

Ezekiel 48:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And at the east side four thousand and five hundred: and three gates; and one gate of Joseph, one gate of Benjamin, one gate of Dan.

Analysis

And at the east side four thousand and five hundred: and three gates; and one gate of Joseph, one gate of Benjamin, one gate of Dan. The eastern wall of the holy city measures 4,500 cubits (approximately 2.25 miles) with three tribal gates. The eastern orientation is significant—the glory of God departed eastward (Ezekiel 10:18-19, 11:23) and returns from the east (Ezekiel 43:1-4). The eastern gates witness both departure and return.

The tribal selection is theologically loaded: **Joseph** (representing Ephraim and Manasseh, the northern kingdom), **Benjamin** (faithful to Judah through the division), and **Dan** (the northernmost tribe, often associated with idolatry at Bethel and Laish—Judges 18). That Dan receives a gate despite its apostasy demonstrates radical grace—Jacob prophesied Dan would be "a serpent by the way" (Genesis 49:17), yet here Dan has permanent access to God's presence. This is scandalous grace. Joseph's inclusion (though divided into Ephraim/Manasseh elsewhere) suggests restored unity between north and south. Benjamin's presence connects to the tribe of Paul, who brought the gospel to the nations.

Historical Context

The eastern gate held special significance in Jerusalem's temple. It faced the Mount of Olives and the wilderness beyond. Solomon's temple and the second temple had eastern gates; Jesus entered Jerusalem from the east (Matthew 21:1),

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2