

Ezekiel 47:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the border from the sea shall be Hazar-enan, the border of Damascus, and the north northward, and the border of Hamath. And this is the north side.

Analysis

And the border from the sea shall be Hazarenan, the border of Damascus, and the north northward, and the border of Hamath. And this is the north side—Northern boundary summarized: מִן־הַיָּם (min-hayyām, 'from the sea') to הַצָּר (Hāṣar 'Ēnôn, Hazar-enan), גְּבוּל דַּמְשֶׁק (gēbûl Dammeśeq, 'border of Damascus'), וְצָפוֹן צָפוֹנָה (wəṣāphôn ṣāphônāh, 'and north northward'), וְגְבוּל חֲמַת (ûgēbûl Ḥāmāt, 'and border of Hamath'). וְזֶה צֶדֶת צָפוֹן (wě'ēt pē'at ṣāphôn, 'and this is the north side').

The repetition and summary ('this is the north side') confirms the description's completion. Biblical boundaries often listed systematically (north, east, south, west—Numbers 34:1-12), demonstrating orderly divine planning. God's sovereignty extends to geographical details—no territory outside His control. This comprehensive boundary description assures Israel: your inheritance is secure, defined, and guaranteed by divine oath.

Historical Context

Boundary descriptions follow ancient Near Eastern treaty patterns—precise geographical markers prevented disputes. Modern archaeology uses these biblical descriptions to locate ancient sites. Ezekiel's boundaries, while similar to Numbers 34, include variations suggesting either updated geography or idealized millennial

distribution. Regardless, the precision demonstrates that God's promises aren't vague spiritual concepts but concrete realities.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Why do biblical boundaries follow systematic patterns (north, east, south, west)?
2. How does geographical precision in prophecy demonstrate God's sovereignty?
3. What do land boundaries teach about God's attention to detail in promise fulfillment?

Interlinear Text

וְהָיָה הַ	וְגֵב וְלִ	מִן	הַיָּם	הַצָּר	עֵינֹן
H1961	And the border	H4480	from the sea	H0	shall be Hazarenan
	H1366		H3220		H2703
וְגֵב וְלִ	דָּמַשְׁקִי	צָפוֹן:	צָפוֹן:		
And the border	of Damascus	And this is the north	And this is the north		
H1366	H1834	H6828	H6828		
וְגֵב וְלִ	דְּמַת	וְאֵת	פְּאֵת	צָפוֹן:	
And the border	of Hamath	H853	side	And this is the north	
H1366	H2574		H6285	H6828	

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 34:9 (Parallel theme): And the border shall go on to Ziphron, and the goings out of it shall be at Hazar-enan: this shall be your north border.

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