

# Ezekiel 48:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the residue in length over against the oblation of the holy portion shall be ten thousand eastward, and ten thousand westward: and it shall be over against the oblation of the holy portion; and the increase thereof shall be for food unto them that serve the city.

## Analysis

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**The residue in length over against the oblation of the holy portion**—the remaining agricultural land (10,000 cubits east and west) runs parallel (le-ummat) to the sacred precinct, maintaining geographical relationship between provision and worship. **The increase thereof shall be for food unto them that serve the city**—divine provision directly supports those laboring in the sacred community.

This principle mirrors New Testament teaching: "they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel" (1 Corinthians 9:14). The agricultural yield doesn't enrich absentee landlords but feeds actual workers—a direct rebuke to pre-exilic exploitation where elites consumed while laborers starved (James 5:4). The land's productivity (tevu'ah, increase/produce) flows from proximity to holy things, suggesting blessing radiates from the sanctuary.

## Historical Context

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Pre-exilic Jerusalem saw vast inequality where temple lands enriched priestly families while ordinary Levites and workers lacked basic provision (Nehemiah 13:10). Ezekiel's vision establishes economic justice through structured land use:

those who labor receive the land's increase. This addresses the systemic injustice that contributed to exile (Ezekiel 34:1-10).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does the principle of workers receiving land's increase challenge systems where laborers are exploited while others profit?
2. What does agricultural land "over against" the holy portion teach about the connection between worship and daily provision?

## Interlinear Text

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וְהִנּוּתָּ ר	בְּאֵל רֶךְ	לְעֵמָּ ת	תְּרוּמָּ ת	הַקֹּדֶשׁ		
And the residue	in length	and it shall be over against	the oblation	of the holy		
H3498	H753	H5980	H8641	H6944		
וְעֶשְׂרֵת	אַלְפִים	קִדְ יָמָה	וְעֶשְׂרֵת	אַלְפִים	יָמָה	וְהִי ה
and ten	thousand	eastward	and ten	thousand	westward	H1961
H6235	H505	H6921	H6235	H505	H3220	
לְעֵמָּ ת		תְּרוּמָּ ת	הַקֹּדֶשׁ	וְהִי ה		
and it shall be over against		the oblation	of the holy	H1961		
H5980		H8641	H6944			
תְּבוּאָתָהּ		לֶל חֵם	לְעַבְדֵי י	הָעִיר:		
portion and the increase		thereof shall be for food	unto them that serve	the city		
H8393		H3899	H5647	H5892		