

# Joshua 18:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the border was drawn thence, and compassed the corner of the sea southward, from the hill that lieth before Beth-horon southward; and the goings out thereof were at Kirjath-baal, which is Kirjath-jearim, a city of the children of Judah: this was the west quarter.

## Analysis

**The border was drawn thence, and compassed the corner of the sea southward**—The boundary curves westward ('compass' = savav, סָבַב, 'to turn/surround'). The 'sea' likely refers to the Mediterranean, though Benjamin didn't reach the coast. **From the hill that lieth before Beth-horon** continues the western line to **Kirjath-baal, which is Kirjath-jearim**, identifying it as **a city of the children of Judah**.

Kirjath-jearim ('city of forests') housed the ark for 20 years after the Philistines returned it (1 Samuel 7:1-2). Its alternate name Kirjath-baal ('city of Baal') suggests Canaanite origins. God redeems pagan places for His glory—the ark sanctified this former Baal shrine.

## Historical Context

Kirjath-jearim stood on the Judah-Benjamin border, about 9 miles west of Jerusalem. Its identification as Judahite despite being on Benjamin's boundary shows the overlapping nature of tribal territories. The city's role in ark history (1 Samuel 6-7) made it significant.

## Related Passages

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

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does God transform pagan places and practices for His purposes in your life?
2. What does the ark's 20-year stay at Kirjath-jearim teach about waiting for God's timing?

## Interlinear Text

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תְּמִבְּהָה יְמִינָה וּמִאָרֶב הַגְּבוּל וְנִסְבֵּת בְּ פָאָת הַמִּזְרָחָה  
was drawn And the border thence and compassed quarter of the sea southward  
H8388 H1366 H5437 H6285 H3220 H5045

תְּמִבְּהָה חֶרְמוֹן בֵּית בְּתִתְהַרְמָה מִן עַל אֲשֶׁר בְּקָרְבָּר  
from the hill that lieth before Bethhoron southward  
H4480 H2022 H834 H5921 H6440 H0 H1032 H5045

הַ יָּא בְּ עַל קְרִית אֶל תְּצִאָת יְהִי וְפִי הָ  
and the goings out thereof were at Kirjathbaal H1931  
H1961 H8444 H413 H0 H7154

פָאָת זֶ אַת יְהוּדָה בְּנֵי עַיר יְשֻׁרְעָם קְרִית תְּ  
which is Kirjathjearim a city of the children of Judah quarter  
H0 H7157 H5892 H1121 H3063 H2063 H6285

וְיָמִים  
of the sea  
H3220

## Additional Cross-References

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**Joshua 15:9** (Parallel theme): And the border was drawn from the top of the hill unto the fountain of the water of Nephtoah, and went out to the cities of mount Ephron; and the border was drawn to Baalah, which is Kirjath-jearim:

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