

Ezekiel 48:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

And this oblation of the land that is offered shall be unto them a thing most holy (קדש קדשים, qodesh qodashim)—the superlative "holy of holies" designates the priestly portion as supremely sacred, echoing the inner sanctuary terminology (Exodus 26:33-34). This section borders the Levitical territory, creating a sacred buffer zone around the sanctuary itself.

By the border of the Levites—the priests (sons of Zadok, v.11) receive land immediately adjacent to their Levitical brethren, maintaining tribal unity while honoring the priestly office with superior sanctity. The precise ordering reflects God's blueprint for sacred space: sanctuary at center, priests closest, Levites next, then common land—a pattern inverting the chaos of exile with divine order.

Historical Context

Ezekiel writes from Babylonian exile (593-571 BC) describing an idealized temple and land distribution for the restoration. The "holy oblation" (תרומה, terumah) is a dedicated contribution from the whole land, measuring 25,000x25,000 cubits. This vision addresses the pre-exilic corruption where priests accumulated personal wealth while neglecting temple service (Malachi 1:6-14).

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does God's meticulous ordering of sacred space challenge modern casual approaches to worship?
2. What does the "most holy" designation for priestly service teach about the weight of spiritual leadership?

Interlinear Text

קָדֵשׁ יְמִם	בְּאַכְזָבָה	מִתְרֹוםָת	תְּרֹוםָה	לְקָרְבָּן	וּפְנֵים	הַ
H1961	H0	And this oblation	that is offered	of the land	holy	
		H8642	H8641	H776		H6944
holy	by the border	of the Levites				
H6944	H413	H1366	H3881			

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org