

## Message #49

## Ezekiel 45:1-25

Back on April 22, 1889 the Oklahoma land rush took place. 50,000 people lined up for a noon start to go after nearly 2 million acres of undeveloped and unassigned land in the Indian territory of what today is Oklahoma. At noon the military fired a cannon and the race was on. Thousands of men and women raced to get land. Each person was after 160 acres. To get the land you had to get there first and claim it. It was an epoch moment in this country.

There is an epoch, prophetic moment coming in the future that will claim specific land. It will be a land grab that will speak to the whole world. The nation Israel is going to be given her promised land.

She will not have to grab this land. She will not have to rush to get this land. God will give it to her because that is what He has promised to do. This will be the greatest land distribution in the history of the world.

Because when this happens, Jesus Christ will be here in Person and He will reign on this earth. Every inch of land that God has promised to Israel will be hers. It will be carefully proportioned and distributed. It will have specific measurements and it will be given to specific people.

**WHEN JESUS CHRIST REIGNS ON THIS EARTH, THERE WILL BE VERY SPECIFIC AND VERY SACRED LAND GIVEN TO ISRAEL THAT WILL BE SPECIFICALLY GIVEN BY GOD TO HIS NATION.**

**We come now to chapters in the Bible that can only make sense if God intends to give Israel her specific land.** Those who think the church has replaced Israel have real difficulty with these chapters. One commentator said we can't understand this literally. That is the only way you can understand it. When you read the Bible, you must see that 4/5ths of the Bible pertains to Israel.

In these next chapters, there is a very specific "territorial division" of the land for the various tribes of Israel. That theme clearly shows up in the remaining chapters of Ezekiel with the final two chapters specifically devoted to the specifics of the matter.

**Verse 1** opens with the fact that when the land distribution comes, the first thing that is to be done is to offer a land allotment to the LORD. **This will be a time when all people realize God comes first in everything.** You do not give God leftovers. You honor Him up front. Now the offering is to be a portion of the holy part of the land that God is giving to Israel.

We will stick with the 21 inch per cubit measurement that Ezekiel has been using ever since the measurements began. We may recall that the measurement was a cubit and a handbreadth which is 18 inches plus 3 inches, which equal 21 inches (Ezek. 40:5).

Now the dimensions given of this land do not correspond to any other division of land. What this means is that this has not yet occurred.

The dimensions of the portion of the holy part of the land are: 25,000 cubits long and 20,000 cubits wide. This is to be considered as a holy place or a “sacred district.” This is a sizeable portion of land. By our calculations the holy portion of the land is somewhere around 8.3 miles long and around 6.6 miles wide.

According to **verse 2**, in the center of this rectangle will be the sanctuary of 500 cubits square (875 feet square) with 50 cubits (87.5 feet) around it for an open area. We may recall that this is the size of the Temple complex (42:20) and apparently there will be an additional 50 cubit gap between anything else and the complex.

This is the center of the division of the holy part of the land. The word “holy” (qodes) occurs eleven times in verses 1-6. **The center of this Holy land is the Temple, not the city or the prince. Clearly we see from this that God should be at the center of everything.**

According to **verse 3** there is a special part of this sacred district a section that is 25,000 cubits long (8.3 miles) and 10,000 cubits wide (3.3 miles) would be the location of the sanctuary and most holy place and the priests portion for Zadok and his family.

Also according to **verses 4-5**, within this sacred land is another allotment of identical size, 25,000 cubits long (8.3 miles) by 10,000 cubits wide (3.3 miles) that would belong to the Levites.

This area would be a place for the Levites to have their houses. It sits to the north of the priests’ portion.

To put this in some distance perspective, it would be from this church to 131 wide and from this church to Schoolcraft long or from this church a mile past the West Main exit.

Now in **verse 6**, we get the measurement of what is called the city possession, which is 5000 cubits wide (1.75 miles) and 25,000 cubits long (8.3 miles). Ultimately, there will be twelve gates that enter the city named after the twelve tribes of Israel (Ezek. 48:30-34).

In **verses 7-8**, we get the land dimensions for the prince, who is David. A rectangular band pieced of land will be given to him in the present site of Jerusalem. David and his family will live in this land. In O.T. times, the kings had houses and palaces but no specific land. At this time David will have land.

His land will extend from the city to the east and the west. It will extend to the east to the Jordan River and it will extend to the west to the Mediterranean Sea. So there will be two halves to David’s land, one on the east and one on the west that will be his portion. He will own land closest to the sanctuary. His land will border both sides of the holy area.

A. C. Gaebelain said, “A spiritual application as to the Church is impossible to make; the literal interpretation is the only possible one which can be made” (*Ezekiel*, p. 321).

Now I agree with Dr. Gaebelein that this is not a church matter; however, I do think we may make a church reward application. In eternity, those who were loyal to Jesus Christ and the Word of God will be the most honored.

We may certainly see that in this Davidic land inheritance. God does not give this to Saul, who was a spiritual mess and first king of Israel. He gives it to David, who was a man after God's own heart. Jesus Christ will not give great rewards to those who were not loyal to Him or God's Word. Certainly we may conclude that on the basis of this text.

In **verses 9-12**, Ezekiel uses this glorious future to challenge the leaders of Israel to be faithful. This to me is amazing because what we learn here is that Israel does not have this amazing inheritance because she has been faithful or deserves it. This is all due to God's grace. There are seven challenges that are made here that show how pathetic Israel was:

**Challenge #1** - They have rebelled enough. **45:9a**

God's people were rebellious. The princes who were the political and religious leaders of Israel were known for their rebellion. But when they are in the land, they will say that is enough of that.

People honored by God come to this conclusion. They come to the conclusion that that is enough of that.

**Challenge #2** - They need to put away violence. **45:9b**

The leaders had oppressed people.

**Challenge #3** - They need to put away destruction. **45:9c**

The leaders had destroyed people.

**Challenge #4** - They need to practice justice. **45:9d**

The leaders had done unjust things.

**Challenge #5** - They need to practice righteousness. **45:9e**

The leaders had done unrighteous things.

**Challenge #6** - They need to stop their extortions. **45:9f**

The leaders had cheated people.

**Challenge #7** - They need to have accurate scales. **45:10-12**

One commentator said the leaders were known for their greed and they would disregard the rights of others and they would cheat others to get more. **In any dispensation, the righteousness of God is demonstrated by how we treat people. We are to treat them with honesty and integrity.**

According to **verse 11** they were tipping the scales. They were not giving true and accurate measurements. The ephah measured dry things up to one half a bushel. The bath measured liquid things up to six gallons.

Now a homer was about 50 gallons, so a tenth of a homer would be about five gallons. God wanted equal just scales used for measuring everything, whether dry or liquid.

Furthermore, according to **verse 12**, a shekel weighed 2/5ths of an ounce and a gerah, which was the smallest unit of weight, weighed 1/50<sup>th</sup> of an ounce.

Now the way Ezekiel said these measurements were to work was that 60 shekels (20+25+15) were to equal one “maneh.”

Now apparently what was happening is that various weights were being substituted in order to cheat people.

Ezekiel said that these leaders needed to stop this and use honest standards in their business. Extortion was unacceptable to God.

In **verses 13-16**, we get information concerning the offering that was to be given by “all the people” to the prince. Jesus will actually be there Himself, but David will serve under Him and will oversee this offering business. These offerings will go to David and his family.

Now what we may observe from these offerings is that this giving is in proportion to what one has. In other words, the percentage is to be based on what one has. Everyone will have their share, but there will be those who do have more than others:

**Offering #1** - Each is to give one sixth of an ephah from a homer of wheat. **45:13a**

So from every homer of wheat, 1/6<sup>th</sup> is to be given to the Lord. A homer is about six bushels or about 50 gallons. So one sixth would be about 8 gallons or one bushel.

**Offering #2** - Each is to give one sixth of an ephah from a homer of barley. **45:13b**

For every homer of barley, 1/6<sup>th</sup> is to be given to the Lord.

**Offering #3** - Each is to give one tenth of a bath of oil from each kor. **45:14**

So from every kor that one has, he is to give a tenth of it as an offering.

**Offering #4** - Each is to give one sheep from each flock of 200. **45:15a**

Now the purpose of this offering is to be a grain offering, a burnt offering, a peace offering that makes atonement. All people are to participate in these offerings based on what they have **(45:16)**.

According to **verse 17**, the prince has the responsibility to provide the burnt offerings, the grain offerings, the drink offerings at all of the appointed services and festivals.

In **verses 18-25**, we are given a glimpse as to some of the festivals that will be operating during this time:

**Offering #1** - On the first day of the first month the sanctuary is to be cleansed by blood.  
**45:18-19**

This will perpetually show Israel she is in this land because of Jesus Christ.

**Offering #2** - On the seventh day of the first month the one who is naïve or goes astray is to offer the sacrifice of atonement. **45:20**

Even during the millennium, there will not be sinless perfection. However, failure must be instantly faced.

Whenever we gather for worship, we need to realize that there are some people who are gathering who have not had a good week, spiritually speaking. There are some who have failed and erred and there are some who are simple. There is room for all.

This is an amazing provision of grace at a time when righteousness reigns. As F. B. Meyer said, this is “touching.”

**Offering #3** - On the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the first month the Passover shall be celebrated for seven days.  
**45:21-24**

During this festival there are several restrictions:

**Restriction #1** - For seven days the people will eat unleavened bread. **45:21**

This will certainly remind Israel that our relationship with God is complete (seven days) and there is no leaven or corruption in it because of Jesus Christ.

**Restriction #2** - On the first day the prince shall provide a bull sin offering for himself and for all the people in the land. **45:22**

This proves the prince is not Jesus Christ for He does not need a sin offering. Even David will be reminded that he is here because of Jesus Christ.

**Restriction #3** - Every day during the seven days a burnt offering will be given consisting of seven bulls, seven rams and a male goat for a sin offering. **45:23**

The entire focal point of a relationship with God will be because of Jesus Christ. These offerings will promote that and explain that to National Israel.

**Restriction #4** - Every sacrifice is to include grain and oil. **45:24**

God will be blessing Israel in this land in every way, including agriculturally.

**Offering #5** - On the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the seventh month another feast that corresponds to the Feast of the Tabernacles is to take place for seven days. **45:25**

Zechariah clearly predicted this would take place in Zechariah 14:16-21 during the Millennium. This will feature sin offerings, burnt offerings, grain offering and oil offerings.

Now one question is why is there a gap between the Passover and the Tabernacles? Three national festivals have been eliminated: Feast of Pentecost, Feast of Trumpets and Day of Atonement.

Two feasts—feasts of Passover and Unleavened bread (**v. 21**) are combined as one feast that points back to Christ's sacrificial death and the feast of Tabernacles points to the New Blessings that Israel has in the Millennium because of His death.

Perhaps it is because this is part of the New Covenant and no longer does the new covenant feature six Festivals but three. The Millennium will feature law and order and focus on Jesus Christ.