

Joshua 19:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Hebron, and Rehob, and Hammon, and Kanah, even unto great Zidon;

Analysis

And Hebron, and Rehob, and Hammon, and Kanah, even unto great Zidon

—The northern boundary reaches to **great Zidon** (צִידוֹן רַבָּה Tzidon rabbah), the major Phoenician city that symbolized maritime commerce and pagan culture. This **Hebron** differs from the southern city given to Caleb; multiple cities shared names throughout Israel. **Kanah** (קָנָה qanah, "reed") possibly refers to a stream with reeds, while **Rehob** means "broad place" or "marketplace."

Asher's inheritance extending to Zidon fulfilled Genesis 49:13's prophecy about Zebulun dwelling at the "haven of the sea" and bordering Zidon, though here it's Asher reaching the great Phoenician city. The territorial overlaps in prophetic blessings show how God's promises transcend rigid boundaries—what matters is corporate blessing, not tribal competition. Israel's northernmost reach to Zidon positioned them at the edge of the pagan world, requiring maximum faithfulness.

Historical Context

Zidon (Sidon) was one of the ancient world's most important port cities, famous for purple dye, glassmaking, and seafaring. Its wealth and cultural influence made it both an economic opportunity and spiritual threat to Israel. The Phoenicians' naval dominance and trade networks brought prosperity but also introduced Baal and Asherah worship that repeatedly corrupted Israel.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How do you navigate the tension of living "up to great Zidon"—engaging with worldly systems for provision while avoiding spiritual compromise?
2. What does Asher's proximity to Phoenician wealth teach about the unique challenges that come with economic opportunity and cultural influence?
3. How should Christians view territorial or sphere-of-influence boundaries: as rigid divisions or as flexible spaces requiring wisdom and faithfulness?

Interlinear Text

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|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------|--------------|------------------------|
| וְעָבֵר | וְרָחָב | וְחַמּוֹן | וְקָנָה | עַד | צִידוֹן | רָבָה: |
| And Hebron | and Rehob | and Hammon | and Kanah | H5704 | Zidon | even unto great |
| H5683 | H7340 | H2540 | H7071 | | H6721 | H7227 |

Additional Cross-References

Judges 1:31 (Parallel theme): Neither did Asher drive out the inhabitants of Accho, nor the inhabitants of Zidon, nor of Ahlab, nor of Achzib, nor of Helbah, nor of Aphik, nor of Rehob:

Joshua 11:8 (Parallel theme): And the LORD delivered them into the hand of Israel, who smote them, and chased them unto great Zidon, and unto Misrephoth-maim, and unto the valley of Mizpeh eastward; and they smote them, until they left them none remaining.