

Ezekiel 48:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Over against the border of the priests the Levites shall have five and twenty thousand in length, and ten thousand in breadth—the Levitical portion mirrors the priestly dimensions (25,000x10,000 cubits), honoring their ministerial role while maintaining hierarchical distinction. The phrase **over against** (נִמְעַן, leummāt) means "corresponding to" or "parallel with," emphasizing ordered symmetry in God's design.

The repetition of measurements—**all the length shall be five and twenty thousand, and the breadth ten thousand**—serves rhetorical emphasis, underscoring permanence and precision. Unlike the fluid, contested borders of monarchic Israel, this allocation reflects eschatological stability where each tribe receives its divinely ordained inheritance without encroachment or dispute.

Historical Context

The Levites received no territorial inheritance in the original conquest (Numbers 18:20-24), instead receiving 48 cities scattered throughout Israel plus tithes for their temple service. Ezekiel's vision grants them a contiguous territorial portion, elevating their status in the restored community while maintaining their special relationship to the sanctuary and priestly tribe.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does God's provision for the Levites demonstrate that those who serve Him will never lack?
2. What does the parallel-but-distinct allocation to priests and Levites teach about unity and order in ministry?

Interlinear Text

וְלֹא יִמְלֹא כָּבֵד יְהוָה בְּעֶמֶת
the Levites And over against the border of the priests shall be five and twenty

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