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EZEKIEL 45: 1 Moreover, when you shall divide by lot the land for inheritance, you shall offer an offering to the LORD, a holy portion of the land; the length shall be the length of twenty-five thousand reeds, and the breadth shall be ten thousand: it shall be holy in all its border all around.

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The several portions of land appointed for the sanctuary, Eze 45:1-5, the city, 6, and the prince, Eze 45:7, Eze 45:8. Regulations concerning the weights and measures, Eze 45:9-12; with ordinances respecting the provisions for the ordinary and extraordinary sacrifices, Eze 45:13-25.

Verse 1

When ye shall divide by lot - That is, when on your repossessing your land, every family settles according to the allotment which they formerly had; for it is certain that the land was not divided afresh by lot after the Babylonish captivity. The allotment mentioned and described here was merely for the service of the temple, the use of the priests, and the prince or governor of the people. A division of the whole land is not intended.

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EZEKIEL 45: 2 Of this there shall be a five hundred by five hundred square for the holy place; and fifty cubits for its suburbs all around.

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Verse 2

Of this there shall be for the sanctuary - See the plan, A.

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EZEKIEL 45: 3 Of this measure you shall measure a length of twenty-five thousand, and a breadth of ten thousand: and in it shall be the sanctuary, which is most holy.

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Verse 3

And of this measure - See the plan, A, B, C, D, E.

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EZEKIEL 45: 4 It is a holy portion of the land; it shall be for the priests, the ministers of the sanctuary, who come near to minister to the LORD; and it shall be a place for their houses, and a holy place for the sanctuary.

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Verse 4

The holy portion - See the plan, A.

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EZEKIEL 45: 5 Twenty-five thousand in length, and ten thousand in breadth, shall be to the Levites, the ministers of the house, for a possession to themselves, for twenty rooms.

Verse 5

And the five and twenty thousand - See the plan, B.

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EZEKIEL 45: 6 You shall appoint the possession of the city five thousand broad, and twenty-five thousand long, side by side with the offering of the holy portion: it shall be for the whole house of Israel.

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Verse 6

Ye shall appoint - See the plan, FF.

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EZEKIEL 45: 7 What is for the prince shall be on the one side and on the other side of the holy offering and of the possession of the city, in front of the holy offering and in front of the possession of the city, on the west side westward, and on the east side eastward; and in length answerable to one of the portions, from the west border to the east border.

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Verse 7

A portion shall be for the prince - נָשִׂיא nasi, he who had the authority of chief magistrate; for there was neither king nor prince among the Jews after the Babylonish captivity. For these allotments and divisions, see the plan, EE, FF, GG.

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EZEKIEL 45: 8 In the land it shall be to him for a possession in Israel: and my princes shall no more oppress my people; but they shall give the land to the house of Israel according to their tribes.

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Verse 8

My princes shall no more oppress my people - By exorbitant taxes to maintain profligate courts, or subsidize other powers to help to keep up a system of tyranny in the earth. The former princes even robbed the temple of God to give subsidies to other states.

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EZEKIEL 45: 9 Thus says the Lord GOD: Let it suffice you, princes of Israel: remove violence and plunder, and execute justice and righteousness; dispossessing my people, says the Lord GOD.

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Verse 9

Take away your exactions from my people - This is the voice of God to all the rulers of the earth.

Take away your exactions; do not oppress the people; they are mine. Abolish all oppressive taxes.

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EZEKIEL 45: 10 You shall have just balances, and a just ephah, and a just bath.

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Verse 10

Ye shall have just balances - This appreciation of weights, measures, and money was intended to show them that they must not introduce those to which they had been accustomed in the captivity, but those which God had prescribed to their forefathers. See the notes on the parallel places.

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EZEKIEL 45: 11 The ephah and the bath shall be of one measure, that the bath may contain the tenth part of a homer, and the ephah the tenth part of a homer: its measure shall be after the homer.

EZEKIEL 45: 12 The shekel shall be twenty gerahs. Twenty shekels plus twenty-five shekels plus fifteen shekels shall be your mina.

EZEKIEL 45: 13 This is the offering that you shall offer: the sixth part of an ephah from a homer of wheat; and you shall give the sixth part of an ephah from a homer of barley;

EZEKIEL 45: 14 and the set portion of oil, of the bath of oil, the tenth part of a bath out of the cor, which is ten baths, even a homer; (for ten baths are a homer;)

EZEKIEL 45: 15 and one lamb of the flock, out of two hundred, from the well-watered pastures of Israel—for a meal offering, and for a burnt offering, and for peace offerings, to make atonement for them, says the Lord GOD.

EZEKIEL 45: 16 All the people of the land shall give to this offering for the prince in Israel.

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Verse 16

All - this oblation for the prince - A present or offering to the prince.

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EZEKIEL 45: 17 It shall be the prince's part to give the burnt offerings, and the meal offerings, and the drink offerings, in the feasts, and on the new moons, and on the Sabbaths, in all the appointed feasts of the house of Israel: he shall prepare the sin offering, and the meal offering, and the burnt offering, and the peace offerings, to make atonement for the house of Israel.

EZEKIEL 45: 18 Thus says the Lord GOD: In the first month, in the first day of the month, you shall take a young bull without defect; and you shall cleanse the sanctuary.

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Verse 18

Thou shalt take a young bullock - and cleanse the sanctuary - There is nothing of this in the Mosaic law; it seems to have been a new ceremony. An annual purification of the sanctuary may be intended.

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EZEKIEL 45: 19 The priest shall take of the blood of the sin offering, and put it on the door posts of the house, and on the four corners of the ledge of the altar, and on the posts of the gate of the inner court.

EZEKIEL 45: 20 So you shall do on the seventh day of the month for everyone who errs, and for him who is simple: so you shall make atonement for the house.

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Verse 20

For him that is simple - That wants understanding to conduct himself properly.

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EZEKIEL 45: 21 In the first month, in the fourteenth day of the month, you shall have the Passover, a feast of seven days; unleavened bread shall be eaten.

EZEKIEL 45: 22 On that day shall the prince prepare for himself and for all the people of the land a bull for a sin offering.

EZEKIEL 45: 23 The seven days of the feast he shall prepare a burnt offering to the LORD, seven bulls and seven rams without defect daily the seven days; and a male goat daily for a sin offering.

EZEKIEL 45: 24 He shall prepare a meal offering, an ephah for a bull, and an ephah for a ram, and a hin of oil to an ephah.

EZEKIEL 45: 25 In the seventh month, in the fifteenth day of the month, in the feast, shall he do the like the seven days; according to the sin offering, according to the burnt offering, and according to the meal offering, and according to the oil.

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Verse 25

In the seventh month - He shall do at the feast of tabernacles the same things that he was desired to do on the passover. The prince should offer the same number of victims, of the same quality, and with the same ceremonies, as during the above seven days. The offerings were, sin-offerings, burnt-offerings, and peace-offerings.