

Joshua 19:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Alammelech, and Amad, and Misheal; and reacheth to Carmel westward, and to Shihor-libnath;

Analysis

And Alammelech, and Amad, and Misheal; and reacheth to Carmel westward—The boundary extends to Mount **Carmel** (כַּרְמֵל Karmel, "garden land" or "fruitful field"), the mountain range jutting into the Mediterranean where Elijah would later confront Baal's prophets (1 Kings 18). The inclusion of Carmel in Asher's territory connects tribal inheritance to prophetic history—Asher's land became the staging ground for Israel's greatest showdown with idolatry.

Shihor-libnath likely refers to a coastal stream, defining the southwestern boundary. The phrase **reacheth to** (עַלְּ paga, to meet, encounter) suggests these boundaries touched natural landmarks. God used geography—mountains, rivers, coastlines—to define inheritances, demonstrating His sovereignty over creation itself. The land doesn't just contain His people; it shapes their identity and calling.

Historical Context

Mount Carmel rises prominently along the Mediterranean coast, creating a natural boundary. The region was known for vineyards and fertile soil, fulfilling Jacob's prophecy about Asher's richness. Archaeological evidence shows continuous occupation through the biblical period, with strategic importance for controlling coastal trade routes.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Carmel's dual role (tribal boundary and prophetic battleground) show God's long-range purposes in seemingly mundane land distributions?
2. What spiritual "landmarks" has God placed in your life that define your calling and identity?
3. How might geographic proximity to ungodly influences (like Phoenician Baal worship near Carmel) actually position believers for strategic spiritual warfare?

Interlinear Text

וְאֶלְמָךְ לְרֹא	וְעַמְעָד	וְמִשְׁאָל	וְפָגַע	בְּכַרְמֵל	בְּמִזְרָח
And Alammelech	and Amad	and Misheal	and reacheth	to Carmel	westward
H487	H6008	H4861	H6293	H3760	H3220
וְרֹא בְּשִׁיחַ וְרֹא בְּנִתְהַ	לְבָנִתְהַ				
and to Shihorlibnath					
H0					
	H7884				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 33:9 (Parallel theme): The earth mourneth and languisheth: Lebanon is ashamed and hewn down: Sharon is like a wilderness; and Bashan and Carmel shake off their fruits.

1 Kings 18:42 (Parallel theme): So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees,

1 Kings 18:20 (Parallel theme): So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto mount Carmel.

Song of Solomon 7:5: Thine head upon thee is like Carmel, and the hair of thine head like purple; the king is held in the galleries.

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