

Joshua 15:62

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Nibshan, and the city of Salt, and En-gedi; six cities with their villages.

Analysis

And Nibshan, and the city of Salt, and En-gedi; six cities with their villages—En-gedi (עֵדִי מִן, "spring of the goat") was an oasis on the Dead Sea's western shore, famous for its springs, date palms, and balsam gardens. David hid there from Saul in caves (1 Samuel 24:1-2). The City of Salt likely refers to a settlement involved in harvesting salt from the Dead Sea, an economically valuable resource. These wilderness settlements demonstrate that even inhospitable regions offer resources when properly utilized.

En-gedi specifically symbolizes how God provides refreshment in barren places. An oasis in the desert, it pictures divine grace breaking into human desolation—springs in wasteland, beauty in barrenness. That such places were included in Judah's inheritance reminds us that God's provision includes unexpected blessings in unlikely locations. The wilderness contains treasures for those who learn to find them.

Historical Context

En-gedi remains an oasis today, with springs producing about one million gallons of water daily. Its location 1,300 feet below sea level gives it tropical microclimate supporting date palms, henna, and balsam despite surrounding desert. The site was economically important for perfume production and agriculture. The extensive cave systems made it ideal refuge, explaining David's use of it when fleeing Saul.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does En-gedi's nature as an oasis in the desert illustrate God's provision of refreshment in difficult seasons?
2. What 'wilderness resources' might God have placed in difficult circumstances that we overlook by focusing only on difficulty?
3. How might David's wilderness experiences at En-gedi have prepared him for kingship in ways palace life never could?

Interlinear Text

וְהַנִּבְשָׁן	עָרֵי	הַמֶּלַח	וְעֵי	גְּדִי	עָרֵי	שֵׁשׁ
And Nibshan	cities	and the city of Salt	H0	and Engedi	cities	six
H5044	H5892	H5898		H5872	H5892	H8337

וְעִמָּתָם:

with their villages

H2691

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 23:29 (Parallel theme): And David went up from thence, and dwelt in strong holds at En-gedi.