Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 390 – Dividing The Land Through The Seven Day Feast (Ezekiel 45:1-25)

1. What were they to offer to the Lord when they divided the land by lot?

   A portion of the land for the Lord: *"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 45:1**).

   - After their captivity, they will divide the land by lot (**Ezekiel 47:13-23** and **Ezekiel 48:29**).
   - Their inheritance was originally decided by lot (**Numbers 26:55**, **Numbers 34:13**, and **Numbers 33:54**).
   - At times you can see clearly God's hand in decisions made by the casting of lots (**Acts 1:12-26**).
   - It was said that the Lord decided their land by lot (**Acts 13:17-19**).

2. Who and what was to be in the holy portion of the land?

   The sanctuary, the priests, the ministers of the sanctuary, the Levities: *"(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. (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. (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. (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"* (**Ezekiel 45:2-5**).

   - We have already in recent chapters talked about the sanctuary, the holy place, house of God (**Ezekiel 41-43**).
   - Here, God is setting aside the land space.
   - An area of land for living, not an inheritance, for the Levites that served as priests, servants in the temple, etc. When Israel was whole, the Levities were given cities to dwell in (**Numbers 35:1-8**).

3. Who was the possession of the city to be for?

   The whole house of Israel: *"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 45:6**).

   - We will come to more details in chapter forty-eight (**Ezekiel 48:1-22**).

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- The point is, the city and Judah wasn't just for the Levities. Any of the children of Israel had their rights in Jerusalem as this was God's city (**II Kings 21:4**, **Psalms 78:67-68**, **Psalms 135:21**, and **Ezra 1:1-3**).
- Think about this: *"The LORD doth build up Jerusalem: he gathereth together the outcasts of Israel"* (**Psalms 147:2**).

4. Was there a portion of the land set aside for the prince?

Yes: *"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 45:7**).

- The princes had erred (**Isaiah 1:23** and **Jeremiah 32:32-35**).
- They wanted the truth and those that taught it to perish (**II Chronicles 24:17-21** and **Jeremiah 37:15-38:6**).
- In restoration though, the princes were given a chance to repent that at least in some ways, they took (**Nehemiah 9:32-38**).

5. What did the Lord expect to see from the princes?

"(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. (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. (10) Ye shall have just balances, and a just ephah, and a just bath" (**Ezekiel 45:8-10**).

- They were oppressors (**Micah 3:1-4**; cf. **Proverbs 28:16**).
- Time for them to be just (**Leviticus 19:35-36**, **Isaiah 1:17**, **Amos 8:4-6**, **Micah 6:10-11**, and **Zechariah 8:16**).

6. What was God instructing in talking about the ephah, bath, shekel, oil, and the lamb out of the flock?

He was discussing what was to be given as an oblation [a present; gift; offering] for the prince of Israel: "*(11) The ephah* [measure of grain] *and the bath* [a unit of liquid measure] *shall be of one measure, that the bath may contain the tenth part of an homer* [cement, mortar, clay], *and the ephah the tenth part of an homer: the measure thereof shall be after the homer. (12) And the shekel shall be twenty gerahs: twenty shekels, five and twenty shekels, fifteen shekels, shall be your maneh. (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: (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: (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*

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for peace offerings, to make reconciliation for them, saith the Lord GOD. (16) All the people of the land shall give this oblation for the prince in Israel" (**Ezekiel 45:11-16**).

- These offerings were given to the prince [chief; ruler]. The next verse discusses what he did next (**Ezekiel 45:17**).

7. What was the "prince's part"?

"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" (**Ezekiel 45:17**).

- The prince was given the gifts. He then would give these offerings to the Lord (i.e. **Numbers 7:1-11**).

8. What was to be offered for reconciliation of those that erred?

Sin offering: *"(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: (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. (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 45:18-20**).

- To cleanse the house of the Lord (**II Chronicles 29:15-16**).
- Offering without blemish (**Leviticus 22:20**).
- There had long been a process of sanctifying their place of sacrifices (**Leviticus 16:18-20**).
- For everyone that erreth or is simple (**Numbers 15:22-26**).
- In considering the "simple", study through the usage of that Hebrew term (Strong's # 6612): **Psalms 19:7**, **Psalms 116:6**, **Psalms 119:130**, **Proverbs 1:4**, **Proverbs 1:22**, **Proverbs 1:32**, **Proverbs 7:7**, **Proverbs 8:5**, **Proverbs 9:4**, **Proverbs 9:6**, **Proverbs 9:16**, **Proverbs 14:15**, **Proverbs 14:18**, **Proverbs 19:25**, **Proverbs 21:11**, **Proverbs 22:3**, and **Proverbs 27:12**).
- In general, there had to be annual sin offerings (**Leviticus 16:34** and **Hebrews 10:1-3**).

9. What were they supposed to do in the first month, in the fourteenth day of the month?

"(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. (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. (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.

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(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 45:21-24**).

- **Exodus 12:1-51**, **Numbers 9:1-14**, **Deuteronomy 16:1-8**, **II Chronicles 35:1-19**, and **Ezra 6:19-20**
- For us to grasp contexts pertinent to us under the Law of Christ (i.e. **Matthew 26:17-30** and **I Corinthians 5:7**); we had better get these points.

10. What was the prince supposed to do in the seventh month, in the fifteenth day of the month?

"In the seventh month, in the fifteenth day of the month, shall <u>he</u> [the prince; vs. 22] *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"* (**Ezekiel 45:25**).

- Again, princes [chief rulers] had long been involved in offerings to the Lord (**Numbers 7:10-11**).
- This was the time that originally was the feast of tabernacles (**Leviticus 23:34**).
- There were many instructions for that week (**Numbers 29:12-40**).
- The feast of the tabernacles continued to be practiced even after the temple was built and even up to the days of Christ (**John 7:1-2**).

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