

Ezekiel 47:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And this shall be the border of the land toward the north side, from the great sea, the way of Hethlon, as men go to Zedad;

Analysis

And this shall be the border of the land toward the north side, from the great sea, the way of Hethlon, as men go to Zedad—Northern boundary: מִן־הַיָּם הַגָּדוֹל (min-hayyām haggādôl, 'from the great sea'—Mediterranean), דֶּרֶךְ הֶתְלוֹן (derekh hetlôn, 'the way of Hethlon'), לְבוֹא צֶדָדָה (lēbô' šědādāh, 'toward Zedad').

These geographical markers define Israel's northern extent—more extensive than actual historical control (David/Solomon reached roughly this far—2 Samuel 8:3-6, 1 Kings 8:65). Ezekiel's boundaries approach the full Abrahamic promise ('from the river of Egypt to...the river Euphrates'—Genesis 15:18). This expansive territory demonstrates millennial kingdom's glory: Israel possessing promised inheritance fully, not partially. God's promises, delayed but certain, will be completely fulfilled.

Historical Context

Historical Israel never permanently controlled all promised territory. David/Solomon briefly reached northern limits (2 Samuel 8, 1 Kings 8:65), but lost it. Ezekiel's vision prescribes boundaries exceeding most of Israel's history, showing millennial kingdom surpasses previous glory. This encourages faith: though current possession seems incomplete, God will fulfill every promise (Joshua 21:45, 23:14).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. Why have Israel's historical borders never matched God's promised extent?
2. What does expansive millennial boundaries teach about God's promise fulfillment?
3. How should believers respond when God's promises seem delayed?

Interlinear Text

וְזֶה	גֹּב וְלֹ	הָאָרֶץ	לְפָנֶיךָ	צָפֹן וְנֹה	מִן
H2088	And this shall be the border	of the land	side	toward the north	H4480
	H1366	H776	H6285	H6828	
הַיָּם	הַגָּדוֹל	הַדֶּרֶךְ	חֶתְלֹן	לִב וְאֵ	צֵדָדָה:
sea	from the great	the way	of Hethlon	as men go	to Zedad
H3220	H1419	H1870	H2855	H935	H6657

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 34:8 (Parallel theme): From mount Hor ye shall point out your border unto the entrance of Hamath; and the goings forth of the border shall be to Zedad:

Ezekiel 48:1 (Parallel theme): Now these are the names of the tribes. From the north end to the coast of the way of Hethlon, as one goeth to Hamath, Hazar-enan, the border of Damascus northward, to the coast of Hamath; for these are his sides east and west; a portion for Dan.