

# Joshua 15:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the border went up toward Debir from the valley of Achor, and so northward, looking toward Gilgal, that is before the going up to Adummim, which is on the south side of the river: and the border passed toward the waters of En-shemesh, and the goings out thereof were at En-rogel:

## Analysis

**And the border went up toward Debir from the valley of Achor, and so northward, looking toward Gilgal, that is before the going up to Adummim, which is on the south side of the river.** This verse traces the boundary through historically charged locations. The Valley of Achor (עַמְקַד עֲכֹר, "Valley of Trouble") memorializes Achan's execution for theft during Jericho's conquest (Joshua 7:24-26). This place of judgment and purification became Judah's boundary, illustrating how God redeems sites of discipline for future blessing. Hosea prophesied that this valley would become "a door of hope" (Hosea 2:15).

Gilgal (גִּלְגָּל, from galal, "to roll") was Israel's first Canaan encampment, where God "rolled away" Egypt's reproach through circumcision (Joshua 5:9) and where twelve memorial stones commemorated Jordan's crossing (Joshua 4:20). The Ascent of Adummim (עַמְלָה אֲדֻמִּים, "Ascent of Red [Places]") likely refers to the reddish limestone formations along the road from Jericho to Jerusalem—the setting for Jesus's parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37).

These landmarks connect geography to redemptive history, transforming mere boundary descriptions into theological narratives. Places of failure (Achor), new

beginnings (Gilgal), and ongoing journey (Adummim) all mark Judah's inheritance, reminding each generation of God's discipline, deliverance, and direction.

## Historical Context

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The Valley of Achor, identified with Bugei'a valley near Qumran, served as a natural route from the Jordan Valley into Judah's highlands. Its association with Achan's judgment made it a perpetual warning against covenant violation. Gilgal, likely located at Khirbet el-Mefjer near Jericho, functioned as Israel's base during the initial conquest phase and later as a sanctuary site where Samuel judged Israel (1 Samuel 7:16) and Saul was confirmed as king (1 Samuel 11:14-15). The Ascent of Adummim corresponds to modern Tal'at ed-Damm on the Jericho-Jerusalem road, a steep, dangerous ascent through wilderness terrain notorious for bandits in Jesus's time. These topographical features created natural divisions between tribal territories and influenced settlement patterns and military strategy.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How has God transformed your personal 'valleys of Achor'—places of trouble and judgment—into doorways of hope and new direction?
2. What 'Gilgals'—memorial places of God's deliverance—do you need to revisit when facing current challenges to remember His past faithfulness?
3. How does the boundary's path through varied terrain (valleys, ascents, rivers) mirror the varied experiences God uses to shape and define your spiritual identity?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאֵלֶּה וְעַל הַגְּבוּל דְּבָרָה מִן מִקְרָב עַכּוֹ וְאֶפְרַיִם וְנָהָר  
went up And the border toward Debir from the valley of Achor and so northward  
H5927 H1366 H1688 H6010 H5911 H6828

פָּנָה אֶל הַגְּלֹגֶל אֲשֶׁר בְּכָח לְמַעַל הַיָּמִים אֶל אָדָם  
looking toward Gilgal that is before the going up to Adummim  
H6437 H413 H1537 H834 H5227 H4608 H131

אֲשֶׁר רָבָב מִן כָּל לְבַב רָבָב אֶל הַגְּבוּל  
which is on the south side of the river passed And the border  
H834 H5045 H5158 H5674 H413 H1366

מִן עַל תְּצַאת יְמִינֵי שְׁמַשׁ עַל אֶל  
toward the waters of Enshemesh and the goings out  
H4325 H0 H5885 H1961 H8444 H413 H0

רָגֵל:  
thereof were at Enrogel  
H5883

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Kings 1:9** (Kingdom): And Adonijah slew sheep and oxen and fat cattle by the stone of Zoheleth, which is by En-rogel, and called all his brethren the king's sons, and all the men of Judah the king's servants:

**2 Samuel 17:17** (Kingdom): Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz stayed by En-rogel; for they might not be seen to come into the city: and a wench went and told them; and they went and told king David.

**Joshua 7:26** (Parallel theme): And they raised over him a great heap of stones unto this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of his anger. Wherefore the name of that place was called, The valley of Achor, unto this day.