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Three Rivers Fellowship

The Holy Oblation of the Millennial Kingdom

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1. INTRODUCTION

This study is taken from essentially two sources: (1) The majority of the text is taken from [2] and the ideas have been developed from [1]. The main purpose of this study is to examine the part of the Millennial Infrastructure called the Holy Oblation. As will be seen the Holy Oblation is in the middle of the Prince's Portion around Jerusalem and plays the central role in Israel's Sacrificial-Ceremonial System. As members of the Body of Christ it is important to understand these concepts in that the Body of Christ through the angels will direct the affairs of the Millennial Kingdom. It behooves us therefore to become familiar with the details of Israel's hope so that we may be that much more familiar with ours.

2. THE LAND PROMISED TO ABRAHAM

In this section we look at the specifics of the Land promised to Abraham. Later revelation contains details that were not given to Abraham in Gen. 12. This detail is provided and discussed in each sub-section and deals with the definitions of the borders of the Land.

2.1. Abraham's Trek and General References to the Land (from Genesis)

[See Figure 1] Gen. 11:31 and 12:1 tell us that God wanted Abram to leave his father's homeland and go to the Promised Land (land of Canaan). Most scholars indicate two typical routes for this portion of the trek: a more northern route or a more southern route. The southern route seems by most to be the more plausible. This route would have taken Abram up along side the Euphrates River, no doubt resting in cities such as: Erech, Babylon, Mari, finally making his way to Charran. This leg of the trek outlines the Eastern Border of the Land eventually promised to Abraham. This border stems from the Confluence of the Tigris-Euphrates River System to the northern portion of the Euphrates River. Charran itself lies on a tributary of the Euphrates River system called the Balikh River. Thus, Abram's trek from Ur to Charran was about 600 miles.

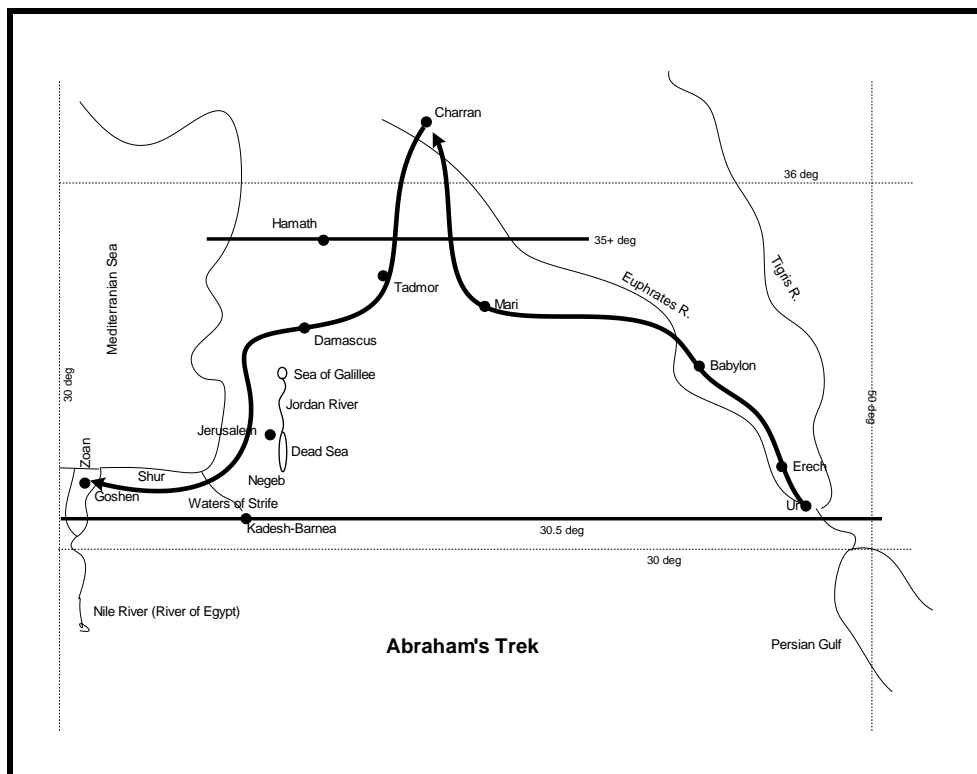


Figure 1. *The Trek of Abram*

Abram sojourns in Charran for about 25 years before leaving for the Promised Land, but does not leave until his father Terah (205) dies. Abram is 75 years of age when he leaves for Canaan and journeys to the western side of the Jordan River probably passing through Tadmor and Damascus along the way. He first settles in a city called

Shechem (12:6,7). Shechem is in the area known in the New Testament as Samaria¹. Jehovah appears to Abram reiterating the Abrahamic Covenant and the Land that Abram is to inherit. As a result, Abram builds an altar to the Lord. Next Abram moves some 20 miles south to the mountains between Bethel and Ai (12:8).

Abram continues south (Heb: Negeb=south of Judea), but because of a famine “high-tails” it to Egypt (12:10), probably to the city of Zoan (a.k.a. Raamses, Tanis) which is on the eastern side of the Tanitic Tributary of the Nile Delta. Zoan is the farthest Abram travels west and seems to provide the western boundary of the Promised Land. After leaving Egypt Abram and his family travel back through the Negeb to the mountains between Bethel and Ai (13:1-4). However, because of the insufficient amount of land Lot chooses to take the land east (Trans-Jordan) of the Jordan River while Abram remains on the western side (Cis-Jordan) of the Jordan.

After Lot leaves, Jehovah speaks to Abram and reiterates His covenant with Abram (the Abrahamic Covenant). In this discourse, Jehovah tells Abram to look in all four directions (13:14-18) and gaze upon the Land promised to him. Afterwards, Abram moves to Hebron and settles. Upon hearing the news of Lot’s capture by Chedorlaomer, et al, Abram pursues the 4 Kings, defeats them, and carries Lot and all his belongings back to Trans-Jordan (14:1-17). In doing so, Abram traveled as far north as Damascus (14:14:15).

After the remarkably sinful behavior of Lot’s daughters, Abraham moves from Mamre and sojourns into the south country (Negeb). Here Abraham encounters Abimilech (a righteous Gentile) and covenants together in Beer-Sheba. After many days, Abraham takes Isaac to the land of Moriah (Jeru-Salem – perhaps the very hill upon which the Lord was Crucified) and offers him until the Lord steps in and provides the ram sacrifice.

Abraham returns to Hebron (Kijath-Arba) where he eventually buries his dearest wife Sarah (cp. 23). Finally, after acquiring Rebekah for Isaac to marry (cp. 24), Abraham marries Keturah, she bears six sons, and Abraham “gives up the ghost” and is buried with Sarah in Hebron.

By way of summary, Abraham journeyed from Ur, followed the Euphrates River to Charran and dwelt at Charran for about 25 years. From Charran Abraham journeyed into Canaan and Egypt and settled in Canaan. Thus, Abraham spent most of his life in the **southwest portion** of the Land promised to him by Jehovah.

2.2. Eastern and Western Borders Defined

Jehovah Elohim reiterates and specifies the eastern and western borders of the Land that Abram is to inherit (**Gen. 15:18-21**). **[See Figure 2]**

Jehovah states that the western border is to be the River of Egypt, which in the context of Abram’s travels MUST be the Nile River, while the eastern border must be the Euphrates River. The trek of Abram is crucial to understand the specifics of these borders. The Normative Hermeneutic demands that we understand God’s statements just as Abram would have understood them. The River of Egypt = the Nile River (or the eastern most tributary) and Great River = the Euphrates River. By the time of this re-declaration of the Abrahamic Covenant Abram had already walked (defined) the Land of which he is to inherit - from Ur to Egypt.

Deut 11:24 also provides a summary of the Land promised Abraham and further establishes the Eastern Border to be that of the Euphrates and the Mediterranean to be a “part” of the Western Border.

So if we correlate (taking the union) these sets of data, we see the following:

- The Eastern Border is clearly the Euphrates River.
- The farthest most western point of Israel’s Border is the Nile River (Delta Region). The remaining western border follows along the Mediterranean Sea.

These two bullet items seem to properly define the eastern and western borders and take into account all the data provided us in the text.

2.3. Northern and Southern Borders Defined

Ezekiel 47 and 48 provide details that define for us the Northern and Southern Boundaries of the Millennial Land (Abraham’s Promised Land). **[See Figure 2]**

¹ See John 4 for the account of one of Christ’s greatest “witnesses”. Sychar and the woman at the well took place in Samaria.

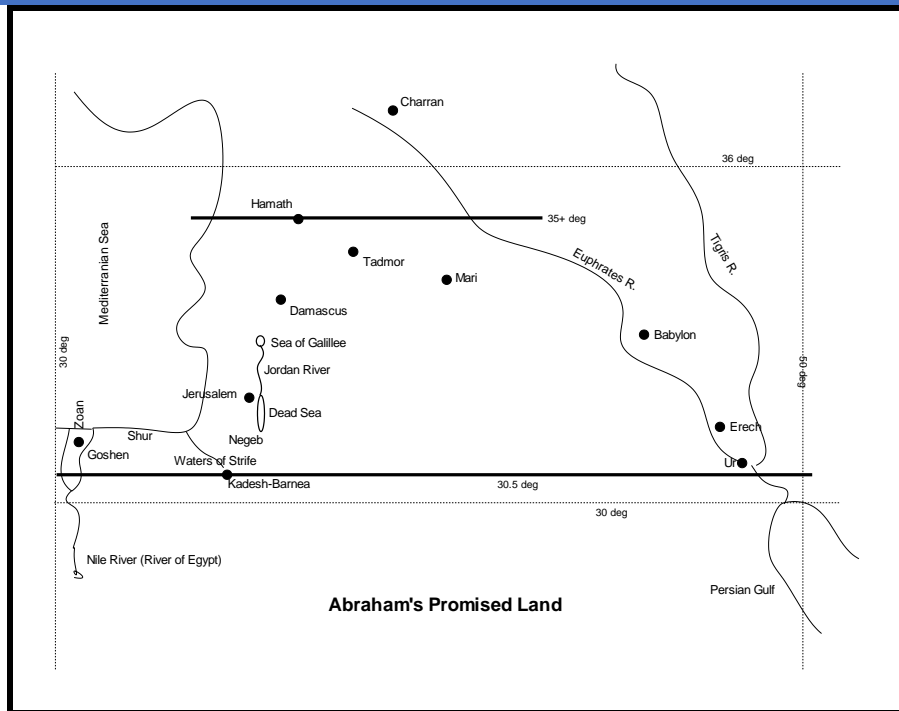


Figure 2. *The Borders of Abraham's Land*

2.3.1. Hamath, the Cities of the North, and the Northern Border

The Northern Boundary is specifically defined by drawing a “Latitudinal Line” from the Mediterranean Sea through Hamath to the Euphrates River (**Ez 47:15-17, 20; 48:1**). As we do today, often an “area” surrounding a city is given by that city’s name. This being the case may mean that the northern border is slightly further north than the city of Hamath itself.

2.3.2. Kadesh-Barnea, the Waters of Strife, and the Southern Border

The Southern Boundary is specifically defined by drawing a “Latitudinal Line” with Kadesh-Barnea as an element of that line; from the Nile River (or its Eastern most tributary) to the Euphrates River system (**Ez 47:19; 48:28**). The “waters of strife” are a reference to Num 20 where Moses disobeyed God when attempting to retrieve water from a rock. Instead of talking to the rock as God commanded, Moses twice struck the rock with his staff. In striking the Rock (a figure of Christ – 1 Cor 10:4) twice, Moses denied that the Atonement of Christ needed only to happen once! This was in direct disobedience of God’s command and was the fundamental reason why Moses did not enter into the Promised Land.

2.4. Summary Comments

The general layout of the Land extends from the Euphrates River on the East to the Mediterranean Sea on the West, extending around the southern coast of the Sea to the Nile River. The Northern Border is defined by drawing a “Latitudinal Line” from the Mediterranean Sea through Hamath (35+° N. Lat.) to the Euphrates River. The Southern Border is defined by drawing a “Latitudinal Line” from the Nile River Basin (Delta Region) through Kadesh-Barnea (30.5° N. Lat.) to the confluence of the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers.

3. THE SPECIFICS OF THE MILLENNIAL-TRIBAL PARCELS

[See Figure 3] This section outlines the specific tribal divisions of the Millennial Land (Abraham’s Promised Land). Ezekiel Chapters 47 and 48 provide the details for the dividing of the Promised Land among the Twelve Tribes of Israel. This section is essentially for discussion purposes ONLY, and should be viewed as incomplete. Further study is required to provide for the full embodiment of information given for the Millennial Infrastructure.

The Millennial Land as described in Ezekiel is essentially divided into three main sections north to south. The first or northern section is composed of tribal lands divided equally from the land of Hamath to the Holy Oblation. The

second section is the Holy Oblation with its center in Shiloh (some 20 miles north of Jerusalem). Finally, the third section is the land from the Holy Oblation to Kadesh-Barnea.

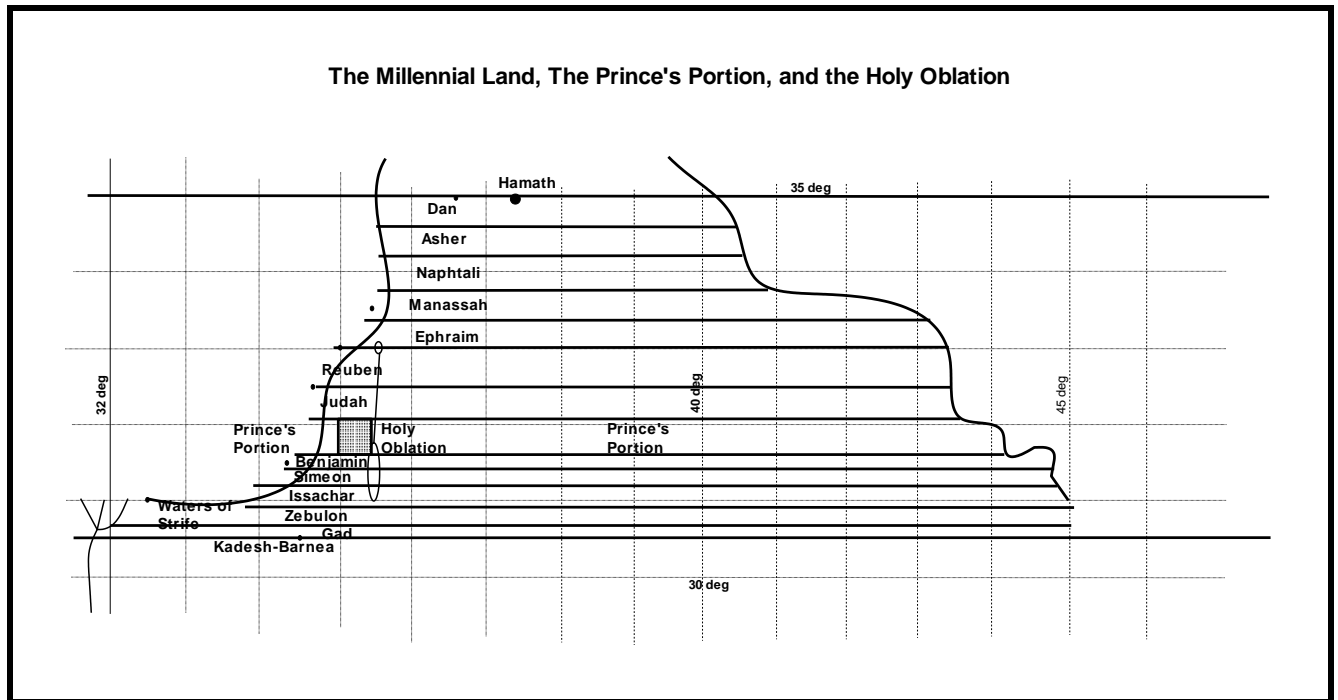


Figure 3. *The Millennial Division of Abraham's Land*

3.1. The Northern Parcels

The Northern Parcels are divisions of the Land stretching from Hamath to the Holy Oblation. The tribes inheriting this land are Dan, Asher, Naphtali, Manassah, Ephraim, Reuben, and Judah. A few comments are in order.

- (1) Dan is the farthest from the Holy Oblation. This may be due to the fact that Dan was the first tribe to grossly apostasize and eventually become extinct. Thus, the Danites inhabiting the Millennial Land are elect characters from Israel's past (e.g., Samson). Note that because there are no extant Danites, they are not included among the "role-call" of the 144K.
- (2) Judah, one of the last tribes to apostasize is closest to the Holy Oblation. Judah returning from Babylon was one of the two tribes of the Kingdom of Judah that helped rebuild the Temple under guidance of Zerubbabel (Ezra & Nehemiah).
- (3) Joseph through his two sons (Manassah and Ephraim) inherits two parcels of the Land. In this way, Joseph receives his double portion.

3.2. The Southern Parcels

The Southern Parcels are divisions of the Land stretching north to south from the Holy Oblation to Kadesh-Barnea. The tribes inheriting this land are Benjamin, Simeon, Issachar, Zebulon, and Gad. A few comments are in order.

- (1) Benjamin is closest to the Holy Oblation perhaps because with Judah was the last tribe to apostasize. Furthermore, like Judah, Benjamin was part of the captivity returning with Zerubbabel to rebuild the Temple.
- (2) Gad who inhabited Gilead, east of the Jordan is now brought west and south of the Jordan Valley.

3.3. The Holy Oblation

The Holy Oblation contained within the "Prince's Parcel" is described as comprising three parts: (1) The Levites' Portion, (2) The Priests' Portion, and (3) The "Common" Portion. Each of these portions is briefly discussed below. The entire Holy Oblation lies within the Prince's Portion as detailed in the dividing up of the Millennial Land. The Holy Oblation is described as being 25,000 Reeds on either side. One Reed is basically 3.5 Yards (see next section for metric details) so that the dimensions of the Holy Oblation in English Units, is approximately

50 Miles by 50 Miles. The following figure provides a summary graphic of the Holy Oblation and its constituent parts.

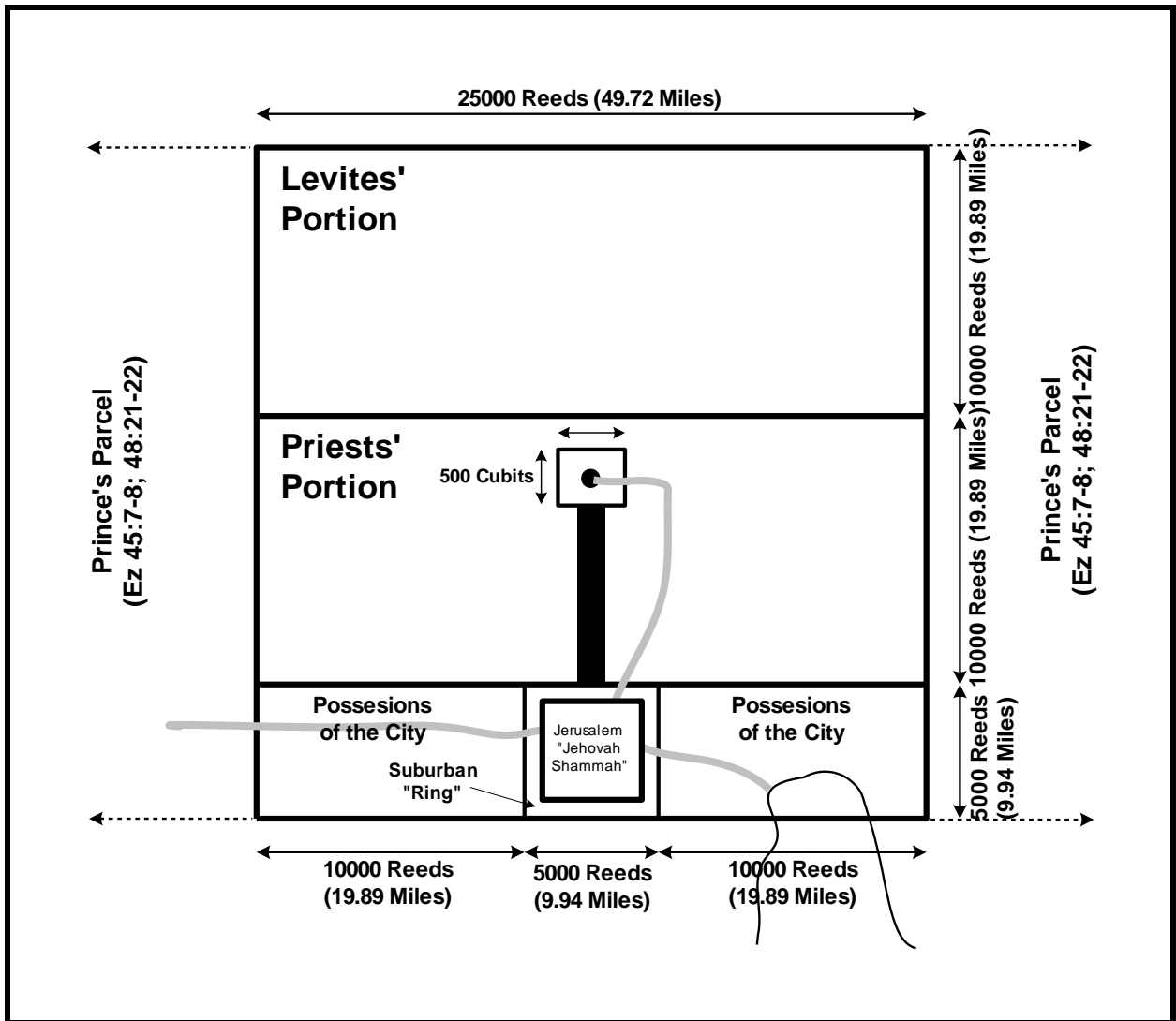


Figure 4. The Holy Oblation of the Millennial Kingdom

3.3.1. Units of Measure

An important unit of measure for the discussing the Holy Oblation is what is called the "Reed" (Ez 40:3-5). A Reed is defined to be 1 Cubit plus a Span (Hand Width). Let us for sake of argument use the following metrics for our units of measure:

Cubit = 18 Inches (In the Short Sense == **Short Cubit**)

Span = 3 Inches

=====

+ = 21 Inches (In the Long Sense == **Long Cubit** sometimes referred to as a **Reed-Cubit**)

Short Cubit = 18 Inches

Long Cubit = 21 Inches

Reed = 6 * (Long Cubit) = 6 * (21 Inches) = 126 Inches = **10.5 Feet** = 3.5 Yards²

² Note. In the measurements that follow, all English Units are rounded to the nearest proper integer value.

3.3.2. The Levites' Portion

The Levites' Portion is the northern most part of the Holy Oblation.

1. Touches the southern border of Judah's Parcel – Ez 48:8
2. Dimensions are 25,000 Reeds [E-W] by 10,000 Reeds [N-S] (50 Miles by 20 Miles) – Ez 48:8
3. No part may be sold off – Ez 48:14

3.3.3. The Priests' Portion (Sons of Zadok)

Next to the Levites' Portion is the Priests' Portion.

1. Touches the southern border of the Levites' Portion – Ez 48:12,13
2. Dimensions are 25,000 Reeds [E-W] by 10,000 Reeds [N-S] (50 Miles by 20 Miles)
3. Contains the Millennial Sanctuary – Ez 48:10 (See Sanctuary Section below)
4. Strictly for use by the Sanctified Sons of Zadok – Ez 48:11

Contained within the Priests' Portion is the Sanctuary which may in fact be the ancient site of Shiloh (Josh 18:1). There also appears to be a "holy highway" between Shiloh and Jerusalem (Isa 35:8).

3.3.4. The People's Portion

Next to the Priests' Portion is the "Common" or People's Portion

1. Touches the southern border of the Priests' Portion – Ez 48:15
2. Dimensions are 25,000 Reeds [E-W] by 5,000 Reeds [N-S] (50 Miles by 10 Miles)
3. Contained in this Portion are the City of Jerusalem and its Suburbs – Ez 48:15
4. Jerusalem is in the middle of this Portion – Ez 48:15
5. The size of Jerusalem shall be 4500 Reeds by 4500 Reeds Square [9 Miles by 9 Miles]. This leaves a ½ mile "Ring" around the City; in particular a "Buffer" on the northern and southern City entrances – Ez 48:16
6. Suburbs defined by the "Ring" of 250 Reeds [½ Mile] - Ez 48:16
7. Two sections of 10,000 Reeds each shall be for sustenance (farming, livestock, and perhaps some housing) for City Employees – Ez 48:18.
8. The City Gates shall be named after the 12 Tribes of Israel as outlined in the Partitioning of the Land: North Side = {Reuben, Levi, Judah}; East Side = {Joseph, Benjamin, Dan}; South side = {Simeon, Issachar, Zebulon}; West Side = {Gad, Asher, Naphtali} – Ez 48:32-34
9. Jerusalem is "Officially renamed to Jehovah Shammah (The Lord is there) – Ez 48:35

3.3.5. The Sanctuary and Its Location

1. In the Middle of the Holy Oblation (lying in the northern part of the Priests' Portion) – Ez 48:10,21
2. The Outer Court of the Sanctuary shall be 500 Cubits by 500 Cubits (875 Feet by 875 Feet) – Ez 45:2
3. The location is very close to the ancient site of Shiloh, where Joshua set up the Tabernacle after conquering the Land (see Josh 18:1) and where it remained until the completion of Solomon's Temple.³
4. It appears that during the Millennial Kingdom that Shekinah directly rests on the Sanctuary in Shiloh – Ez 43:1-7
5. The source of the Millennial Living Waters is the Sanctuary in Shiloh (see the River Section below) – Ez 47:1-12

3.3.6. The Highway

Larkin makes an interesting point that the highway mentioned in Isa 35:8, actually refers to the highway between Shiloh and Jerusalem.

1. This highway is called the highway of holiness (or the holy road). This could refer to the Sanctuary being called "the holy place".
2. The Wilderness mentioned Isa 35:1 could refer to the Judean Wilderness, residing just north of Jerusalem, in the area of Shiloh.
3. The highway itself is for the transportation of the righteous downtrodden.

3.3.7. The River

This river is discussed in Ez 47:1-12.

³ See Larkin, pg. 93

THREE RIVERS FELLOWSHIP

1. Comes out of the Sanctuary (House) toward the East – Ez 47:1
2. From the Sanctuary the water is only ankle (~6 Inches) deep for 1000 Long Cubits (1750 Feet) – Ez 47:3
3. For the next 1000 Long Cubits the water was up the knees (about 2 Feet) – Ez 47:4
4. The next 1000 Long cubits the water was up to the loins (about 4 Feet) – Ez 47:4
5. After 3000 Long Cubits the water was no longer passable by walking, it now required swimming – Ez 47:5
6. Living waters; waters cause life to abound – Ez 47:8-10
7. Wonderful tree border both sides of the river – Ez 47:7
8. Effects felt as far south as En-Gedi (Western Shore of the Dead Sea) and Moab (Eastern Shore of the Dead Sea) – Ez 47:10
9. River generates massive vegetation (e.g., fruit bearing trees) for food and medicine – Ez 47:12

3.4. The Prince's Parcel

The Prince's Parcel lies between the Judah's Millennial Parcel on the north and Benjamin's on the south. It is interesting that the two closest Tribal Parcels are given to the two tribes that apostasized last and made up the Kingdom of Judah.

1. Lies between the Millennial Parcels of Judah and Benjamin – Ez 48:21,23
2. Part lies to the west of the Holy Oblation and the remaining to the east – Ez 45:7,8; **48:21**

3.5. Summary Comments on the Millennial Land

Ezekiel as a whole provides some of the most detailed information about the infrastructure of the Millennial Kingdom. One issue that requires further research, is the relationship between Abraham's Promised Land and the Millennial Land as partitioned in Ezekiel as it correlates to the future tectonic activity recorded in many places throughout Scripture.

4. REFERENCES

[1] Larkin, Clarence, **Dispensational Truth**, Clarence Larkin Estate, Glenside, PA, 1920.

[2] Walsh, Robert, **Israel's Inheritance in the Land**, Proceedings of the 2000 TGF Bible Conference: The Complete Ministry of the 144,000, Trinity Grace Fellowship, Pittsburgh, PA, 2000