall be in the midst thereof"** reiterates the central point: priestly identity and calling center entirely on God's dwelling place.

This arrangement fulfills Numbers 3:38 where the Levites camped around the tabernacle, forming a protective barrier between God's holiness and the camp. The

priests' geographic encirclement of the sanctuary symbolizes their mediatorial role. In the New Covenant, all believers are priests (1 Peter 2:9, Revelation 1:6), and our lives should "surround" Christ—organized around His presence, protective of His honor, devoted to His service. The sanctuary's centrality in priestly inheritance teaches that **God Himself is the inheritance of those who serve Him** (Numbers 18:20, Psalm 16:5).

## Historical Context

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Under the original tribal allotments, Levites received no territorial inheritance but rather 48 cities scattered among the tribes (Numbers 35:1-8, Joshua 21). This dispersion enabled teaching and ministry throughout Israel but also made Levites economically vulnerable and sometimes spiritually compromised (Judges 17-18, Malachi 2:1-9).

Ezekiel's vision concentrates priests around the sanctuary in permanent, secure territory. This reflects the ideal that those devoted to God's service should be provided for and positioned for effective ministry. The New Testament principle that "those who preach the gospel should live by the gospel" (1 Corinthians 9:14) echoes this provision for priests. The central location ensured priests weren't marginalized but integral to national life—a corrective to Israel's historical tendency to neglect and despise priests (1 Samuel 2:12-17, 29-30).

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does the priests' inheritance being proximity to God rather than productive land challenge modern definitions of blessing and success?
2. In what ways should believers' lives be organized around and protective of God's presence rather than peripheral religious activities?

## Interlinear Text

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לָאָה H428	תְּהִי הָ H1961	תְּרוֹמַת H8641	הַקֹּדֶשׁ H6944	לַכֹּהֲנִים H3548
		oblation	shall be this holy	And for them even for the priests
צָפֹן וְנֹה H6828	חֲמִשָּׁה H2568	וְעֶשְׂרִים H6242	אֶלֶף H505	וְנֹמָה H3220
toward the north	five	and twenty	thousand	in length and toward the west
רָחֹב H7341	עֶשְׂרֵי H6235	אֶלֶף H505	וְקִדְיָמָה H6921	רָחֹב H7341
in breadth	ten	thousand	and toward the east	in breadth
אֶלֶף H505	וְנֹגֵבָה H5045	אֶרְבָּעַת H753	חֲמִשָּׁה H2568	וְעֶשְׂרִים H6242
thousand	and toward the south	in length	five	and twenty
אֶלֶף H505	וְנֹגֵבָה H5045	אֶרְבָּעַת H753	חֲמִשָּׁה H2568	וְעֶשְׂרִים H6242
thousand	and toward the south	in length	five	and twenty
וְהָיָה H1961	מִקְדָּשׁ H4720	יְהוָה H3068	בְּתוֹכָוָה H8432	
	and the sanctuary	of the LORD	shall be in the midst	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 45:4** (Holy): The holy portion of the land shall be for the priests the ministers of the sanctuary, which shall come near to minister unto the LORD: and it shall be a place for their houses, and an holy place for the sanctuary.

**Ezekiel 44:28** (Parallel theme): And it shall be unto them for an inheritance: I am their inheritance: and ye shall give them no possession in Israel: I am their possession.

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