

Joshua 12:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And from the plain to the sea of Chinneroth on the east, and unto the sea of the plain, even the salt sea on the east, the way to Beth-jeshimoth; and from the south, under Ashdoth-pisgah:

Analysis

Continuing the catalog: 'And from the plain to the sea of Chinneroth on the east, and unto the sea of the plain, even the salt sea on the east, the way to Beth-jeshimoth; and from the south, under Ashdoth-pisgah.' The geographic sweep—from Chinneroth (Sea of Galilee) to the Salt Sea (Dead Sea)—encompasses Israel's Transjordan holdings. The phrase 'sea of the plain' (Dead Sea) uses its Hebrew name Yam Ha-Arabah (Sea of the Arabah). Beth-jeshimoth marked a specific location on the plains. Ashdoth-pisgah refers to slopes of Mount Pisgah where Moses viewed the Promised Land before his death (Deuteronomy 34:1). These geographic markers create mental map of conquered territory. The repetition of 'east' emphasizes Transjordan's location relative to the main promised land west of Jordan. This detailed cataloging serves theological purpose: demonstrating God's comprehensive faithfulness in giving Israel the territories He promised.

Historical Context

The Sea of Chinneroth (Galilee) lies about sixty-five miles north of the Dead Sea (Salt Sea), defining the north-south extent of eastern conquests. The plains east of the Jordan River (the Arabah) were agriculturally productive, making this valuable territory. Beth-jeshimoth was located in the plains of Moab, northeast of the Dead Sea's northern shore. Ashdoth-pisgah (slopes of Pisgah) was the mountain range

overlooking the Jordan Valley and Dead Sea from the east, including Mount Nebo where Moses died. The geographic precision indicates either eyewitness knowledge or reliable written records. Ancient Near Eastern land records often used detailed geographic descriptions to establish territorial claims. This catalog served legal and theological purposes: legally establishing Israel's legitimate territories conquered under God's authorization, theologically memorializing God's faithfulness to His promises to give Israel the land.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does geographic specificity in Scripture enhance its historical reliability?
2. What theological purpose does detailed cataloging of God's provision serve?
3. How can you create memorials or records of God's specific faithfulness in your life?

Interlinear Text

הָעֶרְבָּ הַ	עַד	יָם	כִּנְרֹת	מִזְרָחָהּ	! עַד
And from the plain	H5704	and unto the sea	of Chinneroth	on the east	H5704
H6160		H3220	H3672	H4217	
יָם	הָעֶרְבָּ הַ	יָם	הֵם לַח	מִזְרָחָהּ	
and unto the sea	And from the plain	and unto the sea	even the salt	on the east	
H3220	H6160	H3220	H4417	H4217	
דֶּרֶךְ	יְתֵיט	הַיְשִׁמּוֹת	וּמִיַּיִם	אֲשֶׁדּוֹת	וְתַחַת
the way	H0	to Bethjeshimoth	and from the south	H8478	H794
H1870		H1020	H8486		
הַפִּסְגָּה:					
H0					

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 3:17 (Parallel theme): The plain also, and Jordan, and the coast thereof, from Chinnereth even unto the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, under Ashdoth-pisgah eastward.

Joshua 13:20 (Parallel theme): And Beth-peor, and Ashdoth-pisgah, and Beth-jeshimoth,

Joshua 11:2 (Parallel theme): And to the kings that were on the north of the mountains, and of the plains south of Chinneroth, and in the valley, and in the borders of Dor on the west,

Deuteronomy 4:49 (Parallel theme): And all the plain on this side Jordan eastward, even unto the sea of the plain, under the springs of Pisgah.