

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

Psalm 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?

Interlinear Text

אַלְּהָ	מִדּוֹתִים	וּפְאַת	אֲפָגָן	סִמְנָה
H428	And these shall be the measures	side	thereof the north	and five
	H4060	H6285	H6828	H2568
hundred	four	thousand	side	and the south
H3967	H702	H505	H6285	H5045
hundred	four	thousand	side	and on the east
H3967	H702	H505	H6285	H6921
four	thousand	side	and the west	and five
H702	H505	H6285	H3220	H2568
אַלְּפִים:		וּפְאַת	סִמְנָה	סִמְנָה
thousand		אֲפָגָן	מִזְבֵּחַ	מִזְבֵּחַ
		H505	H3967	H3967

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 21:16 (Parallel theme): And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.

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