

Ezekiel 47:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The west side also shall be the great sea from the border, till a man come over against Hamath. This is the west side.

Analysis

The west side also shall be the great sea from the border, till a man come over against Hamath. This is the west side—Western boundary: יַם־תְּצַחַת (pě'at-yām, 'the west side') הַיָּם הַגָּדוֹל (hayyām haggādôl, 'the great sea'—Mediterranean) from מִגְבֹּל (miggēbûl, 'from the border') עַד־נֹכַח לְבוֹא הָמָת ('ad-nōkaḥ lěbô' Ḥāmāt, 'until opposite the entrance of Hamath'). זֶה יַם־תְּצַחַת (zō't pě'at yām, 'this is the west side').

The Mediterranean provides natural western boundary—sea as border offers defense and defines limits. 'Opposite Hamath' (northern marker) to southern limit creates western coastal extent. This completes the four-sided boundary description: north (v. 15-17), east (v. 18), south (v. 19), west (v. 20). The complete perimeter demonstrates God's comprehensive sovereignty: every direction secured, every border defined. Israel's inheritance is surrounded by divine protection and promise.

Historical Context

Mediterranean coast was Israel's traditional western boundary, though Philistines often controlled coastal plains. Full coastal control came only briefly under David/Solomon (2 Samuel 8, 1 Kings 4:21). Ezekiel's vision promises complete coastal possession—no Philistine harassment. Millennial kingdom gives Israel secure, complete boundaries in all directions, fulfilling promises only partially realized historically.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does completing all four boundaries (north, east, south, west) symbolize?
2. How does sea as western border demonstrate God's use of creation for protection?
3. Why were some boundaries (like coast) contested historically but secure in Ezekiel's vision?

Interlinear Text

פָּאֵת	יָם:	יָם:	הַגָּד וְלִ	מִגֵּב וְלִ	עַד
side	The west	The west	also shall be the great	from the border	H5704
H6285	H3220	H3220	H1419	H1366	
נֹכַח	לְבֹאֵ	חַמַּת	זֶאת	פָּאֵת	יָם:
over against	till a man come	Hamath	H2063	side	The west
H5227	H935	H2574		H6285	H3220

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