

Deuteronomy 34:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all Naphtali, and the land of Ephraim, and Manasseh, and
all the land of Judah, unto the utmost sea,

Analysis

All Naphtali, and the land of Ephraim, and Manasseh—God's panoramic revelation proceeds from north (Naphtali) to central Canaan (Ephraim and Manasseh, Joseph's sons). These territories would become the heartland of the northern kingdom after Solomon's reign. Moses sees not just geography but prophetic history—the tribal allotments, future kingdoms, and ultimately the Messiah's ministry in Galilee.

And all the land of Judah, unto the utmost sea—Eretz Yehudah ad hayam ha'acharon (land of Judah to the final/western sea) indicates the Mediterranean, Canaan's western boundary. Judah's territory in the southern hill country would produce David's dynasty and ultimately the Messiah. The 'utmost sea' phrase echoes the boundaries God promised Abraham (Genesis 15:18)—from the Euphrates to the Mediterranean. Moses sees the covenantal fulfillment stretching before Israel, contingent on obedience.

Historical Context

This verse traces Canaan from north to south, west to east—a complete survey of the inheritance. The specific mention of Ephraim, Manasseh, and Judah is significant: Ephraim and Manasseh would dominate the northern kingdom (often called 'Ephraim' by prophets), while Judah would become the southern kingdom, preserving David's line through exile to Messiah. Moses's vision encompasses both immediate conquest and distant messianic fulfillment.

Joshua 15:12 (Parallel theme): And the west border was to the great sea, and the coast thereof. This is the coast of the children of Judah round about according to their families.

Numbers 34:6 (Parallel theme): And as for the western border, ye shall even have the great sea for a border: this shall be your west border.

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