

Joshua 19:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And then the coast turneth to Ramah, and to the strong city Tyre; and the coast turneth to Hosah; and the outgoings thereof are at the sea from the coast to Achzib:

Analysis

And then the coast turneth to Ramah, and to the strong city Tyre—The boundary reaches **Tyre** (תֵּר Tzor, "rock"), the fortified (מִבְצָר mivtzar, fortified, strong) Phoenician capital that rivaled Zidon in wealth and influence. Tyre's later king Hiram would partner with Solomon in temple construction (1 Kings 5), while Ezekiel 26-28 pronounces devastating judgment against Tyrian pride. Asher's border touching this "strong city" placed them adjacent to one of antiquity's most powerful city-states.

And the coast turneth to Hosah; and the outgoings thereof are at the sea from the coast to Achzib—The territory ends at the Mediterranean (הַיָּם hayam, the sea), with **Achzib** marking the coastal terminus. The phrase "outgoings" (וְתַּחַזְקֵנִי totze'otav, exits, boundaries) emphasizes defined limits. Even blessed Asher had boundaries; abundant grace doesn't mean limitless territory. God's generosity includes appropriate limits that prevent overextension and maintain distinct tribal identities.

Historical Context

Tyre sat on a rocky island offshore, making it virtually impregnable until Alexander the Great built a causeway in 332 BC. Its maritime dominance, skilled craftsmen, and trade networks made it the ancient world's commercial superpower. Achzib

(later called Ecdippa) marked the coastal boundary, a strategic location controlling coastal routes between Phoenicia and Israel.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Asher's border at "the strong city Tyre" illustrate that God sometimes places His people next to powerful worldly systems without expecting them to conquer or control those systems?
2. What does Tyre's dual role—trading partner and object of divine judgment—teach about engaging with secular institutions?
3. How do God-given boundaries ("outgoings") in your calling or capacity protect you from overextension while maximizing fruitfulness within defined limits?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁבַת	בְּגִבּוֹל	בְּרִמְתִּים	עִיר	וְעַד	מִבְצָר	צָרָ
turneth	And then the coast	to Ramah	city	and to the strong	Tyre	
H7725	H1366	H7414	H5892	H4013		H6865
וְשָׁבַת	בְּגִבּוֹל	חַסְכָּה	וַיְמִלֵּא	תִּצְאַת	וְ	
turneth	And then the coast	to Hosah		and the outgoings		
H7725	H1366	H2621		H8444		
מִן־מָה	מִן־בָּلְיָה	אֲכַזְּבִּים				
thereof are at the sea	from the coast	to Achzib				
H3220	H2256	H392				

Additional Cross-References

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

2 Samuel 5:11 (Parallel theme): And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters, and masons: and they built David an house.

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