

# Ezekiel 48:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they shall not sell of it, neither exchange, nor alienate the firstfruits of the land: for it is holy unto the LORD.

## Analysis

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**They shall not sell of it, neither exchange, nor alienate the firstfruits of the land**—three prohibitions (לֹא-יִמְכְּרוּ, lo-yimkeru; לֹא-יִגְמִיר, lo-yamir; לֹא-יַעֲבֹר, lo-ya'avor) establish inalienable sanctity. The term **alienate** literally means "cause to pass over" (to another owner), preventing the economic commodification of sacred space.

**For it is holy unto the LORD** (קֹדֶשׁ לַיהוָה, qodesh la-YHWH)—the land belongs to Yahweh in perpetuity, not to human owners. This reverses the pre-exilic crisis where wealthy landowners accumulated property (Isaiah 5:8, Micah 2:2), ultimately forfeiting the entire land through exile. Here God establishes irrevocable consecration, protecting sacred space from greed and ensuring permanent provision for temple service.

## Historical Context

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The Year of Jubilee (Leviticus 25) included land redemption provisions, but sacred portions consecrated to the Lord could not be redeemed (Leviticus 27:28). This "devotion unto the Lord" (herem) created permanent holy status. Pre-exilic Jerusalem saw temple lands sold or appropriated by corrupt officials (Jeremiah 32:6-15), but Ezekiel's vision establishes unbreakable consecration.

## Related Passages

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

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

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does the prohibition against selling holy things challenge contemporary "marketplace Christianity" that commercializes spiritual ministry?
2. What does permanent consecration teach about irrevocable commitments to God's service?

## Interlinear Text

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|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| וְלֹא               | וְיָמָּכָר וְ                  | וְיָמָּכָר וְ      | וְלֹא אֵל     | וְיָמָּכָר וְ                 | וְלֹא אֵל            |
| H3808               | <b>And they shall not sell</b> | H4480              | H3808         | <b>of it neither exchange</b> | H3808                |
|                     | H4376                          |                    |               | H4171                         |                      |
| וְיָמָּכָר וְ       | וְיָמָּכָר וְ                  | וְיָמָּכָר וְ      | וְיָמָּכָר וְ | וְיָמָּכָר וְ                 | וְיָמָּכָר וְ        |
| <b>nor alienate</b> | <b>the firstfruits</b>         | <b>of the land</b> | H3588         | <b>for it is holy</b>         | <b>unto the LORD</b> |
| H5674               | H7225                          | H776               |               | H6944                         | H3068                |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Leviticus 27:28** (Holy): Notwithstanding no devoted thing, that a man shall devote unto the LORD of all that he hath, both of man and beast, and of the field of his possession, shall be sold or redeemed: every devoted thing is most holy unto the LORD.