

John 1:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Analysis

The geographical note 'Bethabara beyond Jordan' (some manuscripts read 'Bethany') situates John's ministry in the wilderness, fulfilling Isaiah 40:3. This location outside Judea's religious establishment symbolizes the radical nature of his message. God often works at the margins, calling His people away from human institutions to encounter Him directly.

Historical Context

Bethabara (meaning 'house of the ford') was likely on the eastern side of the Jordan River in Perea. John's choice of this location may echo Joshua's crossing and Elijah's ministry, connecting his work to Israel's redemptive history.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Why does God often initiate spiritual renewal outside established religious centers?
2. How does geography sometimes reflect theological and spiritual realities in Scripture?

Interlinear Text

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|--------------|-------|-----------|-----------|--------|-------|----------|
| Ταῦτα | ἐν | Βηθαβαρᾶ | ἐγένετο | πέραν | τοῦ | Ἰορδάνου |
| These things | in | Bethabara | were done | beyond | G3588 | Jordan |
| G5023 | G1722 | G962 | G1096 | G4008 | | G2446 |
| ὅπου | ἦν | Ἰωάννης | βαπτίζων | | | |
| where | was | John | baptizing | | | |
| G3699 | G2258 | G2491 | G907 | | | |

Additional Cross-References

John 10:40 (References John): And went away again beyond Jordan into the place where John at first baptized; and there he abode.

John 3:23 (References John): And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized.

Judges 7:24 (Parallel theme): And Gideon sent messengers throughout all mount Ephraim, saying, Come down against the Midianites, and take before them the waters unto Beth-barah and Jordan. Then all the men of Ephraim gathered themselves together, and took the waters unto Beth-barah and Jordan.