

# Ezekiel 48:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the five thousand, that are left in the breadth over against the five and twenty thousand, shall be a profane place for the city, for dwelling, and for suburbs: and the city shall be in the midst thereof.

## Analysis

**The five thousand, that are left...shall be a profane place for the city**—the term **profane** (חול, chol) means "common" or "secular," not defiled but simply non-sacred. This distinction creates balanced theology: not all space is temple-holy, yet common life adjacent to sacred space receives dignity and purpose.

**For dwelling, and for suburbs** (לְמוֹשָׁב וּלְמִגְרָשׁ, le-moshav u-le-migrash)—residential areas with open lands for agriculture, showing God's concern for ordinary human needs alongside sacred worship. **The city shall be in the midst thereof**—centrally located, the city serves those who minister in the temple, creating integrated sacred-secular community rather than isolated monasticism.

## Historical Context

Unlike ancient Near Eastern temple cities where priests monopolized resources, Ezekiel's vision includes common people serving the sanctuary community. The "profane" designation doesn't diminish but dignifies ordinary labor supporting sacred service. Archaeological evidence from Jerusalem shows the ancient city intermingled sacred and domestic spaces without formal zoning.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does the distinction between "holy" and "common" (not "profane" as defiled) shape your understanding of secular work?
2. What does centralized planning around the sanctuary teach about orienting all of life toward worship?

## Interlinear Text

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חֲמִשָּׁה הַ	אֶלֶף	הַנוֹתָר ר	בְּרֵחַב	עַל	פְּנֵי י	חֲמִשָּׁה הַ
And the five	thousand	that are left	in the breadth	H5921	over against	And the five
H2568	H505	H3498	H7341		H6440	H2568
וְעֶשְׂרִים	אֶלֶף	חֵל	ה וְא	הָעִיר	לְמוֹשֵׁב בַּ	
and twenty	thousand	shall be a profane	H1931	and the city	for dwelling	
H6242	H505	H2455		H5892	H4186	
וּלְמִגְדַּיִם	וְהִיֵּת הַ	הָעִיר	בְּתוֹכָהּ:			
and for suburbs	H1961	and the city	shall be in the midst			
H4054		H5892	H8432			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 45:6** (Parallel theme): And ye shall appoint the possession of the city five thousand broad, and five and twenty thousand long, over against the oblation of the holy portion: it shall be for the whole house of Israel.

**Ezekiel 42:20** (Parallel theme): He measured it by the four sides: it had a wall round about, five hundred reeds long, and five hundred broad, to make a separation between the sanctuary and the profane place.

