

# Ezekiel 48:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And these shall be the measures thereof; the north side four thousand and five hundred, and the south side four thousand and five hundred, and on the east side four thousand and five hundred, and the west side four thousand and five hundred.

## Analysis

---

**These shall be the measures thereof**—the city forms a perfect square (4,500 cubits per side), echoing the symmetry of the New Jerusalem which is also foursquare (Revelation 21:16). The repetition across **north...south...east...west** emphasizes completeness and divine order extending to all four directions, symbolizing universal scope.

The precise measurements contrast with the ruined, asymmetrical Jerusalem Ezekiel's audience knew. Mathematical precision reflects theological truth: God's restoration is not haphazard but architecturally perfect, geometrically expressing divine attributes of order, beauty, and unchanging purpose. The squared city shape may also represent stability—unlike circular cities (Babylon) associated with pagan cosmology, the square signifies Yahweh's sovereign design.

## Historical Context

---

Ancient Near Eastern cities typically grew organically without geometric planning, though some Mesopotamian cities attempted sacred geometry. Jerusalem's topography prevented perfect symmetry—it sprawled across hills with irregular walls. Ezekiel's idealized vision presents eschatological rather than merely practical architecture, anticipating the geometrically perfect eternal city.

## Related Passages

---

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

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

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

---

1. How does God's attention to precise measurements in sacred things challenge sloppy approaches to worship and obedience?
2. What does the foursquare city pointing to Revelation 21 teach about continuity between Old Testament promises and New Testament fulfillment?

