

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

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-ummah) 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

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

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

בָּאֵךְ	וּבְנֹתֶת רָ	לְעַמְתָּה	תְּרֻומָת	בְּקָדְשָׁה
And the residue	in length	and it shall be over against	the oblation	of the holy
H3498	H753	H5980	H8641	H6944
וּבְנֹתֶת רָ	בְּקָדְשָׁה	וּבְנֹתֶת רָ	וּבְנֹתֶת רָ	וּבְנֹתֶת רָ
and ten	thousand	eastward	and ten	thousand
H6235	H505	H6921	H6235	H505
אֶלְפִים	וְעַשְׁ רָת	קָדְשָׁה יְמָה	אֶלְפִים	וְעַשְׁ רָת
and ten	thousand	eastward	and ten	thousand
H1961	H3220	H1961	H3220	H1961
לְעַמְתָּה	תְּרֻומָת	בְּקָדְשָׁה	וּבְנֹתֶת רָ	בְּקָדְשָׁה
and it shall be over against	the oblation	of the holy	H1961	H1961
H5980	H8641	H6944		
תְּבֹאָתָה	לְלִכְמָה	לְעַבְדֵי	בָּעִירָה	בָּעִירָה
portion and the increase	thereof shall be for food	unto them that serve	the city	the city
H8393	H3899	H5647	H5892	H5892