

Welcome back!

Let's pray.

Current news: The leaders of Russia, Iran, and Turkey met in Ankara on Wednesday, April 4th, for talks on resolving the conflict in Syria. This is basically a meeting between Magog, Persia, and Togarmah.

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A vertical graphic on the left side of the slide featuring the word "EZEKIEL" in white capital letters, with a bright, glowing light source at the bottom, resembling a sunrise or a divine light, casting a warm glow upwards.

OVERVIEW

History of Israel Part 6; Water from the Temple, Dividing the Land; The City; (Ezek 47-48)

- The UN and Israel
- 1978 Camp David Accords
- Oslo Accords - Israel and PLO
- Peace Treaty - Israel and Jordan
- 2000 Camp David
- "Quartet" Roadmap
- 2005 Palestinian State Created
- The Water of Life
- Apportioning the Land
- The City Revisited

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In this lesson we will study chapters 47 and 48 of the book of Ezekiel.

This time, we will finish our history of the modern nation of Israel.

We will conclude the Book of Ezekiel with the study of chapters 47 and 48, ...

In the last two chapters of Ezekiel, we will examine the river that flows from the Temple, the division of the Land of Israel to the tribes, and we will once again take a look at the City.

So, remember to pray and conduct your own study on all of the things we have studied in this amazing book.

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Review

- Ezekiel, a priest, a prophet, and a watchman in Babylon gives his final prophecies to the exiles ≈ April 573 B.C.
- Studied the exit of Britain, Israel becoming a nation, 1948-49 War for Independence, 1956 War, 1964 PLO, 1967 Six-Day War, and the 1973 Yom Kippur War
- Learned about the Prince, the People, the Priests, the Holy District, and the City

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Let's review.

Ezekiel, a priest from Jerusalem, was taken to Babylon in Nebuchadnezzar's second conquest in 598 B.C. As the LORD's prophet and watchman Ezekiel is now giving the exiles in Babylon the LORD's final prophetic messages regarding the future of the nation of Israel. It is approximately 573 B.C. as we begin our study.

The last time we met, we continued the history of the modern nation of Israel.

We watched as the British left Israel, and Israel declared its independence on May 14th, 1948. Next we studied the War for Independence in 1948 to 1949, and we considered the 1956 Sinai Campaign. We learned that the PLO was actually founded in 1964, not thousands of years ago. And we recounted the 1967 Six-Day War, and the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Next, we resumed our study in the Book of Ezekiel, where we learned about the Prince, the People, and the Priests in the new Temple. We then discussed the land for the Holy District and the Prince. We also discovered some new and curious things about the city that will be placed in the Holy District. And, we examined the ordinances for the Prince, the Sabbaths, and the Feasts.

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The UN and Israel

- 1967 UN Resolution 242 – Land for Peace
- 1955 – 2013 Israel = 77 & Palestinians = 1
- 1972 – 2011 USA Vetoes 42 Israel-Res.
- 1991 UN repeals 1975 “Zionism is Racism”
- 2012 Votes PA “Non-mem Observer State”
- 2014 - Palestinian Statehood Rejected
- 2016 - Security Council Resolution 2334 passes when Obama Admin Abstains

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Now we will continue our history of the modern nation of Israel.

The United Nations passed Resolution 242 on November 22nd, 1967. This resolution started the principle that has been the basis for most of the subsequent peace plans – that is, the exchange of land for peace.

The resolution called for the "withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict (*i.e. the 6-day war*) ", and "respect for and acknowledgement of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every state in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force".

This is only one of many resolutions regarding Israel from the UN. From 1955 to 2013 there were 77 UN resolutions targeting Israel and one targeting the Palestinians. From 1972 to 2011 the US vetoed 42 Security Council Resolutions concerning Israel. Abba Eban, a well-known Israeli diplomat, once said, "If Algeria introduced a resolution declaring that the earth was flat and that Israel had flattened it, it would pass by a vote of 164 to 13 with 26 abstentions."

There are many terrible UN resolutions and actions by various UN groups and committees such as UNESCO and the Human Rights Council. I will highlight a few bad and good things from the UN.

In 1991 the UN repealed United Nations General Assembly Resolution 3379, adopted 16 years earlier, on November 10, 1975. This resolution stated that Zionism was a form of racism.

The Palestinian Authority was given Non-member Observer State status by the General Assembly in 2012.

The Security Council rejected a bid for statehood by the Palestinians Dec 30, 2014.

Perhaps the worst betrayal from the USA came in 2016 when the Obama Administration abstained from the Security Council vote on UN Resolution 2334. This resolution states that Israel's settlement activity constitutes a "flagrant violation" of international law and has "no legal validity". It demands that Israel stop such activity and fulfill its obligations as an occupying power under the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The real peace efforts began with courageous leadership from Israel and Egypt back in 1978.

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1978 Camp David Accords

- President Anwar Sadat met with PM Menachem Begin in Israel in 1977
- President Carter hosted Sadat and Begin at Camp David
- Signed Framework for Peace in the Middle East
- 1981 Sadat Assassinated



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In 1977, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin invited Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to come to Israel (despite the two countries being in a state of war). And after the dramatic visit and subsequent US and other diplomatic efforts, Sadat and Begin signed the Camp David Accords (hosted by President Carter), officially known as the “Framework for Peace in the Middle East” in 1978. In addition to returning the Sinai (that was captured by Israel in the 1973 Yom Kippur War) to Egypt, this agreement had three parts:

- (1) a process for Palestinian self-government in the West Bank and Gaza,
- (2) a framework for the conclusion of a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, and
- (3) a similar framework for peace treaties between Israel and its other neighbors.

In 1981 Anwar Sadat was assassinated. However, the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt has remained in effect successfully from that time.

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Oslo Accords - Israel and PLO

- Oslo 1 signed in 1993 at the White House
- Oslo II Accord, signed in Taba, Egypt, in 1995
- Meant to bring Israeli-Palestinian conflict to an end
- 5-year term
- Israel to withdraw from areas
- PLO stop terror



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President Clinton, Yitzhak Rabin, and Yasir Arafat met at the White House in 1993 for the signing of the Oslo Accords. Here is a quote from Benjamin Netanyahu's book "A Durable Peace" regarding the Oslo Accords.

"The basis of the Oslo agreement was that Israel first would hand over the areas populated by Palestinians in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza to the control of the Palestinian Authority headed by Arafat. The Palestinian Authority in turn would suppress in these areas anti-Israel terrorism, annul the PLO Charter, and fulfill other commitments, such as ceasing anti-Israel propaganda, thus heralding a new era of peace between the two peoples. While Israel kept its part of the bargain, the Palestinian Authority did not. While the PLO itself eventually refrained from terrorist attacks, the Palestinian Authority enabled the enormous expansion of the terrorist organizations of Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and others in the areas under its jurisdiction."

As part of the agreement, Israel also released 5,000 Palestinian prisoners.

However, the Palestinians have never kept any agreement. They have steadfastly taught hatred of the Jewish people in their schools. They have continued terrorist operations, and they have built and purchased weapons using the money meant for the "refugees".

Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated in 1996.

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Peace Treaty - Israel and Jordan

- Israel's 2nd peace treaty with an Arab country, neighboring Jordan
- Established full diplomatic and consular relations
- Permitted free trade and visas
- Defense and intelligence sharing



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Israel signed its second peace treaty with an Arab nation in 1994. In this case, the Arab nation was Israel's neighbor, Jordan. Israel's longest common border is shared with Jordan.

The signing ceremony took place at the southern border crossing of Arabah on October 26, 1994.

The treaty established full diplomatic and consular relations, granted tourists visas, opened air travel and seaports, and established a free trade zone. The agreement prohibits hostile propaganda.

The treaty also adjusted land and water disputes, and it included a pledge that neither Jordan nor Israel would allow its territory to become a staging ground for military strikes by a third country.

Less publicized but equally important has been the emergence of an excellent defense and intelligence-sharing relationship.

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2000 Camp David

- Attempt by Clinton, Barak, and Arafat to negotiate a final settlement in accordance with Oslo
- Barak conditionally accepted
- Arafat rejected
- PA began Al-Aqsa Intifada purportedly because of Ariel Sharon's visit to Temple Mount



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President Bill Clinton, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, and PA Chairman Yasser Arafat met in Camp David from July 11th to July 24th, 2000. The goal was to negotiate a final settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in accordance with the 1993 Oslo agreement.

The Camp David Summit was the first serious official negotiation between Israel and the Palestinians over Jerusalem. It was also the first time since 1967 that an Israeli prime minister was willing to consider, albeit conditionally, specific proposals for re-dividing Jerusalem. Prime Minister Ehud Barak was elected in May 1999, with a commitment to keep Jerusalem united.

The parties were unable to come to an agreement. Even though Barak conditionally accepted the US proposals, Arafat totally rejected them.

According to accounts of the meeting, Arafat's only contribution was the assertion that, in reality, no Jewish Temple ever existed on the Temple Mount, only an obelisk; the real Temple existed in Nablus, he said. Arafat basically denied the core of the Jewish faith.

The results of the Camp David Summit posed a serious problem for Yasser Arafat. Barak's conditional acceptance of the Clinton proposals and Arafat's total rejection of the American plan led to the international community believing that the Palestinians were responsible for the failure of Camp David. In an attempt to reverse international sympathy away from Israel, and back to the Palestinians, the Palestinian Authority began preparing for a new intifada against Israel, which would put supposedly unarmed civilians against armed Israeli soldiers -- like the Intifada of 1987.

Foreign commentators associated the outbreak of what the Palestinians called the Al-Aqsa Intifada with the visit of Likud Party Chairman MK Ariel Sharon to the Temple Mount on September 28, 2000. However, the plans for the outbreak of the intifada began the moment the Palestinian delegation returned from Camp David, at the request of Yasser Arafat.

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"Quartet" Roadmap

- President George W. Bush calls for two-state solution
- US, European Union, the United Nations, and Russia make up "Quartet"
- Plan released 2003
- 3 Phases
- Plan never implemented



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President George W. Bush in a speech on June 24, 2002 called for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with an Independent Palestinian state living in peace side by side with Israel.

The US undertook the roadmap as a joint US and European initiative. Representatives from the European Union, the United Nations, and Russia formed a group known as the "The Quartet," which began to shape international policy toward resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

There were three phases to the roadmap, which led from mutual recognition to a final peace agreement and a Palestinian state.

The Bush Administration released a plan on April 30, 2003. But, the plan was never implemented after the parties deadlocked in Phase 1.

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Israel captured the Gaza Strip from Egypt in the Six-Day War in 1967. They did not capture the Gaza strip from Palestine, since there was no Palestine.

No Arab countries will give citizenship to Arabs who call themselves Palestinians. The refugee camps in Gaza and the West Bank were not built by Israel. All the refugee camps in Gaza were built by Egypt who refused to give Arabs, who defined themselves as Palestinians, rights or citizenship.

There were areas of Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip. They built infrastructure and businesses there. At the end of Oslo, the map of Gaza looked like the one on the left of the slide. The areas in red were Jewish settled areas.

In 2005, Israel's Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon decided to unilaterally turn over the Gaza strip to the Palestinians. To accomplish this, he completely wiped out all Jewish presence in the Gaza strip. All of the settlements were dismantled, all Jews were evicted from their homes, the synagogues were destroyed, and even the Jewish dead were dug up.

Following the 2005 Disengagement from Gaza, there was not a single IDF soldier or settler anywhere in the Gaza strip. It looked like the map on the right.

The so-called Palestinians completely destroyed the infrastructure that Israel left. Instead, they began manufacturing weapons and missiles. And in 2006 they elected the Hamas terrorist organization to govern them.

Since that time, thousands of missiles have been fired into Israel from Gaza. This is despite the humanitarian aid given by Israel, which includes providing electricity to Gaza, which the Fatah under Mahmoud Abbas have not been paying in order to cause a crisis in Gaza to oust Hamas.

So, as you can see, as of 2005, there was already a Palestinian state, and it is in Gaza.

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Israel Today



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Today, Israel is surrounded by unfriendly nations and actively hostile enemies. Hezbollah is in Lebanon to the North, Hamas is in Gaza to the South, Syria is to the northeast, Turkey is to the northwest, and Iran is to the east.

Israel has one of the best militaries in the world. But, Russia has entered the picture to aid Iran and Syria. Turkey is getting louder and more shrill, and they are actively attacking the Kurds, who have themselves been aiding in the fight against ISIS.

Ezekiel 38/39 looks closer all the time...

Now let's return to our study of the Book of Ezekiel.

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Let's read Ezekiel chapter 47 verses 1 - 12. (*Read 1-12.*)

The "man" brings Ezekiel back to the door of the Temple. From this position Ezekiel is looking east toward the East Inner and Outer Gates.

To the right, or toward the south side, of the Temple Ezekiel could see water flowing from under the threshold of the Temple. The water flowed by the Altar on the right or south side.

The text does not explain whether the water flows in a channel across the inner and outer courtyards or whether it flows down under the outer courtyard. If it does flow in a channel across the outer courtyard, there would probably be foot bridges or ramps over the water. However, the water may just flow down under the courtyard.

When Ezekiel is brought out the North Outer Gate around to the East Outer Gate the text says that the water was "trickling" on the south side of the East Outer Gate. Trickling is not a good translation here. The Hebrew word is **pakah'**, which means to pour.

The "man" uses his line to measure the water as it flows eastward. He measures a third of a mile, and then the "man" leads Ezekiel across the water, and the water is ankle deep. The "man" and Ezekiel repeat this process with the water deepening each time. When they reach a mile and a third, the water is too deep and wide to cross.

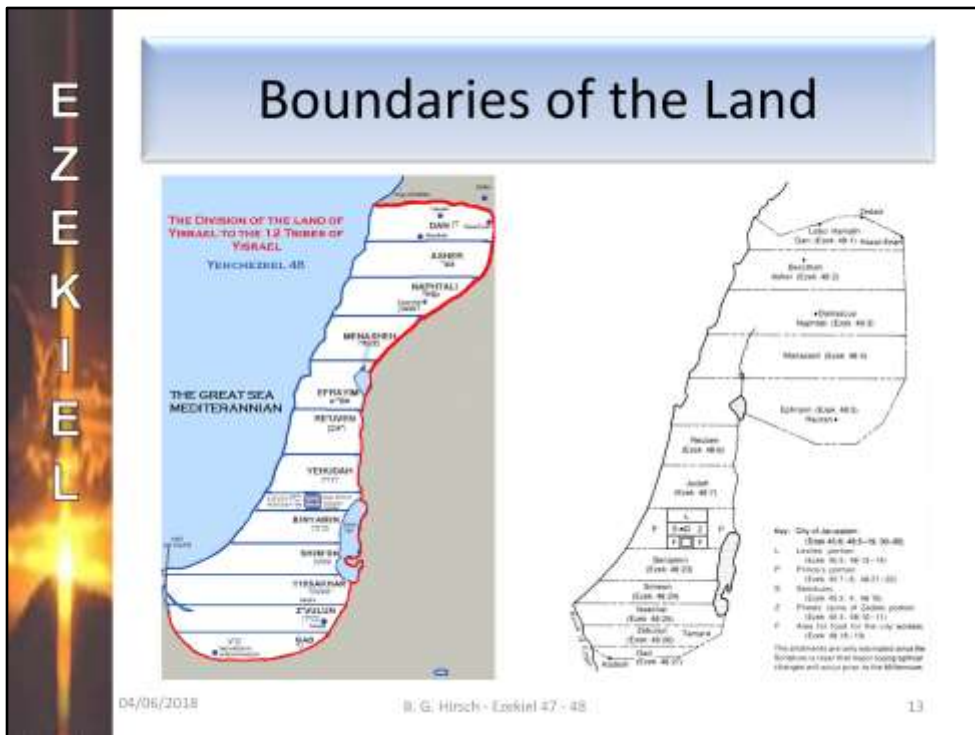
As Ezekiel goes back, he sees that there are trees on both sides of the river. And the "man" tell Ezekiel that the water will go eastward through the desert and will flow into the Dead Sea making the waters fresh. The "man" also tells Ezekiel that the water will bring life everywhere it goes, and the river will have an abundance of fish. In fact fisherman will catch fish from En Gedi to Eneglaim.

En Gedi is the largest oasis along the western shore of the Dead Sea. En Gedi is one of only two fresh water springs located on the western shore of the Dead Sea. Because of the greater availability of land for agriculture at En Gedi, it is the best spring by which to settle. The picture on the upper left is En Gedi.

We do not know where Eneglaim is, but the text makes it clear that it is somewhere near or along the Dead Sea.

While the water will be fresh, the marshes will continue to provide salt. And the trees will provide fruit every month, and the leaves will provide medicine. This matches the river and the trees described in Rev 22:1-2.

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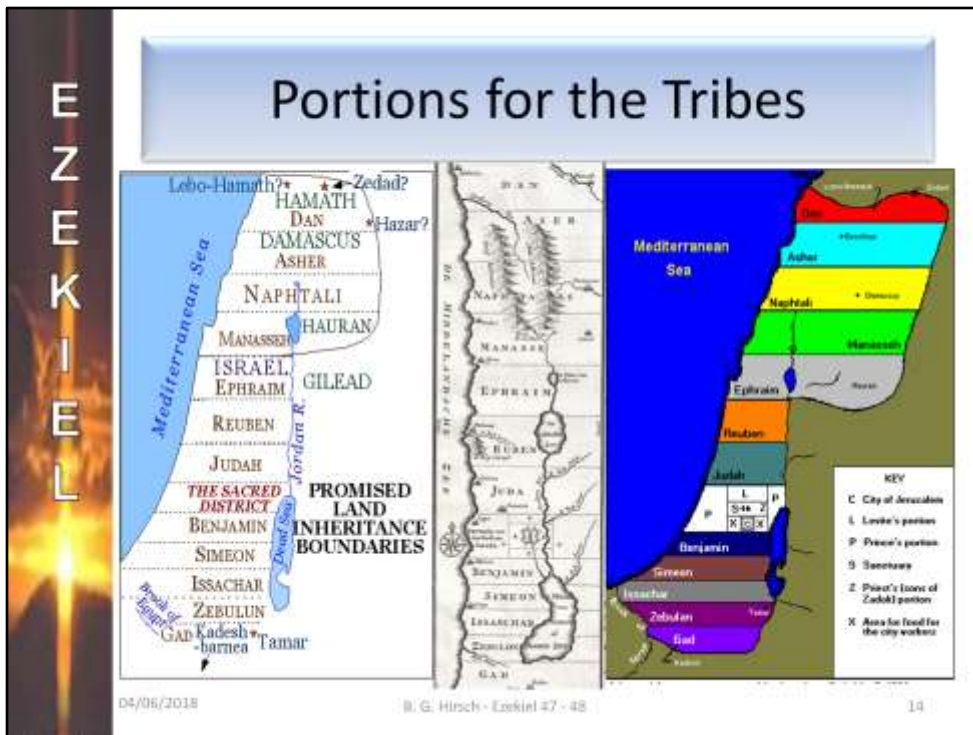
Now let's read Ezekiel chapter 47 verses 13 – 23. (*read verses 13-23.*)

The LORD gives the boundaries for the new land of Israel. This is the land that will be apportioned to the tribes. And right off the bat, the LORD says that Joseph will receive two portions, one for Manasseh and one for Ephraim.

The slide gives a couple of depictions of the boundaries of the new land. Notice that we are not certain where the exact boundaries will be. However, the LORD says in verse 14 that the land is to be divided equally.

The LORD also requires that foreigners that are living with the Jewish people in the land, and having children there, be given an inheritance from the area of the tribe where they are living. The foreigner's children, that are born in the land, are to be treated as native Jews.

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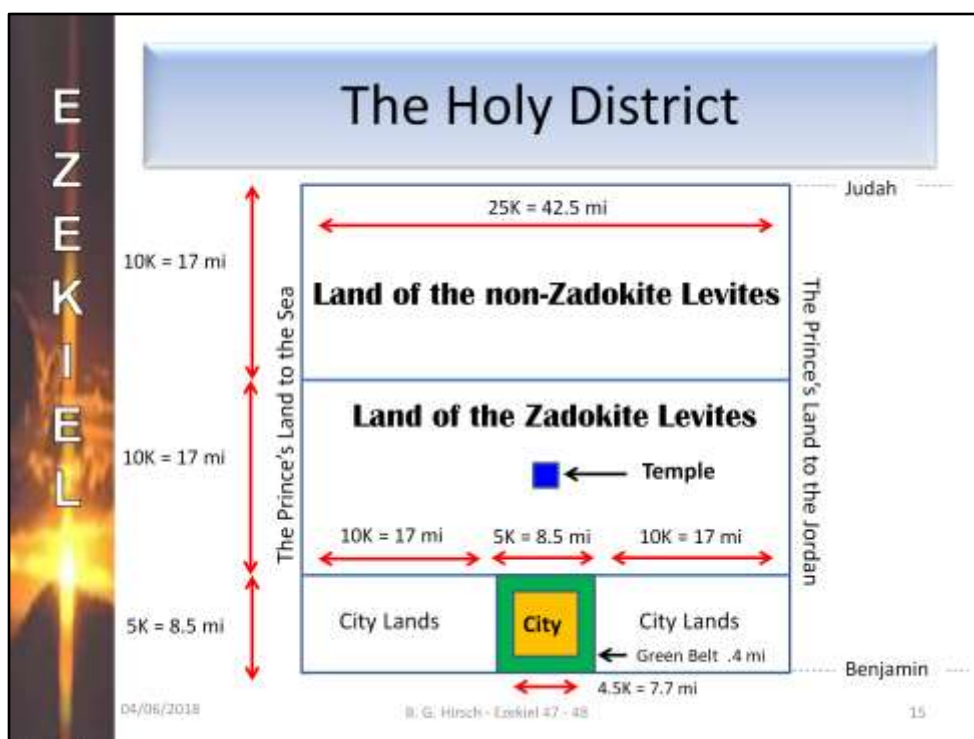
Let's read chapter 48 of Ezekiel verses 1 – 7, and 23 - 29 . *(Read verses 1-7 & 23-29.)*

In these chapters the LORD states the starting and ending points for the division of the land to the tribes. The LORD then lists each tribe in order as they are to receive their inheritance. The tribe of Dan is the most northern tribe, and the tribe of Gad is the most southern.

The depictions I found for this slide are not that accurate. The LORD says that the tribal portions are to be equal, and these diagrams certainly don't appear equal to me. When the holy portion that includes the Holy District, and the Prince's land is described in verse 8, it says that the breadth is 25,000, and the length is equal to one of the tribal portion from east to west.

If all the tribal portions are equal, then they are all the same length from east to west. And these depictions do not show this. The most like the description is the one in the middle.

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Let's read chapter 48 of Ezekiel verses 8 – 22. (Read verses 8-22.)

After rereading the passage in chapter 48 a few times, I believe that my prior diagram, which I had gotten from the internet, and which I have recreated here, was correct.

Again, the word "cubit" does not appear in the Hebrew for the measurements.

However, I also reviewed the measurements, and I believe now that the other areas should be given using the same reed of standard cubits that I applied to the measurement of the city. The diagram on this slide reflects these changes.

The overall length for a side of the Holy District is about 42 and a half miles, not 50 as I said last time.

The Zadokite allotment contains the Temple Compound. The word "midst" used in verse 8 is the Hebrew word "ta'vek", which means center. So, the Temple Compound is located so the sanctuary is in the center of the Holy District.

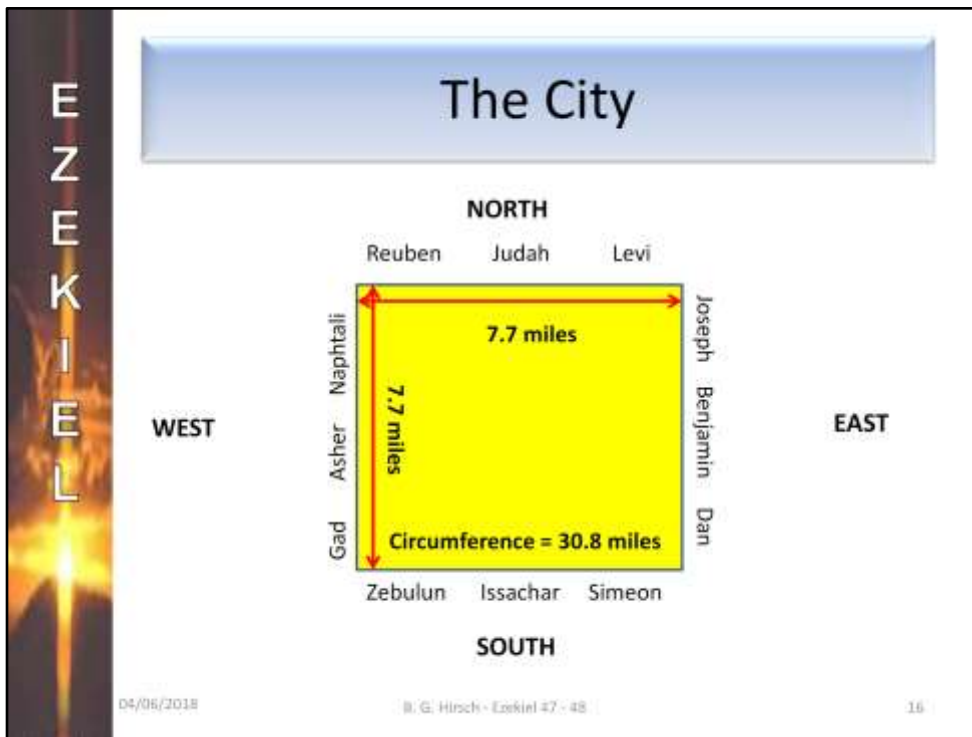
Both the Zadokite and non-Zadokite Levites are not allowed to sell or exchange their land. The LORD states that this is a choice part of the land and it is holy to the LORD.

Surrounding the city is an "open area" of about .4 mile on each side. This is a green belt that is apparently not tilled for growing food.

To the east and west of the green belt are areas for those who work for or serve the city, depending upon which translation you read. The workers come from all of the tribes of Israel. And the food they produce is for themselves. Each of these areas is 144.5 square miles or 92,480 acres.

The remaining east and west areas outside the Holy District belongs to the Prince. The Holy District itself is in the center of the overall holy portion.

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Let's read chapter 48 verses 30 – 35. (*Read verses 30-35.*)

You may be asking yourself, "Does Brett still think this city is New Jerusalem?" Well, the answer is yes, I do. My continuing study has been confirming my prior speculation. However, this leads to some disturbing conclusions.

However, rather than go into that, let's note what the verses we just read tell us.

There are 12 gates to the city. Each gate is named for one of the 12 tribes of Israel. The slide shows how these gates are situated. In Rev 21:12-13, speaking of New Jerusalem, it says:

¹²And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

¹³On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.

The LORD says the circumference of the city will be 18,000. By my reckoning this is 30.8 miles, which just happens to be the same as adding the lengths of the four sides that we calculated last time.

The name of the city is **Yhovah shammah**, which means "The LORD is There". And in Rev 21:23, it says:

²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

In Ezekiel it does not tell us who besides the LORD will be in the city. In Rev 21:27 the LORD gives us this information:

²⁷But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Read Rev 22:15 to see who will not be in the city.

Well, now I have to leave you where Ezekiel leaves us ... in New Jerusalem.

Questions?

Thank you all for being so kind and dedicated to come and study this great book of the Old Testament, and for being so gracious to me.

Let's pray.