

Ezekiel 48:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And by the border of Issachar, from the east side unto the west side, Zebulun a portion.

Analysis

And by the border of Issachar, from the east side unto the west side, Zebulun a portion. Zebulun, another of Leah's sons and Issachar's full brother, receives the fifth southern position. The name Zebulun (זְבֻלֹן) relates to zaval ("to dwell/honor"), as Leah declared "now will my husband dwell with me" at his birth (Genesis 30:20). Jacob's blessing prophesied: "Zebulun shall dwell at the haven of the sea; and he shall be for an haven of ships" (Genesis 49:13).

Though Zebulun's historical territory was inland, this prophetic blessing points to commercial prosperity and international connections. Moses blessed Zebulun to "rejoice in thy going out" alongside Issachar's "rejoice in thy tents" (Deuteronomy 33:18-19), suggesting complementary callings—Zebulun the merchant-traveler, Issachar the settled agriculturalist. Their adjacent positions in Ezekiel's restoration reflect their fraternal bond and complementary economic roles. Notably, much of Jesus's Galilean ministry occurred in Zebulun's territory (Matthew 4:13-15, citing Isaiah 9:1-2), making this tribe's portion prophetically significant.

Historical Context

Zebulun's actual territory (Joshua 19:10-16) extended from the Mediterranean coast inland toward the Sea of Galilee, giving access to both maritime and overland trade routes. During the judges period, Zebulun answered Deborah's call against Sisera, producing warriors who "jeoparded their lives unto the death"

(Judges 5:18). Elon the Zebulunite judged Israel ten years (Judges 12:11-12). The tribe's strategic location made it prosperous in peacetime and vulnerable in war. Nazareth, Jesus's hometown, stood in Zebulun's territory.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Zebulun's calling to 'go out' complement the church's dual mandate of gathered worship and scattered witness?
2. What does Jesus's ministry in Zebulun's territory reveal about God's heart for those in 'Galilee of the Gentiles'?

Interlinear Text

וְעַל	גֹּב וּלְ	יִשָּׁשכָר	פָּאֵת	קֵד יָמָה	עַד	פָּאֵת
H5921	And by the border	of Issachar	side	from the east	H5704	side
	H1366	H3485	H6285	H6921		H6285
יָמָה	זְבוּלֹן	אֶחָד:				
unto the west	Zebulun	a				
H3220	H2074	H259				