

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

They shall not sell of it, neither exchange, nor alienate the firstfruits of the land—three prohibitions (לא־יִמְכְרוּ, lo-yimkeru; לא־יִגְמִיר, lo-yamir; לא־יִעָבֵר, 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

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

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

וְלֹא	וְיִמְכְּרוּ	מִמֶּנּוּ	וְלֹא	יִמְרָו	וְלֹא
H3808	And they shall not sell	H4480	H3808	of it neither exchange	H3808
	H4376			H4171	
וְיַעֲבֹדוּ	רֵאשִׁית יִתְּנוּ	הָאָרֶץ	כִּי	קֹדֶשׁ	לַיהוָה:
nor alienate	the firstfruits	of the land	H3588	for it is holy	unto the LORD
H5674	H7225	H776		H6944	H3068

Additional Cross-References

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.