

Ezekiel 48:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Moreover from the possession of the Levites, and from the possession of the city, being in the midst of that which is the prince's, between the border of Judah and the border of Benjamin, shall be for the prince.

Analysis

Moreover from the possession of the Levites, and from the possession of the city, being in the midst of that which is the prince's—This verse clarifies the prince's territorial allocation, defined by its boundaries: the Levitical possession to the north, the sacred city district, and the tribal lands of Judah (north) and Benjamin (south). The Hebrew *la-nassi* (לַנָּסִי, "for the prince") emphasizes the mediatorial role of this ruler between the sacred temple district and the secular tribal territories.

The careful geographic precision reflects the new covenant order where sacred space and political authority are distinct yet harmoniously arranged. Unlike the pre-exilic monarchy where kings often encroached on temple prerogatives (Uzziah's presumption in 2 Chronicles 26:16-21), this eschatological arrangement preserves boundaries. The prince's territory literally surrounds the holy district, symbolizing his role as protector rather than proprietor of sacred things—a picture of Christ's kingship that honors His Father's house while ruling over His people.

Historical Context

This concluding section of Ezekiel's temple vision (chapters 40-48) was received circa 573 BCE during the Babylonian exile, twenty-five years after Jerusalem's fall.

The meticulous land division never materialized in the post-exilic return under Zerubbabel and Ezra. The prince (nasi) is consistently distinguished from melek (king), suggesting a more limited, servant-leadership role. This territorial arrangement, with its symmetric tribal allotments and central holy district, presents an idealized restoration that transcends the historical complexities of the actual return, pointing toward the eschatological kingdom.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the prince's position—surrounding but not possessing the holy district—model proper spiritual leadership?
2. What does the clear boundary between sacred and secular space teach about God's order in governance?

Interlinear Text

וּמֵאֲחֵי ת	הַלְוִיִּם	וּמֵאֲחֵי ת	הָעִיר
Moreover from the possession	of the Levites	Moreover from the possession	of the city
H272	H3881	H272	H5892
בֵּית וְ	אֲשֶׁר	לְנֶשֶׁת יֵא	בֶּן יִן וְהִיא
being in the midst	H834	of that which is the prince's	H1961 H996
H8432		H5387	
גֹּב וְ	יְהוּדָה	וּבֵין	גֹּב וְ
and the border	of Judah	H996	of Benjamin
H1366	H3063	H1366	H1144
לְנֶשֶׁת יֵא	וְהִיא:		
of that which is the prince's	H1961		
H5387			