

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

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

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

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

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

וַיַּעֲבֹר	מִשְׁמָרָה	הַגְּבוּל	לִזְהָה	לְאַל	אֶל	כְּתַף
went over	H8033	And the border	from thence toward Luz	H3870	H413	to the side
H5674		H1366				H3802
לִזְהָה	מִגְּבָרָה	בֵּית יְהוָה	אֶל	אֶל	אֶל	אֶל
from thence toward Luz	southward	H1931	H0	which is Bethel	descended	
H3870	H5045		H0	H1008	H3381	
מִגְּבָרָה	אֶל רֶם	עַל	בְּרֵבֶר	מִגְּבָרָה	אֶל דָּרְכֵי	מִגְּבָרָה
And the border	H0	to Atarothadar	H5921	near the hill	H834	southward
H1366		H5853		H2022		H5045
לִבְיָתָן	חַרְרוֹן	תְּפִירָתָן:				
H0	Bethhoron	of the nether	H8481			
	H1032					

Additional Cross-References

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.

