

Now Concerning Spiritual Things
an historical account of one man's walk with God

6031 Steamboat Drive
Dallas, Texas 75230-1851

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Jim Ash letter No. 50

(972) 458-2260 Fax (972) 458-0288
e-mail: jimash.min@worldnet.att.net

THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM
PART TEN

Introduction. In my February letter (2/8/02) I reported some relatively current European Union news to partially explain that my present writing on *The Millennial Kingdom* is relevant to the *now* of time. However, the relevancy of my writing to twenty-first century Christians is somewhat dependant upon the method of biblical interpretation one accepts or uses.¹ Generally speaking, there are two methods of biblical interpretation: (1) The Allegorical Method and (2) The Literal Method. Since I accept the Literal Method, here is one definition of that method: The method wherein each word is given the same exact basic meaning it would have in normal, ordinary, customary usage, whether employed in writing, speaking or thinking. This method is sometimes called the *grammatical-historical method* to emphasize the fact that the meaning is to be determined by both grammatical and historical considerations. The method does not rule out figures of speech, symbols, allegories and types; but if the nature of the sentence so demands, it yields to the second sense. The units of language are words and thoughts and thought is the thread that strings the words together. Therefore, the study of words and grammar are the two fundamentals of all meaningful speech and is the foundation of the Literal Method.²

¹Today it is incumbent upon Christians to be cognizant of biblical interpretation since approximately one-fourth of the Bible was prophetic at the time it was written. Understanding Bible prophecy is therefore important and enables us to see God's plan unfolding in the world day by day. The electronic, broadcast and print media are currently revealing what was prophesied by God's Prophets many hundreds and in some cases thousands of years ago. The coming of a Jewish Messiah Who would be crucified on a cross, for example, was prophesied about four thousand years before it occurred (See Genesis 3:15). This is an exciting time in which to live. The number of Christians who are participating in the excitement are growing every day – worldwide.

²The information on the definition of The Literal Method was sourced from (1) **Benard Ramm**, *Protestant Biblical Interpretation*, PP. 53, 54 & 64, and (2) **Thomas Hartwell Horne**, *An Introduction to the Critical Study and knowledge of the Holy Scriptures*, p. 322.

Scholars who pursue this subject go into much more detail, but this brief definition will suffice for my usage. Those who accept the Allegorical Method of interpretation would find my current writing about *Temple Worship* during the Millennium unacceptable. But there is an army of believers who are in the same boat with me. So grab an oar and let's go.

Here is another consideration for accepting The Literal Method and hence believing that we are living in the latter part of the "*last days*:"³ Around the year of 760 B.C. the Prophet Amos wrote, "Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets."⁴ God is doing just that today. He is revealing things to His servants concerning end-time events confirming to many believers that the time is short. For example about three years ago He gave me one of my assignments during the Millennium. He has also given me information concerning the 144,000 Jews, (12,000 from each of twelve tribes), who will be sealed on their foreheads and protected during the Tribulation.⁵ I have also been given prophetically two other things concerning end-time events (the Rapture and the Millennium) that I will be involved in which I cannot reveal now. From this I have drawn the conclusion that I would not have been given information on these four prophetic events unless the time is at hand (within this forty-year generation⁶) for the Rapture to occur. There are many other reasons, including fulfilled prophecy, which I believe tend to support my conclusion. There are also other servants of God who have arrived at similar conclusions for similar reasons, which is comforting and exciting to me.

In the recent past, someone who reads my letters said to me (as a matter of concern) something like, "My two sons (college age) read your letters and

³The "*last days*" began about two thousand years ago. See Acts 2:17-21.

⁴Amos 3:7.

⁵See Revelation 7:1-8.

⁶See Psalm 95:10 for one definition of a bible generation.

then come to me saying, ‘If the time is short, what should we do?’” Or perhaps said in another way, “Should we continue with our career plans?” And the answer is easy. Everyone should continue doing what his hand finds to do⁷ – make preparations for living life to the full – AFTER totally “selling out” to the Lord. Then ASK HIM for guidance – for direction from the Holy Spirit. The scriptures are replete with affirmation concerning such guidance. The Lord will literally invade and enhance every facet of one’s life upon request and that means *relationship*. Guidance by One you *know* is different from guidance by a set of written rules. Only after placing ourselves in the Lord’s hands are we able to be at peace and pursue the desire of our heart knowing that He will give us an on-course correction as needed. A ship in the harbor is not ready to receive an on-course correction. Believers totally committed to the Lord are not fearful of the future and what it holds because “God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”⁸ The craft or trade or profession you are engaged in, or that you are preparing for now, may be related to your assignment during the Millennium. That’s why living today is interesting and exciting. God is preparing us to “let the good times roll!”

Characteristics of The Millennial Kingdom (continued)

15. Temple Worship (continued)

Millennial Kingdom Worship (continued)

The “holy oblation”⁹ will be the focal point of Israel and the world during the Millennium. The term *holy oblation* is found in the King James and American Standard versions of the Bible while the term is translated in six other commonly used versions as “holy portion,” “holy district” or “sacred district.” In my writing I will use the term *holy oblation*. Oblation is translated from the Greek word “trumah” (Strong’s #8641} meaning “a present (as offered up) especially in sacrifice or as tribute – gift.” The holy oblation is a fifty mile square plot of land, “anchored” by the city of Jerusalem, which contains a land grant for (1) the Levites, (2) the priests, (3) the millennial Temple, (4) an enlarged city of Jerusalem and (5) possessions of the

⁷See Ecclesiastes 9:10.

⁸2 Timothy 1:7.

⁹See Ezekiel 45:1, 6.

city bordering on the east and west side of the city limits.

There are two problems in writing about the holy oblation: (1) how to interpret two units of measure, (a) cubit and (b) reed (or rod in some versions) and (2) how to interpret from the language whether or not a cubit or a reed is clearly implied.

Concerning problem (1), scholars differ on which cubit measurement was intended in Ezekiel’s prophecy since the Babylonians, Egyptians and Hebrews all had two cubits of different lengths.¹⁰ On this decision hangs all of the holy oblation measurements since they are given in cubits and reeds. For purposes of my writing, I will use 10.56 feet and 21 inches as the length of a reed (or rod) and cubit respectively, since several of my references use these two measurements. If my assumptions on the length of a cubit and a reed are inaccurate, to that extent my overall measurements will be inaccurate.

Concerning problem (2), there are occasions when research (comparison of one or several verses with the one in question to include the original Hebrew language meaning) is necessary to conclude whether to apply the cubit or the reed as the correct measure. Obviously this could make a marked difference in the dimensions of the holy oblation. To the extent that I have misunderstood or misapplied the correct lineal measure in these two problem areas, my conclusions as to details will be inaccurate. My writing is not intended to reflect exact measurements but to proclaim the reality of the existence of the holy oblation and the divine millennial purpose of everything contained within its borders.

At the beginning of the Millennium, land grants will be given to the twelve Jewish tribes, according to the Royal Grant of land given to Abraham.¹¹ The area designated for the holy oblation will lie between grants given to Judah on the north and Benjamin on the south bounded on the east and west by the prince’s portion.¹² The exact location of the holy oblation will be determined or “anchored” by the ten-mile square area designated as the expanded millennial Jerusalem. The

¹⁰Sourced from **Unger’s New Bible Dictionary**, PC Bible software, version V3-2D.

¹¹See Genesis 15:18-21 for the original “Royal Grand” boundaries.

¹²See Ezekiel 45:7, 8; 48:21, 22.

city limits proper will actually measure nine miles square with a one-half mile boundary extending completely around the city designated as “the suburbs,” making the city ten miles square. Between nineteen and twenty miles north of the center of the city of Jerusalem is the building site for the millennial Temple as described by Ezekiel. This building site is designated as being in the center of the holy oblation, a fifty-mile square plot of land (twenty-five hundred square miles). Hence the determining factor for the location of the Temple is not the city of Jerusalem, but the *center of the holy oblation*.¹³ The scriptures do not tell us the reason for this. I believe the reason may be that the third Temple (yet to be built in Jerusalem) will be defiled at the midpoint of the Tribulation. The fourth Temple to be built by the Messiah may therefore be built without this “cloud.”

The Sanctuary will be larger than any other Temple and will literally become a place for God to dwell forever which was Solomon’s prayer for the first Temple. It will be erected on a plot five hundred reeds square (five thousand two hundred eighty feet or one mile square) surrounded by a wall one reed (ten and one-half feet) high and one reed wide. The plot, outside of the wall, will be surrounded with an open space fifty cubits wide (87.5 feet) designated as “the suburbs” giving an overall dimension of five thousand four hundred fifty-five feet square. No construction details are given for the wall, but one idea I have imagined is large quarry-cut stone fitted in place without mortar joints.

A unique and miraculous phenomenon will originate from the south corner of the Sanctuary. From my point of view, this appears to be only one among many “tourist’s attractions” in the millennial holy oblation. Listen to this description of what we will see.

The one speaking in Ezekiel’s vision brought him back to the door of the Temple and there was water flowing from under the threshold of the Temple. Nothing is said about drilling a well. The water simply begins to flow from under the entrance of the Temple. For this to occur, the water will have to flow either under or through an opening in the perimeter Temple wall. How the water negotiates the wall is a detail left

out of the vision. (See Ez. 47:1-12 for these details)

The Temple faces east and the water originates from the right or south side of the threshold and the altar. Four times Ezekiel’s “tour guide” measures the flow of water southward with consecutive depth and length measurements revealing the following results: one thousand cubits (1750 feet) south of the Temple, the depth is ankle deep. Two thousand cubits (3500 feet), knee deep. Three thousand cubits (5250 feet), waist deep. Four thousand cubits (7000 feet), too deep to cross without swimming.

The new river flows southward to the city of Jerusalem where it divides, one channel flowing west to the Mediterranean sea and the other flowing east to the Dead sea. (Zach. 14:8) The Dead sea, which contains no life whatsoever today because of salt content, comes alive with great multitudes of fish identical to those in the Mediterranean sea. Fisherman will spread their nets from En Eglain (identified with Ain Hajlah) north of the Dead sea and west of the Jordan to En Gedi (twenty-three miles south of the northern coast) on the western shore of the sea. The swamps and the marshes will not be healed but will be given over to salt. The “water of life” proceeding from the threshold of the Temple appears to be exactly like the “water of life” proceeding from the throne of God in the heavenly city, the four-square new Jerusalem, that “comes out of heaven from God.” (See Rev. 21:1, 2; 22:1, 2)

Ezekiel was brought to the bank of the river. When he returned, there were many trees on both sides of the river that will be used for food. Their leaves *will not wither* and their fruit *will not fail* (or cease). They will bear fruit every month, summer and winter, because their water *flows from the Sanctuary of God – His dwelling place forever*. Leaves of the trees will be used for medicinal purposes. I can envision the leaves being anointed with “life” from the Source of the river.

Put it down in your book. This is one river you will want to drink from. If you have had a taste of “living water” and have always wanted more, just wait. Although Satan and his angels will be bound during the Millennium, sin (disobedience) will still have its consequences: illnesses that may be healed by eating the leaves of the trees growing on the banks of the river of life! Hallelujah!

¹³See Ezekiel 48:21. This means that the Temple will be in the center of an area fifty miles square which contains twenty-five hundred square miles. Diagonal lines drawn from opposite corners of the square accurately locate the future Temple site.

"THE HOLY OBLATION"

EZ. 48:20, 21

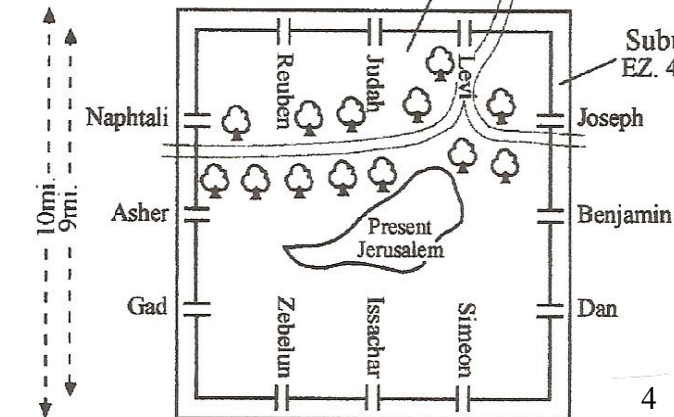
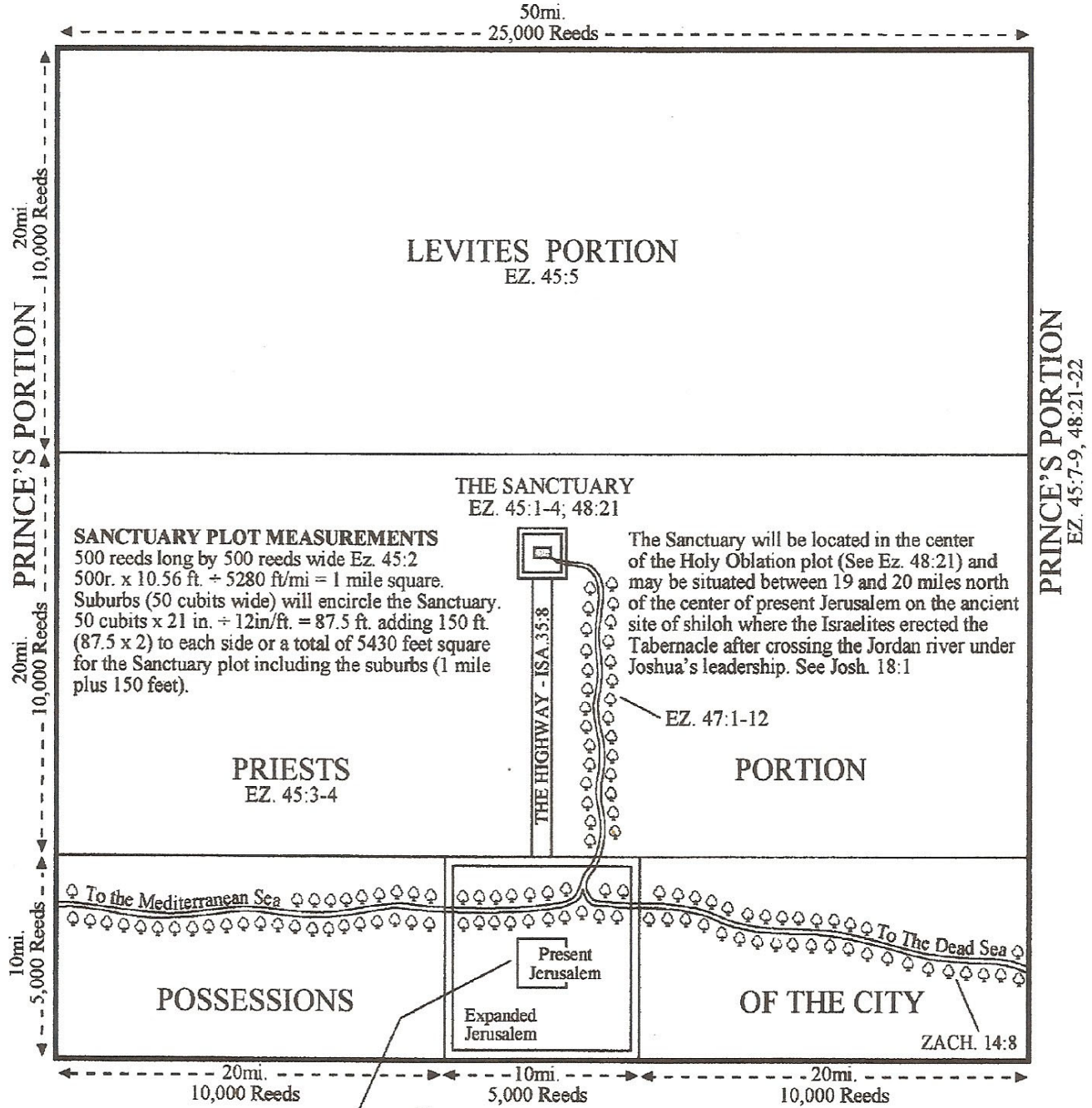
MEASUREMENT STANDARDS USED Ez. 40:5

1 reed = 10.56 feet; 1 cubit = 21 inches.

HOLY OBLATION MEASUREMENTS.

25000 reeds long by 25000 reeds wide Ez. 48:20

25000 r. x 10.56 ft. ÷ 5280 ft./mi. = 50 miles square.



EXPANDED JERUSALEM MEASUREMENTS
4500 reeds long by 4500 reeds wide Ez. 48:15-19, 30, 35
4500 r. x 10.56 ft. ÷ 5280 ft./mi. = 9 miles square.
Suburbs (250 reeds wide) will encircle the city
250 r. x 10.56 ft. ÷ 5280 ft./mi. = 0.5mi. adding one
mile (2 x 0.5) to each side or a total of 10 miles square
for the expanded city including the suburbs.

The new name for millennial Jerusalem Ez. 38:35
The LORD is there, or YAHWEH SHAAMAAH.

4 Names of the 12 gates of the city: Ez. 48:30-34