

Ezekiel 48:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The oblation that ye shall offer unto the LORD shall be of five and twenty thousand in length, and of ten thousand in breadth.

Analysis

The oblation that ye shall offer unto the LORD shall be of five and twenty thousand in length, and of ten thousand in breadth. This verse specifies the dimensions of the sacred tērūmā (תְּרוּמָה, "oblation/offering"). The measurements—25,000 reeds long (north-south) by 10,000 reeds wide (east-west)—create a rectangular sacred zone. The number 25,000 appears repeatedly (vv. 8-10, 13, 15, 20, 21), emphasizing divine precision and intentionality.

The language "ye shall offer unto the LORD" indicates this land doesn't belong to any tribe but is dedicated entirely to God. **Before any tribal inheritance is allocated, a portion is set aside for the LORD—the principle of firstfruits applied to land distribution.** This embodies Proverbs 3:9: "Honor the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase." God's portion comes first, not as afterthought or remainder.

The careful specification of sacred space contrasts with Israel's historical tendency to treat holy things carelessly. The ark was lost, the temple defiled, the priesthood corrupted. Ezekiel's vision reimagines a social order where **holiness is structurally protected by geographic separation, ensuring God's dwelling place remains undefiled.** This principle finds New Covenant expression in believers as temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19), requiring intentional sanctification and boundaries against defilement.

Historical Context

Israel's original conquest under Joshua included no central sacred district—the tabernacle moved to various locations (Shiloh, Nob, Gibeon) before Solomon built the temple in Jerusalem. The lack of permanent, protected sacred space contributed to religious instability and syncretism. High places proliferated, and the ark itself was captured by Philistines (1 Samuel 4).

Ezekiel's vision corrects this by designating permanent, inviolable sacred territory. The dimensions far exceed the temple mount's actual size, emphasizing the eschatological nature of the vision. Post-exilic return saw the second temple built (516 BC), but on the original site without the expanded sacred district. This confirms that Ezekiel's vision points beyond literal rebuilding to spiritual realities in the messianic age.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does dedicating the first and best portion to God challenge modern attitudes toward giving and stewardship?
2. What practical boundaries protect the "sacred space" of your relationship with God from encroachment by worldly concerns?

Interlinear Text

חֲמַשׁ	ה	אֶלָּא	לִיהְיוֹן	ה	פְּתֻרּוּם	רָאשׁ	תְּפִירָה
The oblation	H834	that ye shall offer	unto the LORD	in length	shall be of five		
H8641		H7311	H3068	H753		H2568	
אֶלָּא	לִיהְיוֹן	ה	פְּתֻרּוּם	רָאשׁ	תְּפִירָה	חֲמַשׁ	ה
אֶלָּא	לִיהְיוֹן	ה	פְּתֻרּוּם	רָאשׁ	תְּפִירָה	חֲמַשׁ	ה
אֶלָּא	לִיהְיוֹן	ה	פְּתֻרּוּם	רָאשׁ	תְּפִירָה	חֲמַשׁ	ה
אֶלָּא	לִיהְיוֹן	ה	פְּתֻרּוּם	רָאשׁ	תְּפִירָה	חֲמַשׁ	ה
אֶלָּא	לִיהְיוֹן	ה	פְּתֻרּוּם	רָאשׁ	תְּפִירָה	חֲמַשׁ	ה

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