

Ezekiel 47:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hamath, Berothah, Sibraim, which is between the border of Damascus and the border of Hamath; Hazar-hatticon, which is by the coast of Hauran.

Analysis

Hamath, Berothah, Sibraim, which is between the border of Damascus and the border of Hamath; Hazarhatticon, which is by the coast of Hauran—

Specific cities marking boundaries: חַמַּת (Ḥāmāt, Hamath), בְּרוֹתָה (Bêrôtāh, Berothah), סִבְרַיִם (Sibrāyim, Sibraim), גְּבוּל דַּמְעֵסֶק (gěbûl Dammeśeq, 'border of Damascus'), חַמַּת (Ḥāmāt, Hamath again), חֲצֵר הַתִּיכֹן (Ḥāṣēr hattîkhôn, Hazar-hatticon), חֹרֵן (Ḥawrān, Hauran).

This precision demonstrates God's specific knowledge of geography and sovereignty over exact territories. Not vague promises but detailed boundaries. Damascus (capital of Syria/Aram) marks the northeastern limit—Israel's traditional rival would border but not threaten. Millennial peace enables exact boundary observance without war. Specific geographical promises demonstrate that spiritual promises are equally precise and certain.

Historical Context

These locations (northern Syria/Lebanon region) marked Israel's maximum historical extent under David/Solomon. Hamath (modern Hama, Syria) was northern limit (Numbers 34:8, 1 Kings 8:65). Damascus (still a major city) was Aramean capital, often hostile. Ezekiel's precise boundaries show God's intimate knowledge of terrain and His authority to assign territories. Detailed fulfillment of geographical prophecy authenticates spiritual promises.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does precise geographical detail teach about God's specific knowledge?
2. How do physical boundary promises relate to spiritual promise precision?
3. Why is Damascus (Syria) significant as Israel's northern neighbor?

Interlinear Text

חַמַּת	בֵּר וְתֶה	סִבְרַיִם	אֲשֶׁר	בֵּין	גֹּב וְל	דָּמָשְׁקַ
Hamath	Berothah	Sibraim	H834	H996	and the border	of Damascus
H2574	H1268	H5453			H1366	H1834
וְיָ	גֹּב וְל	חַמַּת	חֲצִיר	הַתִּיכּוֹן	אֲשֶׁר	אֶל
H996	and the border	Hamath	H0	Hazarhatticon	H834	H413
	H1366	H2574		H2694		
גֹּב וְל	חֲצִיר:					
and the border	of Hauran					
H1366	H2362					

Additional Cross-References

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.

Numbers 13:21 (Parallel theme): So they went up, and searched the land from the wilderness of Zin unto Rehob, as men come to Hamath.

2 Samuel 8:8 (Parallel theme): And from Betah, and from Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, king David took exceeding much brass.

Zechariah 9:2 (Parallel theme): And Hamath also shall border thereby; Tyrus, and Zidon, though it be very wise.

Genesis 14:15 (Parallel theme): And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus.

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