

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** (לְעִמָּת, le-ummat) 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

וְהַלְוִיִּם	לְעֵמֶת	גֹּב וְלִ	הַכֹּהֲנִים	חֲמִשָּׁה	וְעֶשְׂרִים
the Levites	And over against	the border	of the priests	shall be five	and twenty
H3881	H5980	H1366	H3548	H2568	H6242

אֶלְפִּים:	אֵל רֶךְ	וְרֵחַב	עֶשְׂרֵת	אֶלְפִּים:	כָּל
thousand	all the length	and the breadth	and ten	thousand	
H505	H753	H7341	H6235	H505	H3605

אֵל רֶךְ	חֲמִשָּׁה	וְעֶשְׂרִים	אֶלְפִּים:	וְרֵחַב	עֶשְׂרֵת
all the length	shall be five	and twenty	thousand	and the breadth	and ten
H753	H2568	H6242	H505	H7341	H6235

אֶלְפִּים:

thousand

H505