

Joshua 11:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So Joshua took all that land, the hills, and all the south country, and all the land of Goshen, and the valley, and the plain, and the mountain of Israel, and the valley of the same;

Analysis

So Joshua took all that land—The comprehensive summary begins with emphatic totality. The verb **took** (לְקַחַ, laqach) indicates decisive possession, not merely passing conquest. The geographic catalog that follows—**the hills, and all the south country, and all the land of Goshen, and the valley, and the plain, and the mountain of Israel, and the valley of the same**—encompasses Canaan's diverse terrain from multiple perspectives.

The **hills** (hahar, הַרְ) refers to the central highlands running north-south through Canaan. **The south country** (hanegev, הַנֶּגֶב, the Negev) designates the arid southern region. The **land of Goshen** (not Egypt's Goshen, but a Judean region near Hebron) appears in 10:41. **The valley** (hashfelah, הַשְּׁפֵלָה) means lowlands or foothills between coast and highlands. **The plain** (ha'aravah, הַעֲרָבָה) refers to the Jordan rift valley. **The mountain of Israel** likely designates the northern highlands (later Ephraim and Manasseh). This geographical comprehensiveness demonstrates complete fulfillment of divine promise—every terrain type, every region, came under Israelite control through Joshua's faithful leadership.

Historical Context

The geographical diversity described reflects Canaan's remarkable topographical variety within a relatively small area. The central mountain range reaches elevations over 3,000 feet. The Shephelah foothills transition from highlands to

coastal plain. The Negev's arid climate supported pastoralism more than agriculture. The Arabah (Jordan Valley) drops to 1,300 feet below sea level at the Dead Sea—the lowest point on earth. Each terrain type required different settlement strategies and supported different economies. Israel's control of all these zones gave them strategic depth and economic diversity. The 'land of Goshen' in Judah (distinct from Egypt's Goshen) appears in Joshua 10:41 and 15:51. Archaeological evidence shows Late Bronze Age settlement patterns across all these regions, with destruction layers at many sites corresponding to the conquest period. The systematic geographical catalogue serves both memorial and legal purposes—future generations would know precisely what territories God gave Israel.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's provision of diverse terrain types illustrate His attention to comprehensive needs—agriculture, pasture, trade, defense?
2. What 'complete inheritance' has God given you that requires recognizing diverse aspects rather than focusing on one dimension?
3. How does geographical comprehensiveness in conquest encourage faith that God's promises cover all areas of life, not just select domains?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁפֵלֶתֶת:

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 10:41 (Parallel theme): And Joshua smote them from Kadesh-barnea even unto Gaza, and all the country of Goshen, even unto Gibeon.

Joshua 12:8 (Parallel theme): In the mountains, and in the valleys, and in the plains, and in the springs, and in the wilderness, and in the south country; the Hittites, the Amorites, and the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites:

Joshua 11:21 (References Israel): And at that time came Joshua, and cut off the Anakims from the mountains, from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, and from all the mountains of Judah, and from all the mountains of Israel: Joshua destroyed them utterly with their cities.