

# Joshua 15:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Hazar-gaddah, and Heshmon, and Beth-palet,

## Analysis

**And Hazar-gaddah, and Heshmon, and Beth-palet—Hazar-gaddah** (חֲצִיר גִּדָּה, "enclosure of Gaddah" or "village of good fortune") combines chatsir ("enclosure," "village," or "court") with gaddah, possibly related to Gad (the deity of fortune) or simply "good fortune." Like Bealoth (v. 24), this name may indicate a former pagan site cleansed and repurposed. **Heshmon** (חֶשְׁמוֹן) is unidentified but may derive from shamen ("fat" or "fertile"), indicating productive land despite the Negev's aridity. **Beth-palet** (בֵּית פָּלֵט, "house of escape" or "house of deliverance") also appears in post-exilic lists (Nehemiah 11:26), showing continuity of settlement.

The name Beth-palet ("house of escape") may commemorate a significant deliverance or serve as a refuge city. Every village name tells a story—capturing historical events, geographical features, or theological truths. Preserving these names in Scripture ensures that local histories and testimonies of God's faithfulness aren't forgotten but become part of the larger redemptive narrative.

## Historical Context

The Negev settlements listed in Joshua 15:21-32 formed a network of communities sustaining life in harsh conditions through ingenuity and cooperation. Shared water resources, defensive alliances, and trade connections made survival possible. Archaeological surveys reveal sophisticated water management systems—cisterns, channels, and terracing—maximizing scarce rainfall.

Beth-palet's appearance in both conquest-era and post-exilic lists demonstrates

that some settlements maintained continuity across Babylonian exile. When Nehemiah reorganized Judah, returning exiles resettled ancestral cities (Nehemiah 11:25-30), reconnecting with their heritage. This continuity provided identity and stability—they weren't establishing new communities but reclaiming ancient inheritances.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. What 'Beth-palet' moments—times of divine deliverance or escape—has God provided in your life that deserve commemoration and testimony?
2. How can you ensure that God's faithfulness in your life and community isn't forgotten but becomes part of the ongoing story you pass to future generations?
3. What does the continuity of settlements from conquest through exile teach about God's faithfulness to preserve and restore His people despite judgment?

## Interlinear Text

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וְיָצֵא רַ	גִּדָּה	וְהֶשְׁמֹן	וְבֵית	פְּלֵט:
<small>H0</small>	<b>And Hazargaddah</b>	<b>and Heshmon</b>	<small>H0</small>	<b>and Bethpalet</b>
	<small>H2693</small>	<small>H2829</small>		<small>H1046</small>

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