

Joshua 19:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And turneth toward the sunrising to Beth-dagon, and reacheth to Zebulun, and to the valley of Jiphthah-el toward the north side of Beth-emek, and Neiel, and goeth out to Cabul on the left hand,

Analysis

And turneth toward the sunrising to Beth-dagon—The boundary turns eastward (literally "toward the rising of the sun," שָׁמֶשׁ מִזְרָחׁ mizrach shemesh) to **Beth-dagon**, meaning "house of Dagon." This Philistine fish-god's presence in Asher's territory names reveals the incomplete conquest warned against in Judges. The mention of **Zebulun** and the **valley of Jiphthah-el** shows tribal boundaries interconnecting—no tribe lived in isolation.

Cabul on the left hand (הַשְׂמֹאלִית has'mol, the north side when facing east) later becomes infamous when Solomon gives twenty Galilean cities including Cabul to Hiram of Tyre, who despises them (1 Kings 9:13). The name Cabul means "displeasing" or "sterile." Even within blessed Asher's inheritance lay territory that would prove disappointing—a reminder that earthly inheritances are imperfect shadows of the eternal inheritance in Christ.

Historical Context

Beth-dagon's name indicates Canaanite religious influence that persisted after conquest. The valley of Jiphthah-el separated Asher from Zebulun in lower Galilee. Cabul's later reputation as worthless land given to Hiram shows how even prime

tribal territories contained less desirable portions, requiring faith to see God's goodness in all allotments.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What "Beth-dagons" (places named after false gods) exist within your sphere of influence, and how do you maintain spiritual distinctiveness there?
2. How does Cabul's story warn against despising God's provision while teaching that earthly inheritances are never perfect?
3. What does tribal interconnectedness teach about the church's mutual dependence, where no member can say "I have no need of you" (1 Corinthians 12:21)?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁבֵךְ	מִזְבֵּחַ	בְּשִׁמְשָׁה	בְּיִתְּהָאֵן	וְפָגַע	
And turneth	toward the sunrising	H8121	H0	to Bethdagon	and reacheth

מִשְׁמָאֵל:	כְּבָאֵל	אַל	וְגַעְיָאֵל	בְּעַמְקָאֵל
of Bethemek	and Neiel	and goeth out	H413	to Cabul

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 9:13 (Parallel theme): And he said, What cities are these which thou hast given me, my brother? And he called them the land of Cabul unto this day.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org