

Joshua 15:56

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jezreel, and Jokdeam, and Zanoah,

Analysis

And Jezreel, and Jokdeam, and Zanoah—Jezreel (יִזְרְעֵאל, "God sows") here refers not to the famous northern valley but a city in Judah's hill country, home of Ahinoam who became David's wife (1 Samuel 27:3). The Hebrew name's meaning—"God sows"—reflects agricultural hope in a region requiring divine blessing for fruitfulness. Jokdeam (יֻכְדֵּעַם) and Zanoah (זָנוּחַ) are less prominent but equally part of Judah's inheritance.

The repetition of names (Jezreel appears both in Judah and in the northern Valley of Jezreel) reminds us that different places can share identical names, requiring contextual discernment. This mirrors spiritual reality: identical biblical terms can have different applications depending on context (e.g., "Israel" as person, nation, or spiritual community). Proper interpretation requires attention to specific context rather than assuming all identical terms mean the same thing.

Historical Context

These cities lay in the hill country southwest of Hebron. The region's rolling hills and seasonal rainfall made it suitable for grain cultivation and grazing, though less fertile than the coastal plain or northern valleys. The need for careful water management and seasonal adaptation made residents dependent on God's provision of rain "in its season" (Deuteronomy 11:14).

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does the name 'Jezreel' (God sows) reflect dependence on divine blessing for fruitfulness in our work?
2. What does the existence of multiple places with identical names teach about the importance of context in biblical interpretation?
3. How might living in marginal agricultural land increase awareness of dependence on God's provision?

Interlinear Text

וְיִזְרְעֵל	וְיִקְדֵּם	וְיִזְנוּחַ:
And Jezreel	and Jokdeam	and Zanoah
H3157	H3347	H2182

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