

# 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

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**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

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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

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

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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

וְתָאָר	הַגְּבוּל	וְנָסָב	פָּאָת	יָם:	נִגְבָּה		
was drawn	And the border	thence and compassed	quarter	of the sea	southward		
H8388	H1366	H5437	H6285	H3220	H5045		
מִן	הַהָר	אֲשֶׁר	עַל	פְּנֵי י	בֵּית	חֶרְוֹן	נִגְבָּה
H4480	from the hill	H834	H5921	that lieth before	H0	Bethhoron	southward
	H2022		H6440			H1032	H5045
וְהִיא	תֵּצֵאתָ יוֹ	אֶל	קִרְיַת	בְּ עַל	הָ יָא		
H1961	and the goings out	H413	H0	thereof were at Kirjathbaal	H1931		
	H8444			H7154			
קִרְיַת	יֵעָר יִם	עִיר	בְּנֵי י	יְהוּדָה	זֹאת	פָּאָת	
H0	which is Kirjathjearim	a city	of the children	of Judah	H2063	quarter	
	H7157	H5892	H1121	H3063		H6285	
יָם:							
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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