

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** (צֹר Tzor, "rock"), the fortified (מִצְרָה 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" (תּוֹצְאוֹת 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

וְשָׁב	הַגְּבוּל	הָרָמָה	וְעַד	עִיר	מִבְצָר	צֵר
turneth	And then the coast	to Ramah	H5704	city	and to the strong	Tyre
H7725	H1366	H7414		H5892	H4013	H6865
וְשָׁב	הַגְּבוּל	חֹסֶה	וְיָהִי	וְתִצְאֹת		
turneth	And then the coast	to Hosah	H1961	and the outgoings		
H7725	H1366	H2621		H8444		
	הֵי מָה	מִן הַבַּיְתָה	אֶחְזִיבָהּ			
	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 Accho, 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.