

Joshua 18:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the border passed along to the side of Beth-hoglah northward: and the outgoings of the border were at the north bay of the salt sea at the south end of Jordan: this was the south coast.

Analysis

The border passed along to the side of Beth-hoglah northward: and the outgoings of the border were at the north bay of the salt sea at the south end of Jordan—Beth-hoglah ('house of the partridge') marks the northeastern corner where Benjamin's border reaches the Dead Sea (yam ha-melach, יַם הַמֶּלַח, 'salt sea'). The **north bay** specifies the Dead Sea's northern tip where the Jordan flows in.

This was the south coast completes Benjamin's boundary description. From Jordan's source to its termination in the lifeless salt sea, the border encompasses death-to-life geography. This pictures redemption: from death in sin to life in Christ (Ephesians 2:1-5).

Historical Context

The Dead Sea, earth's lowest point at 1,410 feet below sea level, supported no life due to extreme salinity. Its placement at Benjamin's border created a natural eastern defense. Beth-hoglah lay in the Jordan plain, part of the lush region contrasting with the Dead Sea's barrenness.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does the journey from living water (Jordan) to dead water (Salt Sea) picture spiritual decline?
2. What 'Dead Sea' situations in your life need the living water of Christ?

Interlinear Text

וְעָבַר	גֹּב וְל	אֶל	כְּ תֵרֶף	בֵּית	חֲגִלָּה	צָפ וְנָה
passed along	And the border	H413	to the side	H0	of Bethhoglah	northward
H5674	H1366		H3802		H1031	H6828

וְהִי הָא	תֵּצֵא וְתִי	גֹב וְל	אֶל	לִשׁוֹן	יָם	הַיָּם לַח
H1961	and the outgoings	And the border	H413	bay	sea	of the salt
	H8444	H1366		H3956	H3220	H4417

צָפ וְנָה	אֶל	קֵצֵה	הַיָּרְדֵּן	נֹגֵב:	זֶה	גֹּב וְל
northward	H413	end	of Jordan	at the south	H2088	And the border
H6828		H7097	H3383	H5045		H1366

נֹגֵב:
at the south
H5045

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 14:3 (Parallel theme): All these were joined together in the vale of Siddim, which is the salt sea.

Joshua 15:2 (Parallel theme): And their south border was from the shore of the salt sea, from the bay that looketh southward:

