Joshua 18:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> And the south quarter was from the end of Kirjath-jearim, and
> the border went out on the west, and went out to the well of
> waters of Nephtoah:

Analysis

**The south quarter was from the end of Kirjath-jearim, and the border went
out on the west**—Benjamin's southern boundary starts at Kirjath-jearim and
extends westward to **the well of waters of Nephtoah**. Water sources were
crucial border markers in arid Palestine. The Hebrew ma'yan mayim (מַעְיַן מַיִם)
emphasizes fresh, flowing water—a valuable resource.

Wells and springs figure prominently in biblical narratives: Hagar's well (Genesis
21:19), Isaac's wells (Genesis 26), Jacob's well (John 4). Water symbolizes life,
sustenance, and God's provision. Boundary markers using water sources remind
Israel that God gives both land and life-sustaining resources.

Historical Context

Nephtoah (modern Lifta near Jerusalem) was a perennial spring feeding
Jerusalem's water supply. Control of water sources meant survival in ancient
Palestine. This boundary segment defined Judah-Benjamin relations for centuries,
including competition for Jerusalem's control.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What 'wells' of spiritual refreshment mark the boundaries of your walk with God?
2. How do natural resources like water point to God's providential care?

Interlinear Text

וּפָאַת	נֶ גְבָּה	מִקְצֵ ה	קִרְיַ ת	יְעָר ים	וְיָצָ א
quarter	And the south	was from the end	H0	of Kirjathjearim	and went out
H6285	H5045	H7097		H7157	H3318

הַגְּבוּל	יָ מָּה	וְיָצָ א	אֶל	מַעְיַ ן	מֵ י	נֶפְתּוֹחַ:
and the border	on the west	and went out	H413	to the well	of waters	of Nephtoah
H1366	H3220	H3318		H4599	H4325	H5318

Additional Cross-References

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: