

# Pentwater Bible Church

*Ezekiel Message 106*  
*October 22, 2017*

MAP OF CANAAN - TWELVE TRIBE PORTIONS



EZEKIEL CHAPTER 48 12 TRIBES

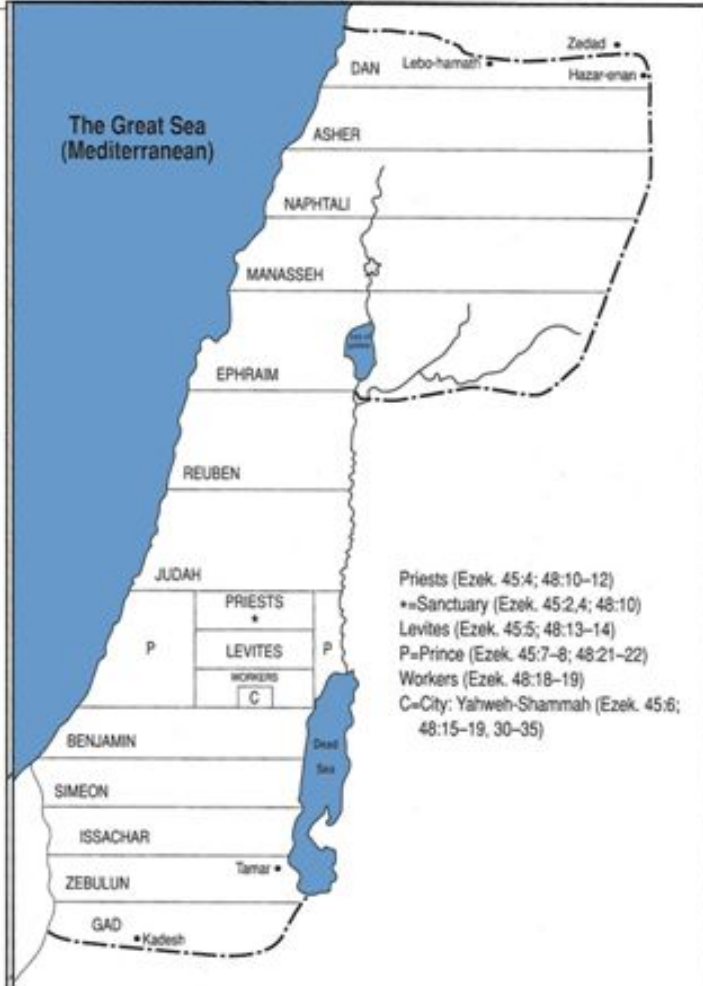


Photo from <https://godsloveandlaw.com/2013/10/19/thy-kingdom-come-part-2-of-2-2/>.

# Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Ezekiel

Message One-Hundred Six

THE LORD'S DIVISION OF THE LAND OF ISRAEL PART I

October 22, 2017

Daniel E. Woodhead

Ezekiel 47:13- 48:7

<sup>13</sup>Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: This shall be the border, whereby ye shall divide the land for inheritance according to the twelve tribes of Israel: Joseph shall have two portions. <sup>14</sup>And ye shall inherit it, one as well as another; for I swear to give it unto your fathers: and this land shall fall unto you for inheritance.

<sup>15</sup>And this shall be the border of the land: On the north side, from the great sea, by the way of Hethlon, unto the entrance of Zedad; <sup>16</sup>Hamath, Berothah, Sibraim, which is between the border of Damascus and the border of Hamath; Hazerhatticon, which is by the border of Hauran. <sup>17</sup>And the border from the sea, shall be Hazar-enon at the border of Damascus; and on the north northward is the border of Hamath. This is the north side. <sup>18</sup>And the east side, between Hauran and Damascus and Gilead, and the land of Israel, shall be the Jordan; from the north border unto the east sea shall ye measure. This is the east side. <sup>19</sup>And the south side southward shall be from Tamar as far as the waters of Meribothkadesh, to the brook of Egypt, unto the great sea. This is the south side southward. <sup>20</sup>And the west side shall be the great sea, from the south border as far as over against the entrance of Hamath. This is the west side.

<sup>21</sup>So shall ye divide this land unto you according to the tribes of Israel. <sup>22</sup>And it shall come to pass, that ye shall divide it by lot for an inheritance unto you and to the strangers that sojourn among you, who shall beget children among you; and they shall be unto you as the home-born among the children of Israel; they shall have inheritance with you among the tribes of Israel. <sup>23</sup>And it shall come to pass, that in what tribe the stranger sojourneth, there shall ye give him his inheritance, saith the Lord Jehovah

48 <sup>1</sup>Now these are the names of the tribes: From the north end, beside the way of Hethlon to the entrance of Hamath, Hazar-enon at the border of Damascus, northward beside Hamath, (and they shall have their sides east and west,) Dan, one portion. <sup>2</sup>And by the border of Dan, from the east side unto the west side, Asher, one portion. <sup>3</sup>And by the border of Asher, from the east side even unto the west side, Naphtali, one portion. <sup>4</sup>And by the border of Naphtali, from the east side unto the west side, Manasseh, one portion. <sup>5</sup>And by the border of Manasseh, from the east side unto the west side, Ephraim, one portion. <sup>6</sup>And by the border of Ephraim, from the east side even unto the west side, Reuben, one portion. <sup>7</sup>And by the border of Reuben, from the east side unto the west side, Judah, one portion (ASV, 1901).

## THE INHERITANCE OF THE LAND TO ISRAEL

Ezekiel 47:13-14

*<sup>13</sup>Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: This shall be the border, whereby ye shall divide the land for inheritance according to the twelve tribes of Israel: Joseph shall have two portions. <sup>14</sup>And ye shall inherit it, one as well as another; for I swear to give it unto your fathers: and this land shall fall unto you for inheritance (ASV, 1901).*

The Lord now addresses Ezekiel with information concerning the plot of land east of the Mediterranean Sea that the twelve tribes will inherit. This land is what has been promised by God to the patriarchs. The first land promises to Israel were given to Abraham, the first Hebrew, as part of the divine covenant that God made with him (beginning in Genesis 12:1-3). The covenant was then by ratified by human oath (Genesis 17). The fact that Israel will possess the Land of Eretz Israel is well documented in Scripture. Some of those promises are as follows.

Abraham was originally commanded by God because of his faithfulness to leave the land of Ur of the Chaldees which was in eastern Mesopotamia and go to a land that He would show him (Canaan, Genesis 12:1). As Abraham travelled God affirmed the boundaries of the land first to him with a visual evaluation of it (Genesis 13:14-17). Later as God signed the covenant through an ancient oath practice with Abraham he specified the exact boundaries of it (Genesis 15:12-21). The borders will extend from the Euphrates River in the north to the River of Egypt in the south. Today, the River of Egypt is along the line of the modern Suez Canal. Therefore, Israel's southern boundary will extend down to about where the Suez Canal is today. The area is now actually called the *Wadi-el-Arish* and is also called the *Brook of Egypt* or one of the Nile Delta's eastern brooks closest to the Sinai. While the covenant was being reconfirmed to Abraham's chosen son Isaac the land was again promised and Isaac was told to stay in it (Genesis 26:2-5). Isaac's son Jacob whose name was changed to Israel received another reconfirmation of the covenant and was promised additional information of its magnitude. Following the chronological affirmation of the land from God, He promised certain characteristics of their possession of the land which were dependent upon their allegiance to Him (Leviticus 26:40-45). Moses was given very specific information regarding the internal division of the land they would receive which was allotted by tribe (Numbers 34:1-15). In a document we call the land covenant, God re-affirmed possession of the land to the Nation Israel (Deuteronomy 30:5). Joshua who succeeded Moses as leader of Israel was promised general boundaries which again affirmed those the Lord gave Abraham (Joshua 1:2-4). Prophetically God also made promises through Isaiah about the boundaries of the land affirming the covenant He made with Abraham.

Isaiah 27:12

*<sup>12</sup>And it shall come to pass in that day, that Jehovah will beat off his fruit from the flood of the River (Euphrates) unto the brook of Egypt; and ye shall be gathered one by one, O ye children of Israel (ASV, 1901).*

The land shall be divided to the twelve sons of Israel and Joseph will have two portions. This is essentially because Reuben the first born should have been given a double portion in accordance with ancient inheritance practices. However he committed incest with one of his father's concubine Bilhah and Israel his father found out (Genesis 35:22; 49:3-4; I Chronicles 5:1). Joseph who is a strong "type" of Christ is again being rewarded for his faithfulness to the Lord and prominent role in bringing the Children of Israel to safety during a seven year famine. The tribal allotments that will be given in the Messianic Kingdom are quite different than they were at any previous time in that they will all be given in equal divisions with the exception of Joseph who will get two parcels. Even those two will each be the same size of all the others. God says that He will provide them with this land because He made promises to the patriarchs.

#### THE BOUNDARIES OF THE LAND

Ezekiel 47:15-20

*<sup>15</sup>And this shall be the border of the land: On the north side, from the great sea, by the way of Hethlon, unto the entrance of Zedad; <sup>16</sup>Hamath, Berothah, Sibraim, which is between the border of Damascus and the border of Hamath; Hazerhatticon, which is by the border of Hauran. <sup>17</sup>And the border from the sea, shall be Hazar-enon at the border of Damascus; and on the north northward is the border of Hamath. This is the north side. <sup>18</sup>And the east side, between Hauran and Damascus and Gilead, and the land of Israel, shall be the Jordan; from the north border unto the east sea shall ye measure. This is the east side. <sup>19</sup>And the south side southward shall be from Tamar as far as the waters of Meribothkadesh, to the brook of Egypt, unto the great sea. This is the south side southward. <sup>20</sup>And the west side shall be the great sea, from the south border as far as over against the entrance of Hamath. This is the west side.*

This set of passages deals with the specific borders of the Messianic Kingdom land of Israel. It is indeed a fulfillment of the promises made to Abraham. The northern boundary will extend from the Mediterranean Sea covering Lebanon and some of Syria and extending eastward to the river Euphrates. From there the eastern boundary will go southward to the Dead Sea. Then it will move westward to the Wadi-el-Arish to the point where it will reach the Mediterranean Sea, which will be the western border. Some of the specific land points identified here are not able to be identified. This could be because they are names of cities that will be extant during the Messianic Kingdom. Even so the boundaries are the same as promised to Abraham in the covenant that God made with him. The following map provides a rough approximation of the Messianic Kingdom property that Israel will receive. It has to be approximate because the geographic changes to the earth as well as the seas will probably change this somewhat.



Estimated Map of Messianic Israel by Chaim Clorfene

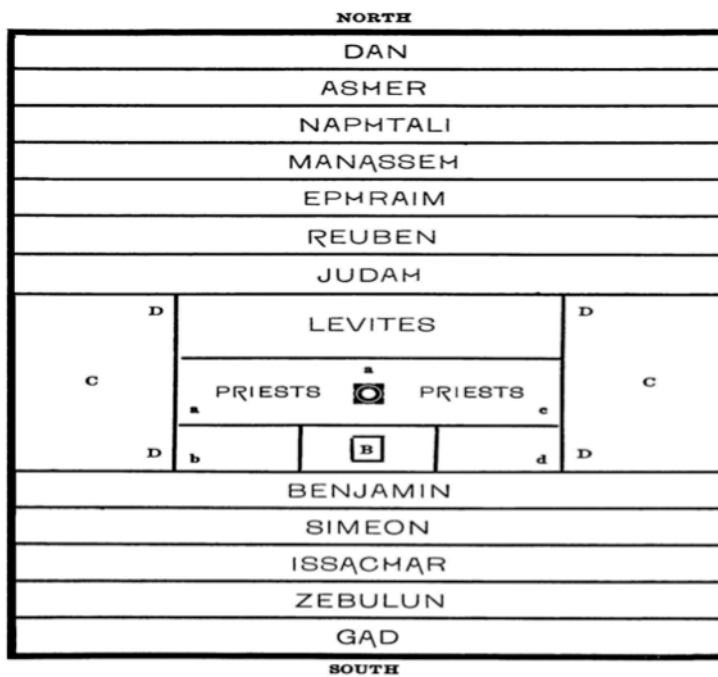
## APPORTIONING THE LAND

Ezekiel 47:21-23

*<sup>21</sup>So shall ye divide this land unto you according to the tribes of Israel. <sup>22</sup>And it shall come to pass, that ye shall divide it by lot for an inheritance unto you and to the strangers that sojourn among you, who shall beget children among you; and they shall be unto you as the home-born among the children of Israel; they shall have inheritance with you among the tribes of Israel. <sup>23</sup>And it shall come to pass, that in what tribe the stranger sojourneth, there shall ye give him his*

*inheritance, saith the Lord Jehovah (ASV, 1901).*

The following map is a rough approximation of what the fundamental divisions will be like based upon all the tribes receiving an equal share of property. There are two aspects of this to consider. *One*, this will be the Messianic Kingdom and all the world's geography will be drastically altered due to the Great Tribulation war. *Two*, The Mediterranean Sea will in all likelihood have a different boundary after the Great Tribulation which may cause a squaring off of the western boundary of Messianic Israel. The land will initially be divided by lot as it was done in Joshua's time. This again will be a means to ascertain God's will as it was previously accomplished (Proverbs 16:33). Resident aliens who have children and who manage to acquire their own property will be able to pass it on to their heirs. This was not allowed under the Mosaic Law.



- A=The Sanctuary and its Area.
- B=The City of Jerusalem.
- C=The Possession of the Prince.
- D=The Entire Oblation.
- a-b-c-d=Territory belonging to City.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Gaebelein, A. C. (1918). *The prophet Ezekiel: an analytical exposition* (p. 339). New York: Publication Office "Our Hope."

## SPECIFIC TRIBAL ALLOTMENT

Ezekiel 48:1-7

*48<sup>1</sup> Now these are the names of the tribes: From the north end, beside the way of Hethlon to the entrance of Hamath, Hazar-enan at the border of Damascus, northward beside Hamath, (and they shall have their sides east and west,) Dan, one portion. <sup>2</sup>And by the border of Dan, from the east side unto the west side, Asher, one portion. <sup>3</sup>And by the border of Asher, from the east side even unto the west side, Naphtali, one portion. <sup>4</sup>And by the border of Naphtali, from the east side unto the west side, Manasseh, one portion. <sup>5</sup>And by the border of Manasseh, from the east side unto the west side, Ephraim, one portion. <sup>6</sup>And by the border of Ephraim, from the east side even unto the west side, Reuben, one portion. <sup>7</sup>And by the border of Reuben, from the east side unto the west side, Judah, one portion (ASV, 1901).*

Now the specific names of the tribes are give in sequence from north to south and the borders of the allotments from the Mediterranean Sea to *Hazar-enan* just east of Damascus where the northern property line on Dan's property extends eastward to the Euphrates river. These first seven passages detail the allotments of the first seven of the tribes. One portion to Dan. Later in verse thirteen the amount of land for each tribe will be identical with a length of 56.25 miles east to west and 22.25 miles north to south. This makes the case for equal shape of each tribe's allotment as shown in the Gabelein map. The other six tribes which are north of the Messianic Mountain are Asher, Naphtali, Manasseh, Ephraim, Ruben and Judah. On the southern border of Judah is the area allotted to the Messianic Mountain. The tribes (sons) who are born of Leah and Rachel are nearest the Temple. The sons born to the concubines of those wives of Jacob, Bilhah and Zilpah are farthest away from the Temple.

Next message: Part XX of The Messianic Kingdom

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