

Saturday, November 23

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Ezekiel 45:13 - 46:24

45 1 “When you divide the land among the tribes of Israel, you must set aside a section for the LORD as his holy portion. This piece of land will be 8 miles long and 6 miles wide. The entire area will be holy. **2** A section of this land, measuring 875 feet by 875 feet, will be set aside for the Temple. An additional strip of land 87 feet wide is to be left empty all around it. **3** Within the larger sacred area, measure out a portion of land 8 miles long and 3 miles wide. Within it the sanctuary of the Most Holy Place will be located. **4** This area will be holy, set aside for the priests who minister to the LORD in the sanctuary. They will use it for their homes, and my Temple will be located within it. **5** The strip of sacred land next to it, also 8 miles long and 3 miles wide, will be a living area for the Levites who work at the Temple. It will be their possession and a place for their towns. **6** “Adjacent to the larger sacred area will be a section of land 8 miles long and 1 miles wide. This will be set aside for a city where anyone in Israel can live. **7** “Two special sections of land will be set apart for the prince. One section will share a border with the east side of the sacred lands and city, and the second section will share a border on the west side. Then the far eastern and western borders of the prince’s lands will line up with the eastern and western boundaries of the tribal areas. **8** These sections of land will be the prince’s allotment. Then my princes will no longer oppress and rob my people; they will assign the rest of the land to the people, giving an allotment to each tribe. **9** “For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: Enough, you princes of Israel! Stop your violence and oppression and do what is just and right. Quit robbing and cheating my people out of their land. Stop expelling them from their homes, says the Sovereign LORD . **10** Use only honest weights and scales and honest measures, both dry and liquid. **11** The homer will be your standard unit for measuring volume. The ephah and the bath will each measure one-tenth of a homer. **12** The standard unit for weight will be the silver shekel. One shekel will consist of twenty gerahs, and sixty shekels will be equal to one mina. **13** “You must give this tax to the prince: one bushel of wheat or barley for every 60 you harvest, **14** one percent of your olive oil, **15** and one sheep or goat for every 200 in your flocks in Israel. These will be the grain offerings, burnt offerings, and peace offerings that will make atonement for the people who bring them, says the Sovereign LORD . **16** All the people of Israel must join in bringing these offerings to the prince. **17** The prince will be required to provide offerings that are given at the religious festivals, the new moon celebrations, the Sabbath days, and all other similar occasions. He will provide the sin offerings, burnt offerings,

grain offerings, liquid offerings, and peace offerings to purify the people of Israel, making them right with the LORD . **18** “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: In early spring, on the first day of each new year, sacrifice a young bull with no defects to purify the Temple. **19** The priest will take blood from this sin offering and put it on the doorposts of the Temple, the four corners of the upper ledge of the altar, and the gateposts at the entrance to the inner courtyard. **20** Do this also on the seventh day of the new year for anyone who has sinned through error or ignorance. In this way, you will purify the Temple. **21** “On the fourteenth day of the first month, you must celebrate the Passover. This festival will last for seven days. The bread you eat during that time must be made without yeast. **22** On the day of Passover the prince will provide a young bull as a sin offering for himself and the people of Israel. **23** On each of the seven days of the feast he will prepare a burnt offering to the LORD, consisting of seven young bulls and seven rams without defects. A male goat will also be given each day for a sin offering. **24** The prince will provide a basket of flour as a grain offering and a gallon of olive oil with each young bull and ram. **25** “During the seven days of the Festival of Shelters, which occurs every year in early autumn, the prince will provide these same sacrifices for the sin offering, the burnt offering, and the grain offering, along with the required olive oil.

46 1 “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: The east gateway of the inner courtyard will be closed during the six workdays each week, but it will be open on Sabbath days and the days of new moon celebrations. **2** The prince will enter the entry room of the gateway from the outside. Then he will stand by the gatepost while the priest offers his burnt offering and peace offering. He will bow down in worship inside the gateway passage and then go back out the way he came. The gateway will not be closed until evening. **3** The common people will bow down and worship the LORD in front of this gateway on Sabbath days and the days of new moon celebrations. **4** “Each Sabbath day the prince will present to the LORD a burnt offering of six lambs and one ram, all with no defects. **5** He will present a grain offering of a basket of choice flour to go with the ram and whatever amount of flour he chooses to go with each lamb, and he is to offer one gallon of olive oil for each basket of flour. **6** At the new moon celebrations, he will bring one young bull, six lambs, and one ram, all with no defects. **7** With the young bull he must bring a basket of choice flour for a grain offering. With the ram he must bring another basket of flour. And with each lamb he is to bring whatever amount of flour he chooses to give. With each basket of flour he must offer one gallon of olive oil. **8** “The prince must enter the gateway through the entry room, and he must leave the same way. **9** But when the people come in through the north gateway to worship the LORD during the religious festivals, they must leave by the south gateway. And those who entered through the south gateway must leave by the north gateway. They must never leave by the same gateway they came in, but must always use

the opposite gateway. **10** The prince will enter and leave with the people on these occasions. **11** “So at the special feasts and sacred festivals, the grain offering will be a basket of choice flour with each young bull, another basket of flour with each ram, and as much flour as the worshiper chooses to give with each lamb. Give one gallon of olive oil with each basket of flour. **12** When the prince offers a voluntary burnt offering or peace offering to the LORD, the east gateway to the inner courtyard will be opened for him, and he will offer his sacrifices as he does on Sabbath days. Then he will leave, and the gateway will be shut behind him. **13** “Each morning you must sacrifice a one-year-old lamb with no defects as a burnt offering to the LORD. **14** With the lamb, a grain offering must also be given to the LORD —about three quarts of flour with a third of a gallon of olive oil to moisten the choice flour. This will be a permanent law for you. **15** The lamb, the grain offering, and the olive oil must be given as a daily sacrifice every morning without fail. **16** “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: If the prince gives a gift of land to one of his sons as his inheritance, it will belong to him and his descendants forever. **17** But if the prince gives a gift of land from his inheritance to one of his servants, the servant may keep it only until the Year of Jubilee, which comes every fiftieth year. At that time the land will return to the prince. But when the prince gives gifts to his sons, those gifts will be permanent. **18** And the prince may never take anyone’s property by force. If he gives property to his sons, it must be from his own land, for I do not want any of my people unjustly evicted from their property.” **19** In my vision, the man brought me through the entrance beside the gateway and led me to the sacred rooms assigned to the priests, which faced toward the north. He showed me a place at the extreme west end of these rooms. **20** He explained, “This is where the priests will cook the meat from the guilt offerings and sin offerings and bake the flour from the grain offerings into bread. They will do it here to avoid carrying the sacrifices through the outer courtyard and endangering the people by transmitting holiness to them.” **21** Then he brought me back to the outer courtyard and led me to each of its four corners. In each corner I saw an enclosure. **22** Each of these enclosures was 70 feet long and 52 feet wide, surrounded by walls. **23** Along the inside of these walls was a ledge of stone with fireplaces under the ledge all the way around. **24** The man said to me, “These are the kitchens to be used by the Temple assistants to boil the sacrifices offered by the people.”

1 Peter 1:13 - 2:10

1 13 So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. **14** So you must live as God’s obedient children. Don’t slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your

own desires. You didn't know any better then. **15** But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. **16** For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy." **17** And remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. So you must live in reverent fear of him during your time here as "temporary residents." **18** For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. **19** It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. **20** God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but now in these last days he has been revealed for your sake. **21** Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because he raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory. **22** You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart. **23** For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God. **24** As the Scriptures say, "People are like grass; their beauty is like a flower in the field. The grass withers and the flower fades. **25** But the word of the Lord remains forever." And that word is the Good News that was preached to you.

2 1 So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. **2** Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, **3** now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness. **4** You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor. **5** And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God. **6** As the Scriptures say, "I am placing a cornerstone in Jerusalem, chosen for great honor, and anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." **7** Yes, you who trust him recognize the honor God has given him. But for those who reject him, "The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone." **8** And, "He is the stone that makes people stumble, the rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they do not obey God's word, and so they meet the fate that was planned for them. **9** But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. **10** "Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy."

Psalm 119:33 - 48

119 33 Teach me your decrees, O LORD ; I will keep them to the end. **34** Give me understanding and I will obey your instructions; I will put them into practice with all my heart. **35** Make me walk along the path of your commands, for that is where my happiness is found. **36** Give me an eagerness for your laws rather than a love for money! **37** Turn my eyes from worthless things, and give me life through your word. **38** Reassure me of your promise, made to those who fear you. **39** Help me abandon my shameful ways; for your regulations are good. **40** I long to obey your commandments! Renew my life with your goodness. **41** LORD, give me your unfailing love, the salvation that you promised me. **42** Then I can answer those who taunt me, for I trust in your word. **43** Do not snatch your word of truth from me, for your regulations are my only hope. **44** I will keep on obeying your instructions forever and ever. **45** I will walk in freedom, for I have devoted myself to your commandments. **46** I will speak to kings about your laws, and I will not be ashamed. **47** How I delight in your commands! How I love them! **48** I honor and love your commands. I meditate on your decrees.

Proverbs 28:11

27 11 Rich people may think they are wise, but a poor person with discernment can see right through them.