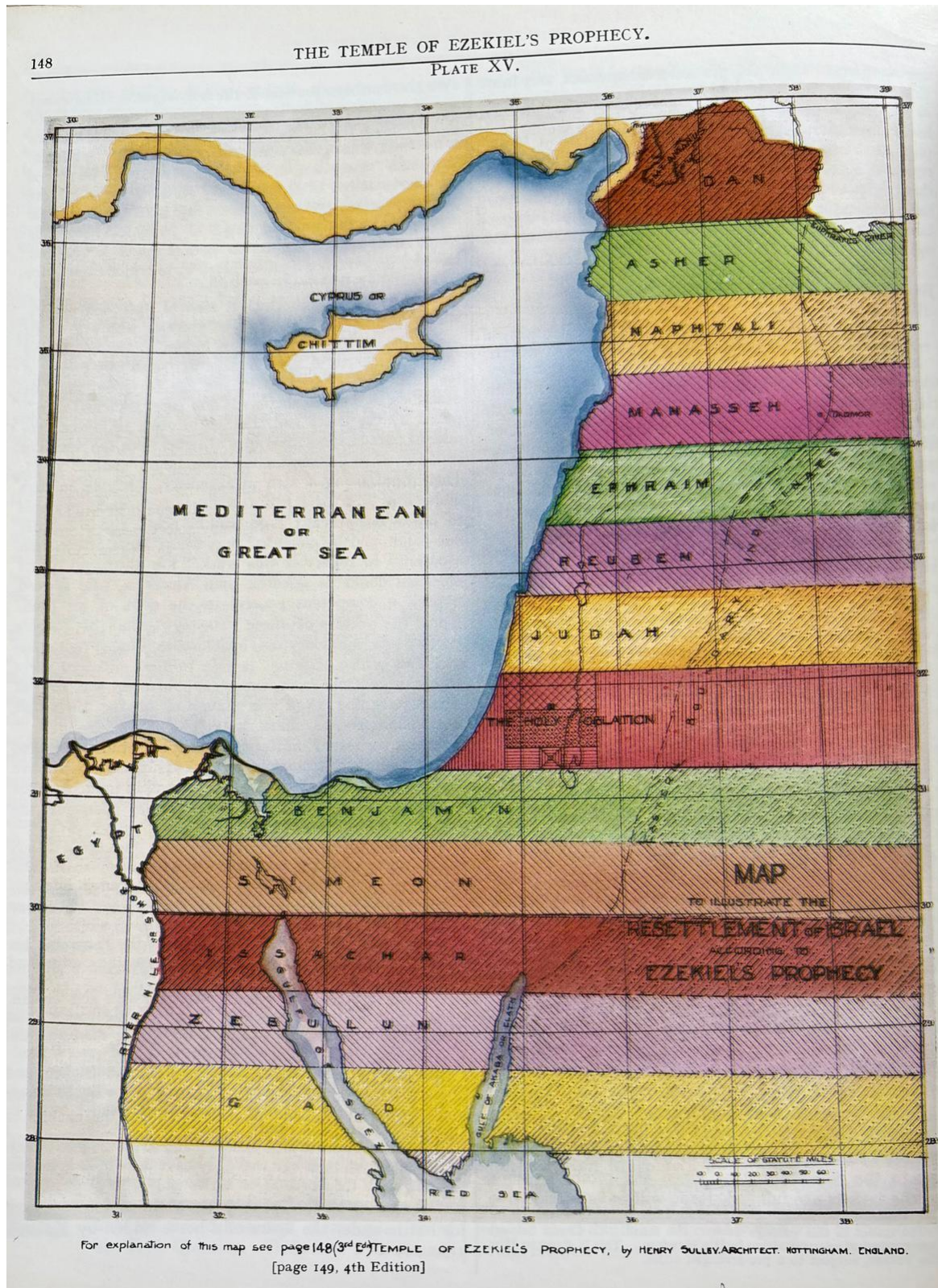


Bible Class Ezekiel's Temple study Continued

City & Cantons

May 1st 2025



Dear Brothers and Sisters

The above picture is taken from the book *The Temple of Ezekiel's Prophecy* by Henry Sulley, 6th Edition.

The passage of the Bible our study is taken from is Ezekiel chapter 48.

We have looked at the need for a real Temple in the Kingdom of God on earth, and established how large it needs to be, to act as a centre of administration and a house of prayer for all nations. We have looked how it is to be established upon the ruins of Jerusalem, after the city has been destroyed in the war of Armageddon and the great earthquake that is to take place. We have looked at the way the topography of the land will change how the earthquake will create a large mountain upon a plain – Jerusalem will no longer be upon seven mountains but one, and the Temple will be built around it. We have looked at the way a Alter is to be built upon the top of that mountain, and how animal sacrifices will be reinstated, and yearly feasts to the Lord will be reinstituted . In this we have discussed how there will be a need for a Priesthood in the Kingdom again. That it will be designed to serve a population consisting both of mortal people and immortal people. The Kingdom will be ruled by Jesus Christ, and the saints. The saints will be the Immortal Kings and Priests. But the mortal priests will be consecrated Levites once again. We have studied in the depth the gates and the buildings of the temple, and also the way in which water will be a major feature in the temple. Now it is time to step back a little, and as we move with the Prophet Ezekiel through the last of his chapters, and we cross the waters that come out of the threshold of the House, we can move away from the temple, and behold its glorious beauty in our minds eye, a fitting place, where God has promised that He will allow His presence to dwell. As we move away into the distance, leaving the Temple behind, with Ezekiel, we are caused to see that the influence of such organisation will spread throughout the land, and then throughout all the world.

The surrounding area, within Israel will also be transformed. No longer a semi - arid ecosystem, it will be a fertile and lush well-watered countryside, similar to how Eden was in the beginning. It will be extremely productive and will easily support a large population which will be periodically swollen with massive increase in numbers as the Yearly Feasts which God has ordained, will draw closer in the calendar. The seaports will become very busy, as hundreds of thousands of the representatives of all the towns and cities of the earth will

disembark from all forms of transport, as the congregate towards Jerusalem to keep these pilgrimages in honour to the Great Creator, Yahweh, the God of Israel, and the God of all peoples.

The obvious question is, in such an organised society, just where will all these people be accommodated? Where will they stay, as they bring their gifts, and sacrifices which have been blessed by their own peoples back in their countries around the world/?

How will the land be organised around the Temple? How will the Kingdom be structured? Did not God say to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, *I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever.* And did this not apply to the whole nation of Israel? Moses was sure of it, and God Himself acknowledged it – see Exodus 32:13

The last chapter of Ezekiel – chapter 48 makes it quite clear that the 13 tribes of Israel will be settled in the land in an organised way around the Temple and will encompass all of the land which was ruled over by David and Solomon as Greater Israel, and will include of the land of their field of influence, a territory which will be quite vast in comparison to the state of Israel today.

We said 13 tribes – We must not forget the tribe of Levi will also be given a area see verse 13 of this chapter.

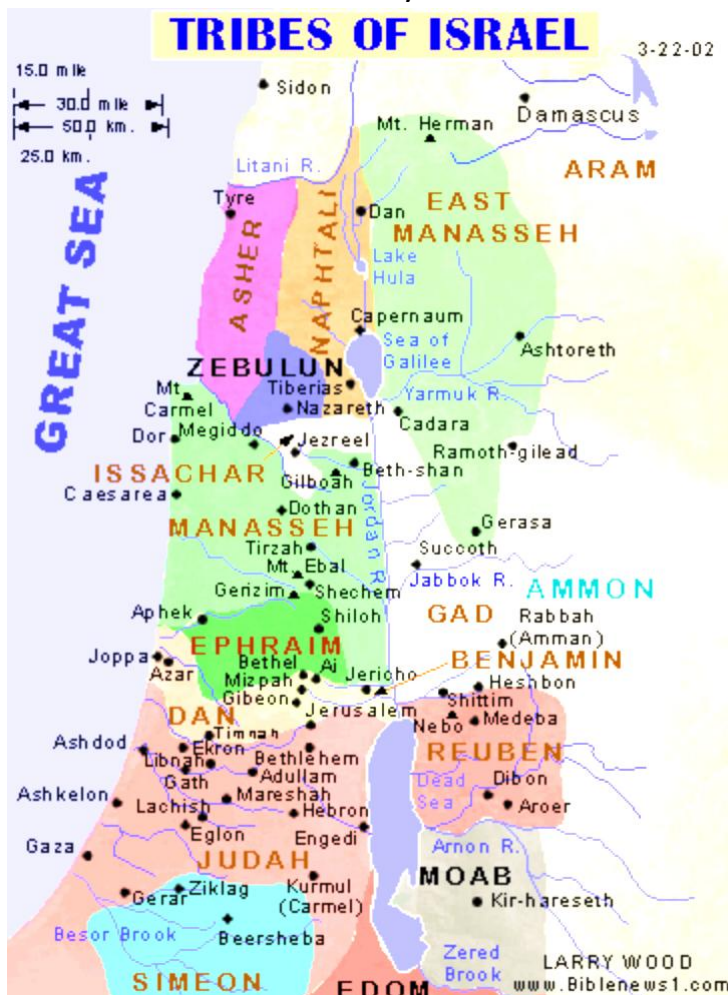
What we learn from this chapter as we read through it, is that every tribe will be given a portion of land. It will not be random allocation, as was given by lot in the time of Joshua, and then argued about later – for example by the tribe of Dan, who complained that their lot was too small! They complained their portion in the heartland of Canaan was not enough for them, - that was because of course, they did not have the courage to chase away the Philistines despite the heroics of faithful Samson. Instead they marched away to the north and settled in the foothills of Hermon. How ironic then, showing the justice of God, and the sense of humour perhaps, that Dan will be given the smallest portion of land and the furthest north in the Kingdom of God! See verse 1.

What also becomes clear, is that the original tribal identification of the 13 tribes will be visible once again. Jews today have little idea what tribe they belong to. The family surname of Cohen is claimed to be from the tribe of Levi. Jews are said to descend from Judah. But we recall that the tribe of Benjamin and Simeon became subsumed into the tribe of Judah. The rest of the tribes

were taken away into captivity by the Assyrians, and have been lost to history – supposedly.

Yet these passages in Ezekiel show that in some way, and some how this tribal identification will be reconstituted. Jacob was promised that his seed would possess the land for ever. He had 12 sons, that meant their seed, - all of them. So somehow, to fulfil this promise, their descendants must exist day in a literal sense, even if their pedigree has been watered down by interbreeding with Gentiles. God knows the end from the beginning, and will determine the situation, even if we cannot fully understand it.

The chapter begins defining the borders of Dan. We notice that the west and east sides are defined. However with the remaining tribes the east side is not defined. This means that the inheritance is open to be extended as required*. The west side is defined by the Great Sea – see verse 28. In contrast to the



tribal areas allocated in the time of Joshua, the portions – [we have called them *cantons* in the title of our Bible Class] were given depending on the size of the tribe – see Joshua 13. And see here in this map. As a result the tribal allotments were unequal in size – Benjamin and Dan had smaller portions while Manasseh and Judah had much bigger portions.

What we notice looking through Ezekiel 48, is that the portions are equal – except the northernmost Dan, and southernmost Gad. Each will be allocated a strip of land 56

miles wide – (see picture at beginning of article) – This measurement corresponds to 25000 reeds – (A reed is 12 feet and see 48:20) Simple comparisons to a scale map will see that 13 x 56 fits beautifully into eastern

seaboard of the Mediterranean. Moreover it corresponds to the promises made to Abraham in Genesis 15:18: *the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:*

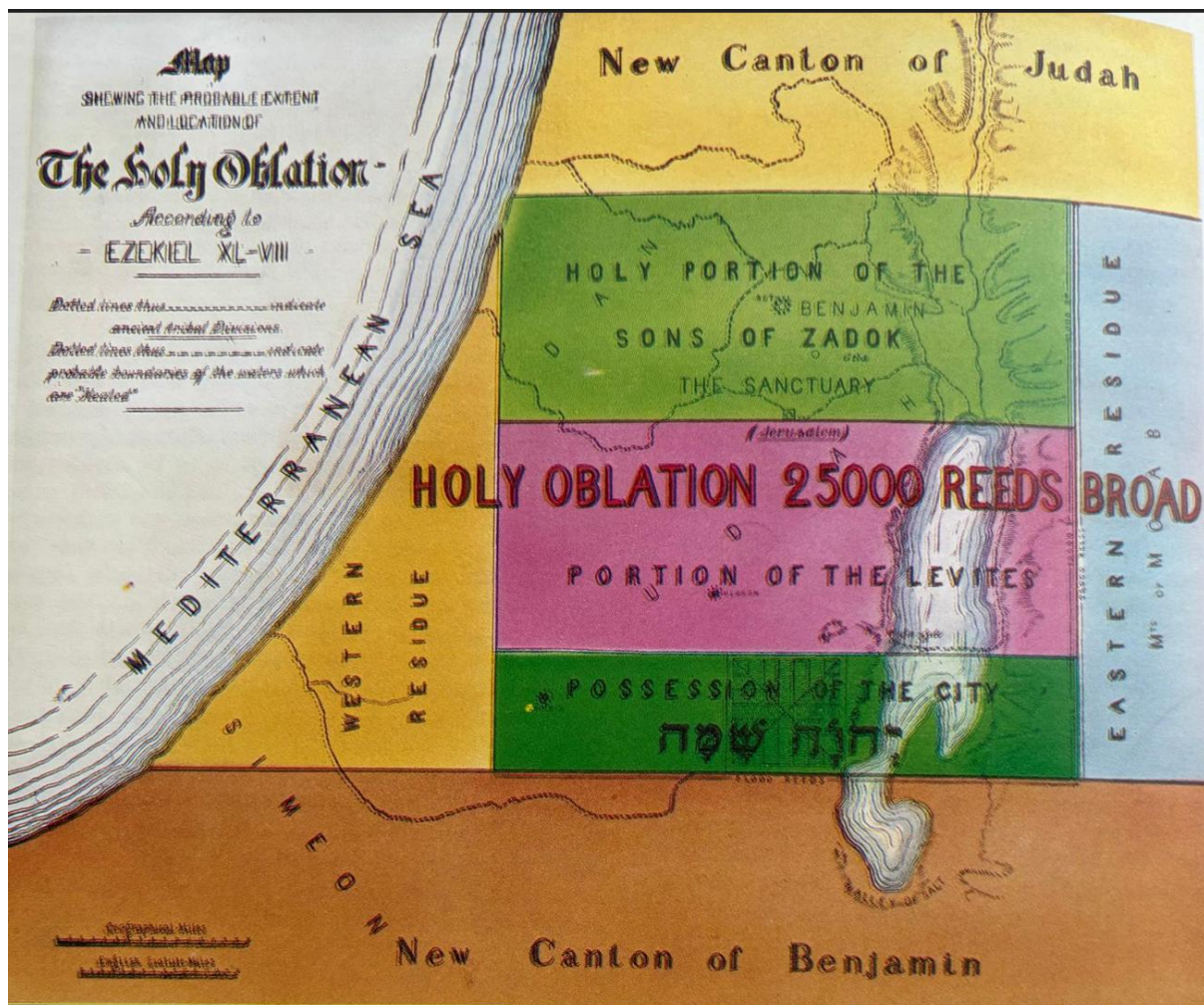
That the portions or cantons will be equal is seen in chapter 47:13-14 *This is what the Sovereign Lord says: "Here are the borders you will observe as you allot the land to the twelve tribes of Israel. (Joseph will have two portions.) **You must divide it equally** just as I vowed to give it to your forefathers this land will be assigned as your inheritance.* [NET]

Just going back to the earlier point * where it was noted about the eastern edge of all the portions allocated to the tribes not being defined, without territorial limitation – it is worth considering the current hatred with the Arabs all claiming Israel as their own. Those demanding a ‘two state solution’ insist Jerusalem should be divided for the Palestinians to share. Apart from the fact there are 57 Muslim nations, and the Palestinians who are Arabs and have no ancestral claim to the land, can easily live in those nations, - apart from this – when the Lord Jesus returns the Arab Israel conflict will be resolved. Because Gentiles will be allowed to live among them in these allocated cantons or portions of land, - and the Tribes of Jacob will want them to live among them, as they will all be one together in peace. *"... and for the strangers who dwell among you and who bear children among you. They shall be to you as native-born among the children of Israel; they shall have an inheritance with you among the tribes of Israel. And it shall be that in whatever tribe the stranger dwells, there you shall give him his inheritance," says the Lord God* (Ezekiel 47.22-23)

This of course is nothing new. Thousands of years ago God instructed Moses to tell the people of Israel how they should treat foreigners (non-Jews). They were commanded to love “strangers” and to let them live normal lives amongst them (Deuteronomy 10.19): *When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall do him no wrong ... (he) ... shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself* (Leviticus 19.33,34)

However, apart from Dan whose eastern end is limited by the river Euphrates, the other tribe which has a extra regulation placed upon it, is the portion of

Judah. Chapter 48 describes how a square section is to be set aside, and is called the Holy Oblation. See topmost plan for reference and the below:



The above diagram – again taken from the book which Henry Sulley authored many years ago, is a good representation from the verses in chapter 48: 8-22, which describe a special square section set aside in the tribe of Judah. This will include the region of Jerusalem which you might be able to see by carefully looking at the top of the pink section. Just above that you will see a very small square – that marks where the Temple – the House of prayer for all nations will be located. The light green section denotes the area set aside for the sons of Zadok described in verses 9-11. The pink section underneath is described in verses 12 -14. The dark green section reserved for the City and its suburbs is described in verses 15 – 19.

The whole of this square section is described in verse 10, as a Holy Oblation, or something which has been set apart. Of course it will be, as it includes the location for the Throne of the LORD Jesus Christ, and the Dwelling place of the Divine Presence. But also for areas where the mortal priests will live. They

have to be proximate to the House of Prayer, as they will be on rotation duty, as this will be their inheritance.

The city mentioned in Chapter 48 must be understood as NOT being the Temple of Yahweh, in Jerusalem. Please see above diagrams for clarification. The city referred to in chapter 48 is not for the purpose of worship, but for hospitality, for visiting millions of guests from around the world who will assemble in the land for the Yearly Feasts of the Lord. It is called in the Kings James Version Bible as “The Lord is there” see verse 35. In Hebrew Yahweh Shammah. The nations will come with gladness in their hearts, in unity, in joy, in religious fervour, all of them – Christ Followers – so the name of this city an apt one in grand fulfilment of Jeremiah 3: 17; *At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart.*

Isaiah 12:6 *Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.*

Brother Terry