

~PASTURE GROUNDS (260)

- **Agricultural land, especially that used for grazing animals, around each of the 48 Levite cities scattered in Israel. These lands were never to be sold, though houses in the cities could be sold and came under the Jubilee regulation.**
- **Give the sons of Israel the command that they must give the Levites cities to inhabit out of the inheritance of their possession, and they should give the Levites the **pasture ground** of the cities all around them. (Numbers 35:2)**
- **And the cities must serve for them to inhabit, while their **pasture grounds** will serve for their domestic animals and their goods and for all their wild beasts. (Numbers 35:3)**
- **And the **pasture grounds** of the cities, which you will give the Levites, will be from the wall of the city and out for a thousand cubits all around. (Numbers 35:4)**
- **And you must measure outside the city on the east side two thousand cubits and on the south side two thousand cubits and on the west side two thousand cubits and on the north side two thousand cubits, with the city in the middle. This will serve them as **pasture grounds** of the cities. (Numbers 35:5)**
- **As for cities of the Levites with the houses of the cities of their possession, the right of repurchase should continue to time indefinite for the Levites. (Leviticus 25:32)**
- **And where property of the Levites is not bought back, the house sold in the city of his possession must also go out in the Jubilee, because the houses of the cities of the Levites are their possession in the midst of the sons of Israel. (Leviticus 25:33)**
- **Moreover, the field of **pasture ground** of their cities may not be sold, because it is a possession to time indefinite for them. (Leviticus 25:34)**
- **All the cities of the Levites in the midst of the possession of the sons of Israel were forty-eight cities together with their **pasture grounds**. (Joshua 21:41)**

- These cities came to be each a city together with its **pasture** ground all around it, thus as to all these cities. (**Joshua 21:42**)
- The area of the **pasture** grounds was to be from the wall of the city and out for a thousand cubits 445 meters (1,458 feet) all around. But the next verse adds,
- And the **pasture** grounds of the cities, which you will give the Levites, will be from the wall of the city and out for a thousand cubits all around. (**Numbers 35:4**)
- And you must measure outside the city on the east side two thousand cubits and on the south side two thousand cubits and on the west side two thousand cubits and on the north side two thousand cubits, with the city in the middle. This will serve them as **pasture grounds** of the cities. (**Numbers 35:5**)
- Numerous suggestions have been offered to harmonize the two figures. Some have pointed out that the **Greek Septuagint** reads, two thousand in the first instance instead of a thousand.
- However, the Hebrew text as well as the **Latin Vulgate** and the **Syriac Peshitta** read, a thousand. Jewish commentators have offered the possibility that the first thousand cubits
- And the **pasture grounds** of the cities, which you will give the Levites, will be from the wall of the city and out for a thousand cubits all around. (**Numbers 35:4**)
- Were open and used for olive groves and stalls for animals, while the second measurement.
- And you must measure outside the city on the east side two thousand cubits and on the south side two thousand cubits and on the west side two thousand cubits and on the north side two thousand cubits, with the city in the middle. This will serve them as **pasture grounds** of the cities. (**Numbers 35:5**)
- Was for actual grazing or **pasture grounds** as well as for fields and vineyards, making a total of 3,000 cubits on each side.
- However, since this reads into the text thoughts that are not there expressed, another explanation seems more likely. Thus, some

commentators believe the measurements to mean that the **pastureland** was determined by measuring out 1,000 cubits from each of the four sides of the city, east, west, north, and south.

- As to the 2,000 cubits on each side, they believe the expression outside the city means that these 2,000 cubits were not measured from the city walls outward but were the measurements of each of the four sides of the pasture area as measured along its perimeter.

- If so, this would mean that the space occupied by the city in the middle was not counted in the 2,000 cubits measured. As shown in the diagram below, this would allow for harmonizing the two sets of measurements.

- In Ezekiel's temple vision the sanctuary was to have 50 cubits as **pasture ground** on each side.

- From this there will prove to be for the holy place five hundred by five hundred, it being made square round about, and fifty cubits it will have as **pasture ground** on each side. ([Ezekiel 45:2](#))

- The city, **Yehowah Himself Is There**, that the prophet saw in vision had **pasture grounds** of 250 cubits on each side.

- And these are the city's measurements, the northern border four thousand five hundred cubits, and the southern border four thousand five hundred, and the eastern border four thousand five hundred, and the western border four thousand five hundred. ([Ezekiel 48:16](#))

- And the city must come to have a **pasture ground**, to the north two hundred and fifty cubits, and to the south two hundred and fifty, and to the east two hundred and fifty, and to the west two hundred and fifty. ([Ezekiel 48:17](#))

- Round about there will be eighteen thousand cubits, and the name of the city from that day on will be, **Yehowah Himself Is There**. ([Ezekiel 48:35](#))

- **Pasture** grounds were mentioned in;

- And they continued to dwell in Gilead, in Bashan and in its dependent towns and in all the **pasture grounds** of Sharon as far as their terminations. ([1 Chronicles 5:16](#))

- In connection with Sharon, which some believe to have been a region or town East of the Jordan. The **Hebrew** word translated **pasture ground** in the above instances, also appears at;
- At the sound of the outcry of your sailors the open country will rock. (**Ezekiel 27:28**)
- Where it is used in connection with Tyre, the city situated first on the coast and then on an island. In this instance the word has been rendered, **coast(s)**, **Mo**, **JB**, **countryside**, **RS**, **open country**, **NW**, and **rural districts**, **Le**, the prophecy thus perhaps indicating that those along the coast near Tyre would rejoice at her overthrow.
- Flocks held an important place in the lives of many Israelites, requiring **pasture grounds** where sheep and goats could graze.
- And now this is what you will say to my servant David; This is what Yehowah of armies has said; I myself took you from the **pasture ground** from following the flock to become a leader over my people Israel. (**2 Samuel 7:8**)
- And they proceeded to go to the entryway of Gedor, clear to the east of the valley, to look for pasturage for their flocks. (**1 Chronicles 4:39**)
- Eventually they found fat and good pasturage, and the land was quite wide and having no disturbance but at ease, for those dwelling there in former times were of Ham. (**1 Chronicles 4:40**)
- And these written down by their names proceeded to come in, in the days of Hezekiah the king of Judah and strike down the tents of the Hamites and the Meunim that were to be found there, so that they devoted them to destruction down to this day, and they began to dwell in their place, because there was pasturage for their flocks there. (**1 Chronicles 4:41**)
- Lack of pasturage for herds brought hardship.
- Then Pharaoh said to his brothers; What is your occupation? So they said to Pharaoh; Your servants are herders of sheep, both we and our forefathers. (**Genesis 47:3**)
- After that they said to Pharaoh; We have come to reside as

aliens in the land, because there is no pasturage for the flock that your servants have, for the famine is severe in the land of Canaan. And now let your servants dwell, please, in the land of Goshen. (**Genesis 47:4**)

- Whereas, abundant **grazing land** contributed to a time of plenty and peace.
- And he will certainly give the rain for your seed with which you sow the ground, and as the produce of the **ground** bread, which must become fat and oily. Your livestock will graze in that day in a **spacious pasture**. (**Isaiah 30:23**)
- The **pasture grounds** of the wilderness keep dripping, and with joyfulness the very hills gird themselves. (**Psalms 65:12**)
- The **pastures** have become clothed with flocks, and the low plains themselves are enveloped with grain. They shout in triumph, yes, they sing. (**Psalms 65:13**)
- In grassy **pastures** he makes me lie down, by well-watered resting-places he conducts me. (**Psalms 23:2**)
- By extension, abandoned **pasture ground** would indicate complete desolation.
- For the fortified city will be solitary, the **pasture ground** will be left to itself and abandoned like a wilderness. There the calf will graze, and there it will lie down, and he will actually consume her boughs. (**Isaiah 27:10**)
- But restoration to peace and favor would be suggested by **pasture grounds** being used again.
- And Sharon must become a **pasture ground** for sheep and the low plain of Achor a resting-place for cattle, for my people who will have looked for me. (**Isaiah 65:10**)
- And I myself shall collect together the remnant of my sheep out of all the lands to which I had dispersed them, and I will bring them back to their **pasture ground**, and they will certainly be fruitful and become many. (**Jeremiah 23:3**)
- This is what Yehowah of armies has said; In this waste place

without man and even domestic animal and in all its cities there will yet come to be the **pasture ground** of the shepherds who are making the flock lie down. (**Jeremiah 33:12**)

- And I will bring Israel back to his **pasture ground**, and he will certainly graze on Carmel and on Bashan, and in the mountainous region of Ephraim and of Gilead his soul will be satisfied. (**Jeremiah 50:19**)
- I shall positively gather Jacob, all of you. I shall without fail collect the remaining ones of Israel together. In unity I shall set them, like a flock in the pen, like a drove in the midst of its **pasture**. They will be noisy with men. (**Micah 2:12**)
- As sheep were led by a loving shepherd to **pasture grounds** where they were safe and had an abundance, so God's people are guided and cared for by Yehowah.
- As for us your people and the flock of your **pasturage**, we shall give thanks to you to time indefinite, from generation to generation we shall declare your praise. (**Psalms 79:13**)
- For he is our God, and we are the people of his **pasturage** and the sheep of his hand. Today if you people listen to his own voice. (**Psalms 95:7**)
- Know that Yehowah is God. It is he that has made us, and not we ourselves. We are his people and the sheep of his **pasturage**. (**Psalms 100:3**)
- And as regards you my sheep, the sheep of my **pasturing**, you are earthling men. I am your God, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah. (**Ezekiel 34:31**)