

1. It is a mistake to speak of the wonderful series of courts and buildings, described in the closing chapters of Ezekiel, collectively as the Temple. The proper term is "The Sanctuary", as it is set forth in 45.1-4 (see plan above).
2. The governing figure of the dimensions given throughout the last eight chapters - not only in connection with the Sanctuary, but also in the measurements of the holy "Oblation unto Jehovah", of the Land - is the number "5" (Ap.10).
3. The Sanctuary is in the midst of the central portion of the middle (the Priests') portion of the "Oblation" (see block plan, p.127). The *Altar* which occupies the *exact centre* of the Sanctuary (*not the Temple* proper, see below), is thus twelve miles from the north gate of the city, twelve miles from the southern boundary of the Levites' portion, and thirty miles from the eastern and western boundaries of the "Oblation" respectively.
4. The Sanctuary is comprised in a great square (42.15-20) enclosed with a wall measuring 500 *reefs* each way.
If the "measuring reef" = 12 ft.6 in., then 500 reefs will be equivalent to about *nine* English furlongs, or a little more than

one mile square. (1)

5. In the centre of this great square we have next the boundary wall enclosing the OUTER COURT. This wall is 12 ft. 6 in. high by 12 ft. 6 in. broad, and forms a square of 500 cubits (1a) (external measurements).

Five hundred cubits is $25.025 \times 500 = 1042.7$ English feet, or about one fifth of a mile.

6. Within this is the Inner Court, a square of 300 cubits ($25.025 \times 300 = 625$ English feet.)

7. Inside the Inner Court we have the Temple (or *Palace*, Heb. *heykal*) Court, or the Separate Place (2) (41.12,13,14,15; 42.1,10,13), and the Temple Palace itself, each occupying a space of 100 cubits = 216 feet square, and forming together a rectangle of 200×100 cubits (=432 ft. x 216 ft.).

8. Finally in the midst of the "Separate Place" stands the Altar, *twelve* cubits square (=25 ft.) on its base or "settle" of *fourteen* cubits square (= about 29 ft.).

Thus it will be seen that "the ALTAR before the HOUSE" (40.47), in the midst of "the Separate Place", is the actual centre of the Millennial Sanctuary and worship, and *not* the "Building", the "House", or "Temple" immediately to the west of it. (3) This indicates that the millennial "Temple" is really the Palace or Habitation of Messiah in connection with "the City of the great King" (Ps.48.2 Matt.5.35), when He, as the "GLORY of Jehovah", will from time to time visit His earthly metropolis.

At the glorious "Dedication" of the Sanctuary, of which brief mention is made in 43.2-6, Jehovah's Glory (Messiah) enters the "House" by way of "the gate of the Outward Sanctuary which looketh toward the East" (43.4; 44.1). This will then be closed for all purposes of general ingress and egress; and is reserved strictly for the use of "the Prince" (the risen David?) who, as Messiah's vicegerent (cp.37.24,25), will alone be permitted to make use of it.

9. A word is necessary regarding the mistake into which some commentators have fallen with regard to the measurements of the "Oblation".

It has been assumed that these are stated, and are to be understood, as being given in *cubits*, not *reefs*.

According to this reckoning, all the oblation ($25,000 \times 25,000$ *somethings*); and if cubits, it would represent a square of rather less than ten miles each way. The absurdity of this view will be at once apparent when the cubit-scale is applied to the city. This is stated (48.15,16) as being $5,000 \times 5,000$ *something*; if these are *cubits*, then the "City of the Great King" (Ps.48), which in every allusion to it in the scriptures is suggestive of magnificence and spaciousness, is reduced to a *petty area of less than four square miles* ($5,000$ cubits x $5,000$ cubits = a square of less than two miles each way).

The point need not be laboured.

$5,000$ reeds x $5,000$ reeds gives us a city twelve miles square, and an area of 144 square miles - dimensions of dignity and importance befitting the metropolis of the world.

In measuring or "setting out" buildings and distances, *rods* and *tapes* or *chains* are used now of recognised standardised lengths.

This is precisely what we have in 40.3; where the angelic measurer or surveyor is presented to us "with a line of flax" (=tape) in his hand, and a "measuring reed" (=rod). Cf. 47.3

In the block plan (p.127) it will be seen that "the possession of the City" is shown to the south of the Oblation. Whereas in Ps. 48.2, which is distinctly Messianic in its fuller scope, it is stated:

"Beautiful for situation (=elevation), the joy of the whole earth,
Is Mount Zion on the *sides of the North*." (See the notes on Ps.48.2)

(cp. the only other places where the expression "the sides of the North" occurs, Isa.14.12-14; 38.6,15; 39.2 and the note on Ps.75.6).

That "the Possession of the City" will lie parallel with "the very great valley" cloven through the Mount of Olives and running east and west (Zech.14.4,5) seems clear. The "City of the Great King" will therefore be situated in a magnificent

position on the *North* side of this great valley. No wonder it is spoken of as "beautiful for situation" (elevation, or extension). As the original Zion towered above the Kidron Valley in days gone by, so in the Messianic days to come, "Zion, the City of our God" will be seen towering in majestic elevation above the north side of the "very great valley" that will be then "cleft" east and west, and through which the cleansing waters will flow eastward to make the land, now desert, "blossom as the rose" (47.8; and cp. Isa.35.)

10. Difficulties are sometimes raised with regard to taking the measurements of the "Oblation" as being in *reeds* not *cubits*, on the score of disproportion to the "Land". It is argued that a square block of 60 miles by 60 = 3,600 square miles, taken out of the whole territory as divided among the Tribes, is out of all proportion to the area of the "Holy Land". But it is nowhere stated that *Palestine* as we know it now is the whole extent of the "Land".

The majority of the maps intended to show the division of the millennial land, are presented usually with the geographical boundaries of the Holy Land as they are now known to us, practically the same as in the days of our Lord, with the huge square block of the "Oblation" occupying about one-fifth of the *map of Palestine*.

This is an entire misconception. The promise in Genesis 15.18 yet awaits fulfillment. And if, with the statement therein that the northern and southern boundaries of the Promised Land are the two great rivers, the Euphrates and the Nile, then, the comparison of this with Ezek.47.20 gives us the western boundary, viz. the "Great Sea" (Mediterranean). This leaves the eastern boundary to be accounted for; and the possibility is that "*the East Sea*" of verse 18 is the Persian Gulf, at the head of which the northern boundary (the Euphrates) will end. As "the tongue of the Egyptian sea" will be utterly destroyed "in that day" (Isa. 11.15), this amplitude, or enlargement of the area of territory promised to Abraham on the south gives strength for the suggestion of a corresponding extension to the east. If this is so, then the whole of the Promised Land will be a magnificent territory, bounded on the north by the Euphrates, on the east by the Indian Ocean (the east sea), on the south by the Nile, and on the west by the Mediterranean. This will include not only the Arabian peninsula, but the great Arabian and Syrian deserts, and the plains of Babylonia. A glorious patrimony truly, and worthy of occupation by the "strong nation" of Mic. 4.7, the People through whom all the nations of the earth are yet to be blessed! See Gen.12.3; and especially 28.14. It may be that the Twelve Tribes may be allotted special strips or "lots" of the land on either side of the Oblation as usually shown; but that an enormously increased territory N., E., and S., will become "in that Day" the realization of the Promised Land is certain.

NOTES

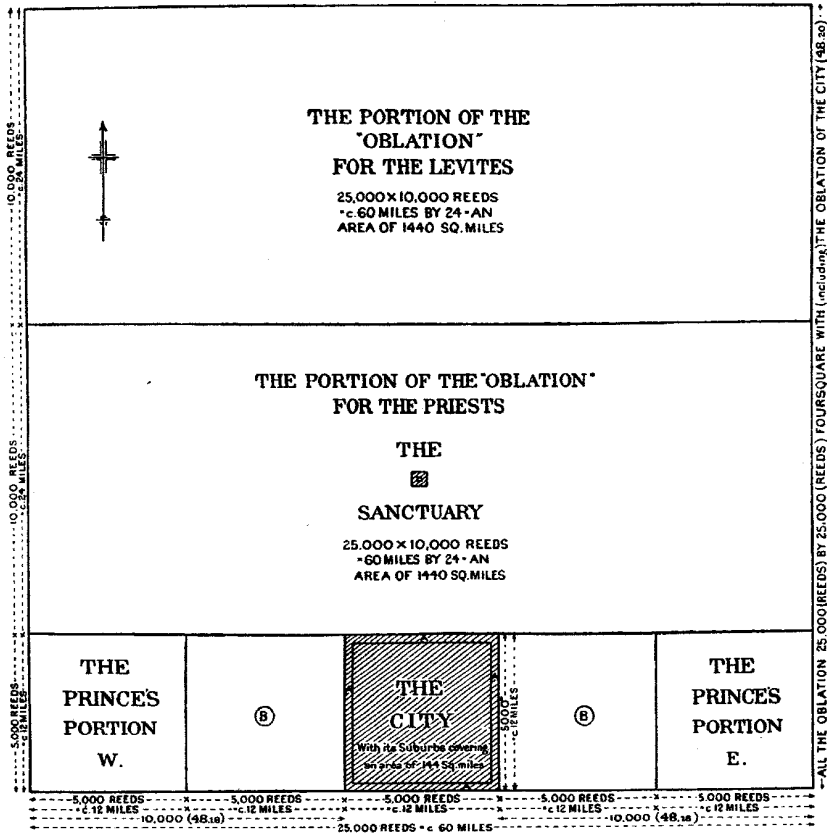
(1) The "measuring reed" is given as being "of six cubits (long) by the cubit and an handbreadth" (40.5; 43.13); and in 41.8 we have the specified *standard* length of the reed as "a full reed of *six great cubits*". This "great cubit" is therefore *one cubit + one handbreadth*. *Six handbreadths* are reckoned to the ordinary cubit. In this case there is one extra. So that the "great cubit" employed in the measurements of the Sanctuary and the Land is equal to *seven handbreadths* (Ap.10). It follows therefore that *six great cubits* = 42 (6x7) handbreadths. If the handbreadth is taken as being 3.575 in.; or a little more than 3 1/2 in., which is most probably about the exact figure, then the "great cubit" is 3.575 x 7 = 25.025 inc.; and the "full reed" will therefore be 25.025 x 6 = 150.150 in. This = 12.5125 English feet, or in round numbers 12 feet 6 inches.

(1a) The main dimensions given supply us with these figures, although they are not specifically stated as in the case of the 500 reeds of 42.16-20.

(2) The Separate Place has in its centre the ALTAR and seems to be the court for worship of "separate ones".

(3) In the "Specification", it is a remarkable fact that the *Altar* is the item numbered 27. The whole number of "items" specified from 40.1- 48.35 is 53. This gives 26 *items on either side of 27* - thus placing the Altar exactly in the midst of the angelic specification - as it is placed in the centre of the Sanctuary.

BLOCK PLAN, SHOWING "ALL THE OBLATION" (48.20)



THE "POSSESSION OF THE CITY" LIES PARALLEL WITH THE "VERY GREAT VALLEY" OF ZECH.14.4,5; which valley probably will form the Southern boundary of the City (see note on p.126, par.9).

The whole size of the "OBLATION" is 25,000 x 25,000 REEDS (48.20), and equals about 60 ENGLISH MILES square. Divided into three main Portions:

- (1) The Portion for the Priests, containing in the centre the Sanctuary, The Holy Portion of the Land, 25,000 x 10,000 Reeds (45.1-4) = 60 miles by 24.
- (2) The Portion for the Levites, 25,000 x 10,000 (45.5) = 60 miles by 24.
- (3) The "Possession of the City", 25,000 x 5,000 (45.6) = 60 miles by 12, including the Two "Portions" for the Prince, one on the W., the other on the E. of the City (see block plan above.)

The CITY is set in the midst of the "Possession of the City", and its dimensions are given (48.15) as 5,000 x 5,000 reeds = about 12 miles square; thus covering an area of 144 square miles (English). Of this, 250 reeds all round are marked off as "suburbs", thus reducing the actual size of the "City" itself to about 11 miles square, covering an area of 121 square miles (48.15-17).

Verse 18 gives the length of the "possession" to E. and W., as being 10,000 reeds each way. This manifestly includes the "Prince's Portions" at either end. Between these portions and the suburbs of the City lies on either side (B B) the remainder of "the residue in length over against (i.e. alongside) the oblation of the holy (portion)", which is evidently the "garden" portion of the City, as "the increase (Heb. *tebuah*, 48.18) thereof shall be for food for them that serve the City."

The "City Portion" is therefore seen to be divided into 5 (Ap. 10) portions, each 5,000 reeds square, or into 5 blocks of 144 English square miles each. The total area covered being $144 \times 5 = 720$ square miles.

The "Priests Portion" is one large block containing a superficial area exactly double, viz. 1,440 square miles.

The "Levites Portion" is of equal size. the total area of "All the Oblation" is therefore, in English miles, $1,440 + 1,440 + 720 = 3,600$ square miles.

The above figures will enable the student to grasp fully a fact that is often lost sight of: viz. that everything in connection with the whole of the Oblation to Jehovah, including the City, will be planned, as shown by these dimensions, on a "magnifical" scale. To give one instance of the scale on which the Oblation will be "laid out" - the nearest point from which the outside wall of the Sanctuary, in the midst of the Priest's portion, can be reached from the Northern Gate of the City is 11 and 1/2 miles. There will be no overcrowding or jerry-buildign in "that day". It is not possible for us now to do more than faintly imagine to ourselves what the City will be like; 12 miles square, perfectly planned, with "garden" spaces on either hand occupying like areas, and these again bounded by the Prince's "private gardens" so to speak, and abode, of similar size.

SPECIFICATION OF "THE SANCTUARY"

And it's planning out in relation to the "Oblation unto Jehovah" of the Land and the location of the tribes. Ezekiel 40.1- 48. 35.

Order & References:

1. The "Wall on the outside of the house round about" (12 ft. 6 ins. high, and 12 ft. 6 ins. broad). *Ezek 40: 5*
2. The EAST OUTER GATE. *Details. Ezek 40: 6-16*
3. THE OUTER COURT *Details. Ezek 40: 17-19*
4. The NORTH Outer Gate. *Details. Ezek 40: 20-22*
5. The NORTH and EAST INNER GATES. *Ezek 40: 23*
6. The SOUTH OUTER GATE. *Details. Ezek 40: 24-26*
7. The SOUTH INNER GATE. *Ezek 40: 27*
8. THE INNER COURT. SOUTH GATE. *Details. Ezek 40: 28-31*
9. THE INNER COURT. EAST GATE. *Details. Ezek 40: 32-34*
10. THE INNER COURT. NORTH GATE. *Details. Ezek 40: 35-43*
11. CHAMBERS for the "SINGERS". *Ezek 40: 44*
12. CHAMBERS for the Priests in charge of the HOUSE. *Ezek 40: 45*