

Deuteronomy 11:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Are they not on the other side Jordan, by the way where the sun goeth down, in the land of the Canaanites, which dwell in the champaign over against Gilgal, beside the plains of Moreh?

Analysis

Moses provides geographic details: the mountains are 'beyond Jordan, by the way where the sun goeth down, in the land of the Canaanites, which dwell in the champaign over against Gilgal, beside the plains of Moreh.' This description locates Gerizim and Ebal west of Jordan ('beyond' from trans-Jordanian perspective), in Canaanite territory, in lowlands near Gilgal, near the oaks/terebinths of Moreh. The Hebrew aravah (ארבה, 'champaign/plain') and elon Moreh (אלון מורה, 'oaks of Moreh') specify location. Abraham received God's promise at 'the oak of Moreh' (Genesis 12:6), creating thematic link: where Abraham received covenant promise, Israel will commit to covenant obedience.

Historical Context

The geographic markers confirm Shechem's location. 'Gilgal' here likely refers to a site near Shechem, distinct from the Gilgal near Jericho (Joshua 4:19). The 'oaks of Moreh' (Genesis 12:6) mark the site where Abraham built an altar after God promised the land. This layering of covenant history—Abraham's promise, Israel's commitment ceremony—demonstrates continuity of God's redemptive plan. Geography becomes theology; specific places carry covenant significance.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does God use physical places to anchor spiritual memories and commitments?
2. What significance does connecting Moses's covenant to Abraham's promise have for understanding biblical unity?
3. How can modern believers create meaningful 'markers' or 'memorials' to remember God's faithfulness?

Interlinear Text

הַ מִּנְחָה	בְּלֹא	בְּעֵד	בְּרֵד	בְּרֵד	בְּרֵד
H3808	H1992	Are they not on the other side	H5676	Jordan	by
				H3383	the way
מְבָאָז	בְּאֶרֶץ	בְּשָׂמֶן	בְּכָנָעָן	בְּיִשְׁעָן	
goeth down	where the sun	in the land	of the Canaanites	which dwell	
H3996	H8121	H776	H3669	H3427	
בְּעֵרֶב	לְגִלְגָּל	אֶל	אֶל	אֶל	מִרְהָה:
in the champaign	over against	Gilgal	beside	the plains	of Moreh
H6160	H4136	H1537	H681	H436	H4176

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 12:6 (Parallel theme): And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land.

Judges 7:1 (Parallel theme): Then Jerubbaal, who is Gideon, and all the people that were with him, rose up early, and pitched beside the well of Harod: so that the host of the Midianites were on the north side of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley.

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