

# 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 (עֵמֶק עָכֹר, "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 (גִּלְגָל, 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 (מַעְלֵה אֲדָמִים, "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 Buqei'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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וַעֲלֶה הַ	הַגְּבוּל	דְּבִרָּה	מִעַמְקֵי	אֲחֹר	וְכַפּוֹ וְנָה	
went up	And the border	toward Debir	from the valley	of Achor	and so northward	
H5927	H1366	H1688	H6010	H5911	H6828	
פָּנָה הַ	אֶל	הַגִּלְגָּל לְ	אֲשֶׁר	נֶכַח	לְמַעַל הַ	אֲדֻמִּים
looking	H413	toward Gilgal	H834	that is before	the going up	to Adummim
H6437		H1537		H5227	H4608	H131
אֲשֶׁר רַ	מִן גֹּב	לְנָחַל	וַעֲבָר	הַגְּבוּל	אֶל	
H834	which is on the south side	of the river	passed	And the border	H413	
	H5045	H5158	H5674	H1366		
יָמֵי	עַיִן	שֵׁשׁ מֵשׁ	וְהָיָה	תֵּצְאֹתָיו	אֶל	עַיִן
toward the waters	H0	of Enshemesh	H1961	and the goings out	H413	H0
H4325		H5885		H8444		
רֹגֵל:						
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.