

# Ezekiel 48:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And by the border of Gad, at the south side southward, the border shall be even from Tamar unto the waters of strife in Kadesh, and to the river toward the great sea.

## Analysis

**And by the border of Gad, at the south side southward, the border shall be even from Tamar unto the waters of strife in Kadesh, and to the river toward the great sea.** This verse defines the southern boundary of the restored land. Tamar (תָּמָר, "palm tree") likely refers to Hazazon-tamar near the Dead Sea (2 Chronicles 20:2), the southeastern anchor point. Mei Merivat Qadesh (מֵ מְרִיבַת קָדֵשׁ, "waters of strife [at] Kadesh") recalls Israel's rebellion in the wilderness where Moses struck the rock (Numbers 20:13, 27:14)—a place of judgment now redeemed as a boundary marker of blessing.

**The river toward the great sea** refers to the nachal (נָחַל, "brook/wadi") of Egypt, likely Wadi el-Arish, flowing to the Mediterranean (ha-yam ha-gadol, הַיָּם הַגָּדוֹל). This southern boundary fulfills the Abrahamic land promise's extent (Genesis 15:18). Remarkably, Kadesh—where Israel's unbelief delayed entrance into Canaan for forty years—now marks the border of the inheritance. God's faithfulness supersedes human failure; the children enter what the parents forfeited through unbelief.

## Historical Context

This boundary description echoes God's original promise to Abraham (Genesis 15:18) and the boundaries given in Numbers 34:3-5. Kadesh-barnea was the pivotal location where Israel's unbelief led to the forty-year wilderness wandering

(Numbers 13-14). The generation that died in the wilderness never entered the land, yet their children did. Ezekiel's audience—exiles who had lost the land through covenant unfaithfulness—would understand that God's promises transcend human failure. The southern border from the Dead Sea to the Mediterranean encompasses territory rarely fully controlled even in Solomon's era.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does Kadesh's transformation from a place of judgment to a border of blessing illustrate God's redemptive purposes?
2. What encouragement does this offer to those who feel their failures have disqualified them from God's promises?

## Interlinear Text

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וְעַל	בְּדַעַת	גַּבְעָל	פָּאַת	בְּגַד	תִּמְעָדָה	וְעַל	
H5921	And by the border	of Gad	H413	side	at the south	southward	H1961
H1366		H1410	H6285	H5045		H8486	

קָדֵשׁ	מְרִיבָה	תְּמִימָה	מִתְמַמָּה	רְמִים	וְעַל
And by the border	shall be even from Tamar	unto the waters	of strife	in Kadesh	
H1366	H8559	H4325	H4808	H6946	

בְּגַדְעָל:	תִּמְעָדָה	גַּבְעָל	וְעַל	בְּנִירָה
and to the river	H5921	sea	toward the great	
H5158	H3220	H1419		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 47:15** (Parallel theme): 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;

**2 Chronicles 20:2** (Parallel theme): Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they be in Hazazon-tamar, which is En-gedi.

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