

# Ezekiel 48:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As for the rest of the tribes, from the east side unto the west side, Benjamin shall have a portion.

## Analysis

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**As for the rest of the tribes, from the east side unto the west side, Benjamin shall have a portion.** The allocation now shifts to the southern tribal territories. Benjamin's placement immediately south of the prince's land (and thus adjacent to the holy district) reflects this tribe's historical loyalty to the Davidic throne and the temple. The Hebrew *yeter ha-shevatim* (יֵתֵר הַשִּׁבְטִים, "the rest of the tribes") marks the transition from the seven northern tribes (48:1-7) to the five southern ones.

Benjamin's prominence is theologically significant: this tribe remained with Judah through the kingdom's division (1 Kings 12:21), Jerusalem sat on the Benjamin-Judah border, and Saul (Israel's first king) and Paul (the apostle to the Gentiles) both came from Benjamin. The horizontal strips *mi-pe'at qedimah 'ad-pe'at yammah* (מִפְּאַת קֶדִימָה עַד־פְּאַת־יָמָה, "from the east side unto the west side") emphasize equality—each tribe receives the same dimensions regardless of population or past prominence.

## Historical Context

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Benjamin's historical significance includes being Jacob's youngest son (born to Rachel, Genesis 35:18), producing Israel's first monarch (Saul), and housing much of Jerusalem within its territory. During the divided monarchy (930-722 BCE), Benjamin remained loyal to the Davidic house when the ten northern tribes

rebelled. Post-exilically, many who returned were Benjamites (Ezra 4:1, Nehemiah 11:7-9), maintaining continuity with the pre-exilic community.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

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

## Study Questions

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1. What does Benjamin's proximity to the holy district suggest about the blessing of faithfulness through trials?
2. How does the equal apportionment of land reflect kingdom values that differ from worldly merit-based systems?

## Interlinear Text

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וְלִי תָר	הַשְּׁבֵט יִם	פָּאָת	קֵד יָמָה	עַד	פָּאָת	לְמָה
<b>As for the rest</b>	<b>of the tribes</b>	<b>side</b>	<b>from the east</b>	H5704	<b>side</b>	<b>unto the west</b>
H3499	H7626	H6285	H6921		H6285	H3220
בְּנֵימִן	אֶחָד:					
<b>Benjamin</b>	<b>shall have a</b>					
H1144	H259					

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