

Joshua 18:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And was drawn from the north, and went forth to En-shemesh, and went forth toward Geliloth, which is over against the going up of Adummim, and descended to the stone of Bohan the son of Reuben,

Analysis

And was drawn from the north, and went forth to En-shemesh—En-shemesh ('spring of the sun') likely relates to pagan sun worship, another Canaanite site redeemed for God's purposes. The border continues **toward Geliloth, which is over against the going up of Adummim**, then **descended to the stone of Bohan the son of Reuben**.

Bohan's stone memorializes an otherwise unknown Reubenite, showing how ordinary faithful people leave lasting marks. Scripture preserves his name though his story is lost. This encourages believers: faithful service matters even when we seem insignificant. God remembers what we forget (Hebrews 6:10).

Historical Context

The Ascent of Adummim (meaning 'red/blood') was a dangerous pass on the Jericho-Jerusalem road, possibly where Jesus set His Good Samaritan parable (Luke 10:30-37). Geliloth means 'circles/districts,' perhaps referring to cairns or boundary stones marking the border.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What 'stones' of remembrance should you set up to mark God's faithfulness in your journey?
2. How does God remember faithful servants whose names we've forgotten?

Interlinear Text

רַאֲצָא	שָׁמֵשׁ	וַיֵּצֵא	וַיָּמָצֵא	וַיֵּצֵא	וַיָּמָצֵא	וַיָּמָצֵא
And was drawn	from the north	and went forth		to Enshemesh	and went forth	
H8388	H6828	H3318	H0	H5885	H3318	
אֶל	מַעַל	בְּכָחָה	אֲשֶׁר	גִּלְעָל	וְתֵת	אֶלְעָם
H413	H4608	H5227	H834	H1553	toward Geliloth	of Adummim
	H131					H131
רְאֵבֶן	בֶּן	בֶּן	בֶּן	בֶּן	בֶּן	רְאֵבֶן
and descended	to the stone	of Bohan	the son	of Reuben	of Reuben	
H3381	H68	H932	H1121	H7205		

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 15:6 (Parallel theme): And the border went up to Beth-hogla, and passed along by the north of Beth-arabah; and the border went up to the stone of Bohan the son of Reuben:

