

Joshua 18:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And their border on the north side was from Jordan; and the border went up to the side of Jericho on the north side, and went up through the mountains westward; and the goings out thereof were at the wilderness of Beth-aven.

Analysis

Their border on the north side was from Jordan—Benjamin's northern boundary begins at the Jordan River, marking their eastern entry point. The border **went up to the side of Jericho on the north side**, passing the conquered city, then **went up through the mountains westward** into the central highlands. **The goings out thereof were at the wilderness of Beth-aven** defines the boundary's western terminus.

Jericho, Israel's first conquest, anchors Benjamin's territory. This reminds them perpetually of God's power and faithfulness. Beth-aven ('house of wickedness') may be a derogatory name for Bethel after its corruption (Hosea 4:15), showing how holy places can become defiled.

Historical Context

This boundary description follows ancient Near Eastern legal conventions, using landmarks and cities as reference points. Jericho's ruins served as a visible border marker. The wilderness of Beth-aven lay near Ai, scene of Israel's defeat due to Achan's sin.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What spiritual landmarks in your past remind you of God's faithfulness?
2. How can holy places or memories become corrupted, and how do we guard against this?

Interlinear Text

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| לְפָאָת | מִצְפָּה | מִן | פְּרִזְקָה |
| H1961 | H0 | And their border | side |
| | | H1366 | H6285 |
| וַיַּעַל | הַגְּבוּל | מִצְפָּה | וְמִן |
| side and went up | And their border | to the side | of Jericho |
| H5927 | H1366 | H413 | H3405 |
| וַיַּעַל | בְּהָר | וְבַּעֲמָה | וְבַּיִת |
| side and went up | through the mountains | westward | and the goings out |
| H5927 | H2022 | H3220 | H1961 |
| מִדְבָּרְבָּה | בֵּית | אָיוֹן | תְּצַאתְתִּי |
| thereof were at the wilderness | of Bethaven | H0 | H8444 |
| H4057 | H1007 | | |

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 16:1 (Parallel theme): And the lot of the children of Joseph fell from Jordan by Jericho, unto the water of Jericho on the east, to the wilderness that goeth up from Jericho throughout mount Beth-el,

Joshua 7:2 (Parallel theme): And Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Beth-aven, on the east side of Beth-el, and spake unto them, saying, Go up and view the country. And the men went up and viewed Ai.

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