

# Joshua 18:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the border went over from thence toward Luz, to the side of Luz, which is Beth-el, southward; and the border descended to Ataroth-adar, near the hill that lieth on the south side of the nether Beth-horon.

## Analysis

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**The border went over from thence toward Luz, to the side of Luz, which is Beth-el, southward**—Luz was Bethel's original Canaanite name. Jacob renamed it Beth-el ('house of God') after his vision of the ladder (Genesis 28:19). Including both names preserves historical memory. The border continues to **Ataroth-adar, near the hill that lieth on the south side of the nether Beth-horon**.

Bethel's mention connects Benjamin's inheritance to patriarchal history. Every boundary marker tells covenant story. The geography isn't random—it recalls Jacob's encounter with God, Abraham's altars, and divine promises. Believers likewise inherit a 'cloud of witnesses' (Hebrews 12:1) whose faith marks our spiritual landscape.

## Historical Context

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Bethel ('house of God') became a major worship center, later corrupted under Jeroboam I who erected a golden calf there (1 Kings 12:29). The 'nether' (lower) Beth-horon was a strategic pass controlling the Jerusalem-coastal plain road, site of many biblical battles.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How do place names in your spiritual journey remind you of God's interventions?
2. What danger exists when sacred places become associated with false worship?

## Interlinear Text

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וַעֲבַר	מֶשֶׁם	הַגְּבוּל	ל וְזֶה	אֶל	כְּתָף
went over	H8033	And the border	from thence toward Luz	H413	to the side
H5674		H1366	H3870		H3802
ל וְזֶה	מִן גֵּב	בֵּית הָיָא	אֵל	יָרַד	
from thence toward Luz	southward	H1931	H0	which is Bethel	descended
H3870	H5045			H1008	H3381
הַגְּבוּל	עָטָר וְ	אֶת־ר	עַל	הַר	אֶשֶׁר
And the border	H0	to Atarothadar	H5921	near the hill	H834
H1366		H5853		H2022	H5045
לְבֵית	חֶרְוֹן	תַּחְתָּוֹן:			
H0	Bethhoron	of the nether			
	H1032	H8481			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Genesis 28:19** (Parallel theme): And he called the name of that place Beth-el: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first.

