

Joshua 18:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the border came down to the end of the mountain that lieth before the valley of the son of Hinnom, and which is in the valley of the giants on the north, and descended to the valley of Hinnom, to the side of Jebusi on the south, and descended to En-rogel,

Analysis

The border came down to the end of the mountain that lieth before the valley of the son of Hinnom—The Valley of Hinnom (Hebrew Gei ben-Hinnom, גֵּי בֶן־הִנּוֹם) became notorious as Jerusalem's garbage dump and later a site of child sacrifice to Molech (2 Kings 23:10). Its Greek name, Gehenna, became Jesus' primary metaphor for hell.

The **valley of the giants** (Emek Rephaim) references the pre-Israelite inhabitants. The border **descended to the valley of Hinnom, to the side of Jebusi on the south**—Jebusi being Jerusalem—then to **En-rogel** (Fuller's Spring). These ominous place names remind Israel of conquered enemies and conquered evil.

Historical Context

Hinnom Valley bordered Jerusalem on the south and west. By Jesus' time, its Hebrew name Ge-Hinnom (Gehenna) universally symbolized final judgment due to its association with idolatry and perpetual fires. The Rephaim were gigantic inhabitants conquered by David (2 Samuel 5:18-22).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do places associated with evil in your past become reminders of God's deliverance?
2. What does Hinnom's transformation from border marker to judgment symbol teach about sin's consequences?

Interlinear Text

וַיֵּרָד	הַגֶּבּוּל	אֶל	קֵצֵה	הַהָר	אֲשֶׁר	עַל
and descended	And the border	H413	to the end	of the mountain	H834	H5921
H3381	H1366		H7097	H2022		
פָּנָיו	גִּי	בֶן	הַנֶּחֱם	אֲשֶׁר		
that lieth before	the valley	of the son	of Hinnom	H834		
H6440	H1516	H1121	H2011			
בְּעֵמֶק	רִפְאֵי	צָפֹנָה	וַיֵּרָד	גִּי		
and which is in the valley	of the giants	on the north	and descended	the valley		
H6010	H7497	H6828	H3381	H1516		
הַנֶּחֱם	אֶל	כְּתָר	הַיְבוּסִי	בְּגִבֵּה	וַיֵּרָד	עַיִן
of Hinnom	H413	to the side	of Jebusi	on the south	and descended	H0
H2011		H3802	H2983	H5045	H3381	
רֹגֶל:						
to Enrogel						
H5883						

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 23:10 (Parallel theme): And he defiled Topheth, which is in the valley of the children of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech.

Isaiah 30:33 (Parallel theme): For Tophet is ordained of old; yea, for the king it is prepared; he hath made it deep and large: the pile thereof is fire and much wood; the breath of the LORD, like a stream of brimstone, doth kindle it.

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