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**APOSTOLIC VERSE BY VERSE BIBLE STUDY**

**Straightway Church of Christ, Inc.**

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**“THE HOLY PORTION”**

**Ezekiel 45:1-25**

***Ezekiel 45:1 "Moreover, when ye shall divide by lot the land for inheritance, ye shall offer an oblation unto the LORD, an holy portion of the land: the length [shall be] the length of five and twenty thousand [reeds], and the breadth [shall be] ten thousand. This [shall be] holy in all the borders thereof round about."***

***Ezekiel 45:2 "Of this there shall be for the sanctuary five hundred [in length], with five hundred [in breadth], square round about; and fifty cubits round about for the suburbs thereof."***

***Ezekiel 45:3 "And of this measure shalt thou measure the length of five and twenty thousand, and the breadth of ten thousand: and in it shall be the sanctuary [and] the most holy [place]."***

Ezekiel 45 deals with the allotment of Israel’s land by tribes. God gave directions on how Jerusalem and the area will be arranged in the kingdom, both as a place for the millennial temple and as places of residence for the priests and Levites close to it. They are to set aside a donation to the Lord, a holy portion of the land for the obvious reason that it will contain God’s holy house and servants. The promised land had been divided to the tribes of Israel. They were wonderful record keepers, and they knew where their land was located. Each family had an inheritance of the land of their forefathers. This is a different allotment. The land for the temple was not to be allotted to anyone. The length of the land set aside for the holy portion, was to be 25,000 reeds which was just under 250,000 feet. It shall be 10,000 reeds wide, which was just under 100,000 feet. This area was approximately 42 1/2 miles long by approximately 17 miles wide. The land for the sanctuary would be .85 mile long by .85 mile broad. The area for the suburbs around all of it, would be 75 feet wide. The temple is used by people from many miles around; it is not used by just those from Jerusalem. At the time this was written, the temple and its workers were a great portion of the city of Jerusalem. We must remember this is a priestly city. The temple and the most holy place served a very wide area. The temple area is in this larger area.

***Ezekiel 45:4 "The holy [portion] of the land shall be for the priests the ministers of the sanctuary, which shall come near to minister unto the LORD: and it shall be a place for their houses, and an holy place for the sanctuary."***

***Ezekiel 45:5 "And the five and twenty thousand of length, and the ten thousand of breadth, shall also the Levites, the ministers of the house, have for themselves, for a possession for twenty chambers."***

This holy portion of land, we read about in verse one, is explained here, to belong, not only to the temple area, but to the families of the priests, and high priest where they can build homes. This includes all of the Levitical tribe. Some are not priests, but ministers. The key word in all of this is oblation. "Oblation", in verse one, means sacrifice, or tribute. In my opinion, this is saying that this large piece of land was given to God as a sacrifice, who in turn gave the use of it to the Levites. The Levite families {when they were not working in the temple} had homes in this area. They, probably, had enough space to grow a little garden, and to have a cow. There would have been a pretty large number of them. The 20 chambers are, probably, speaking of the area where they stayed when they were working in the temple. This is speaking of an area the same as the area that was given for an oblation to God in verse 1. This is, possibly, in addition to the land in verse 1.

***Ezekiel 45:6 "And ye shall appoint the possession of the city five thousand broad, and five and twenty thousand long, over against the oblation of the holy [portion]: it shall be for the whole house of Israel."***

***Ezekiel 45:7 "And a [portion shall be] for the prince on the one side and on the other side of the oblation of the holy [portion], and of the possession of the city, before the oblation of the holy [portion], and before the possession of the city, from the west side westward, and from the east side eastward: and the length [shall be] over against one of the portions, from the west border unto the east border."***

***Ezekiel 45:8 "In the land shall be his possession in Israel: and my princes shall no more oppress my people; and [the rest of] the land shall they give to the house of Israel according to their tribes."***

This is speaking of land half the size we have seen for the oblation in verse 1. This is for all of Israel. If we add this 5000 to the 10000 in verse 1, and the 10000 in verse 5, we will have an area that is 42 1/2 miles square. This "prince" is speaking of the leader in the land, whoever he might be. It seems, that this land lies on both sides of the holy portion. The remainder of the land shall be divided for the families of Israel. All that is left will be their portion. This area is a rectangle, 8 1/3 miles long and 6 2/3 miles wide, further divided widthwise into two equal sections that are 3 1/3 miles wide. The first section will contain both the temple and the priests’ houses, with the Levites’ houses being in the second rectangle. The rectangle will become a square when another area is added, which will be the dimensions of Jerusalem itself, along with an area on each side of the holy donation of land and the city’s property for the prince to occupy.

***Ezekiel 45:9 "Thus saith the Lord GOD; Let it suffice you, O princes of Israel: remove violence and spoil, and execute judgment and justice, take away your exactions from my people, saith the Lord GOD."***

***Ezekiel 45:10 "Ye shall have just balances, and a just ephah, and a just bath."***

***Ezekiel 45:11 "The ephah and the bath shall be of one measure, that the bath may contain the tenth part of an homer, and the ephah the tenth part of an homer: the measure thereof shall be after the homer."***

***Ezekiel 45:12 "And the shekel [shall be] twenty gerahs: twenty shekels, five and twenty shekels, fifteen shekels, shall be your maneh."***

Ezekiel 45:9 was a jarring return to reality for Ezekiel’s readers after his extended description of the glories of the kingdom age. God turned his attention from the nation’s future, righteous prince to the present, unrighteous princes who were in exile with Ezekiel. His rebuke of their evil that led to Judah’s downfall was stinging: You have gone too far, princes of Israel! These coldhearted leaders had used violence and oppression to fuel their greed, using dishonest business practices to cheat their people. But God warned them to start using honest measures and reminded them what these were. Even in exile, the Israelite community needed leaders, and God wanted Israel’s to know that he was watching and would weigh their actions in his scales. "Suffice" means abundant. This means that there is abundant land for them, even after they have set aside the land for the holy work. They are never to take it back by force, or by taxes. The "bath" is a liquid measure of about 7 gallons. One "ephah" is 3 pecks. It is for dry measure. This is just saying, not to cheat on their weights and measures. Ephah and bath are the same, except the ephah is dry measure, and the "bath" is liquid. 10 baths are a "homer", and 10 ephahs are a homer. This is the weights and measures scale that the Jews had gone by for a long time. Perhaps, Ezekiel tells them, the old weights and measures should not be changed, when they go back into the land.

***Ezekiel 45:13 "This [is] the oblation that ye shall offer; the sixth part of an ephah of an homer of wheat, and ye shall give the sixth part of an ephah of an homer of barley:"***

***Ezekiel 45:14 "Concerning the ordinance of oil, the bath of oil, [ye shall offer] the tenth part of a bath out of the cor, [which is] an homer of ten baths; for ten baths [are] an homer:"***

***Ezekiel 45:15 "And one lamb out of the flock, out of two hundred, out of the fat pastures of Israel; for a meat offering, and for a burnt offering, and for peace offerings, to make reconciliation for them, saith the Lord GOD."***

It seemed, that all were to give the same amount. This was to keep the temple and its workers going. This is just saying that they are to tithe everything, not just their money. One tenth is a tithe. The animals were not for the tithe, it appears, but were to be reserved for their sacrificial offerings. The offerings, that Ezekiel requires are a freewill offering, rather than a tithe. One in every two hundred animals was to be taken for the offering.

***Ezekiel 45:16 "All the people of the land shall give this oblation for the prince in Israel."***

***Ezekiel 45:17 "And it shall be the prince's part [to give] burnt offerings, and meat offerings, and drink offerings, in the feasts, and in the new moons, and in the sabbaths, in all solemnities of the house of Israel: he shall prepare the sin offering, and the meat offering, and the burnt offering, and the peace offerings, to make reconciliation for the house of Israel."***

This seems something like a tax paid, to keep up the government. Here the subject returns to the sacrificial system in the millennial temple when, unlike the unrighteous princes of Ezekiel’s day, the kingdom prince in Israel will honestly weigh out and provide the offerings for all the appointed times of the house of Israel. We may assume from this, that the prince is head of the government, while still holding a ministerial office in the church. It is almost as if church and state are working together. It would not be unusual for that to be the case in Israel. For many years, they did not have a king. Their first king was Saul. God was displeased that they wanted an earthly king.

***Ezekiel 45:18 "Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the first [month], in the first [day] of the month, thou shalt take a young bullock without blemish, and cleanse the sanctuary:"***

***Ezekiel 45:19 "And the priest shall take of the blood of the sin offering, and put [it] upon the posts of the house, and upon the four corners of the settle of the altar, and upon the posts of the gate of the inner court."***

***Ezekiel 45:20 "And so thou shalt do the seventh [day] of the month for every one that erreth, and for [him that is] simple: so shall ye reconcile the house."***

***Ezekiel 45:21 "In the first [month], in the fourteenth day of the month, ye shall have the passover, a feast of seven days; unleavened bread shall be eaten."***

***Ezekiel 45:22 "And upon that day shall the prince prepare for himself and for all the people of the land a bullock [for] a sin offering."***

It is the blood from the bullock that would be used to cleanse the sanctuary. The month we call April, would be about their first month. Their first month is Abib. Their months change with the moon. Notice, the bullock must be without blemish, because it is a type of the sacrifice Jesus made for us all. This is cleansing the entire court. The altar, itself, must be cleansed before any offering could be made on it. "Those that err" are speaking of those who have committed sin. The "simple" are speaking of the simple minded who do not even know when they do sin. We must realize these people will be in a heathen nation for many years, and they will have forgotten some of the laws and ordinances. This is a restating of some of the ordinances. They are not exactly like the Levitical law, but they are very similar. The lamb was to be sacrificed for the people on Passover, to remind them of that great night, when death passed over them, and killed all the firstborn in Egypt. We discussed in a previous lesson, how the high priest went into the most holy place, dressed in linen, from head to toe, and carried blood for his sins, and the sins of the people. This is what this is speaking of.

***Ezekiel 45:23 "And seven days of the feast he shall prepare a burnt offering to the LORD, seven bullocks and seven rams without blemish daily the seven days; and a kid of the goats daily [for] a sin offering."***

***Ezekiel 45:24 "And he shall prepare a meat offering of an ephah for a bullock, and an ephah for a ram, and an hin of oil for an ephah."***

***Ezekiel 45:25 "In the seventh [month], in the fifteenth day of the month, shall he do the like in the feast of the seven days, according to the sin offering, according to the burnt offering, and according to the meat offering, and according to the oil."***

This is not the same as the offerings in the Levitical law. The requirement had been 2 bullocks, and one ram, and seven yearling lambs. This required 7 each day. It, also, required a kid of the goats daily. We must remember that the meat offering is really the makings for bread. This symbolizes Jesus, who is the Bread of life. Ezekiel was referring to the nation’s feasts, from the first feast of the year, Passover followed by the seven days of unleavened bread, to the last of Israel’s annual feasts, the feast of Tabernacles or Booths, which began on the fifteenth day of the seventh month and also lasted seven days. Clearly, in the millennial age, observances such as Passover will not be held to provide an animal sacrifice to cover the people’s sins for another year; they will be a celebration of Christ’s once-for-all sacrifice for sin. This seventh month would be like our October. This same ceremony is to be repeated in the seventh month on the 15th day. This celebration, also, will last 7 days. We must remember in this that Ezekiel had been instructed of God to bring this message. He would not, of his own will change anything in the Mosaic law.

**QUESTIONS**

1. How large was the portion of land, that was allotted for the oblation to the LORD?
2. How large were the suburbs that surrounded the sanctuary?
3. Who was the holy portion for?
4. What does "oblation" mean?
5. Why did they get this extra portion of land in verse 5?
6. What are the 20 chambers speaking of, probably?
7. What was the allotment for the city?
8. Who is the "prince" in verse 7?
9. What will be the portion for the rest of Israel?
10. What does "suffice" mean?
11. What are they cautioned about in verse 10?
12. What is a "bath"?
13. What is an "ephah"?
14. What is a "homer"?
15. Why is Ezekiel giving them the scale of weights and measures?
16. One tenth is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
17. What can we assume about the prince?
18. How were they to cleanse the sanctuary?
19. Who are "those that err"?
20. Who could go into the most holy place?
21. How many days of the feast must he prepare a burnt offering?
22. How does this vary from the Levitical law?
23. What must we remember about the meat offering?
24. What is their seventh month on our calendar?