

# Numbers 34:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the coast shall go down from Shepham to Riblah, on the east side of Ain; and the border shall descend, and shall reach unto the side of the sea of Chinnereth eastward:

## Analysis

**And the coast shall go down from Shepham to Riblah, on the east side of Ain; and the border shall descend, and shall reach unto the side of the sea of Chinnereth eastward**—The yam Kinneret (יַם כִּנְרֵת, 'Sea of Galilee,' literally 'harp-shaped sea') marks a crucial eastern boundary point. Riblah's identification remains uncertain, but the descent from highlands to the Sea of Galilee (700 feet below sea level) is geographically dramatic. God's boundaries embrace diverse terrain—mountains, valleys, seas.

Galilee later became central to Jesus's ministry. The same waters that bounded tribal inheritance witnessed Christ walking on waves, calming storms, and calling fishermen to be fishers of men. Geography and salvation history intertwine in God's providence.

## Historical Context

The Sea of Galilee (Chinnereth) was known for abundant fishing and surrounded by fertile land. Its strategic location made it commercially valuable. Later divided between the tribes of Naphtali and Manasseh, this region became prominent during Jesus's Galilean ministry (Matthew 4:13-17). Riblah was later the site of tragic judgment on Judah's King Zedekiah (2 Kings 25:6-7).

## Related Passages

## **Genesis 1:1 – Creation of heavens and earth**

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

1. How does the Sea of Galilee's role in both tribal boundaries and Jesus's ministry reveal God's long-term providential planning?
2. What does God's concern for specific geographical details teach about His involvement in the material world?
3. How should the fact that Jesus chose 'Galilee of the Gentiles' for His ministry shape your view of God's inclusive grace?

## Interlinear Text

לְאֵין קָדוֹם הַרְבֵּל הַמִּשְׁפֵּט מִבְּגָבָל אֵין דָּבָר

shall descend And the coast from Shepham to Riblah eastward of Ain

H3381 H1366 H8221 H7247 H6924 H5871

יְמִינֵיכֶם תִּפְנַח וְעַל הַמִּזְבֵּחַ תִּפְגַּבְתָּ וְמִתְּחִלָּה תִּפְגַּבְתָּ לְבַנְתֵּיכֶם יְמִינֵיכֶם תִּפְנַח וְעַל הַמִּזְבֵּחַ תִּפְגַּבְתָּ וְמִתְּחִלָּה תִּפְגַּבְתָּ לְבַנְתֵּיכֶם

כְּ רַתְּ  
of Chinnereth  
H3672

אֶזְמָה:  
eastward  
H6924

## Additional Cross-References

**Deuteronomy 3:17** (Parallel theme): The plain also, and Jordan, and the coast thereof, from Chinnereth even unto the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, under Ashdoth-pisqah eastward.

**2 Kings 23:33** (Parallel theme): And Pharaoh-nechoh put him in bands at Riblah in the land of Hamath, that he might not reign in Jerusalem; and put the land to a tribute of an hundred talents of silver, and a talent of gold.

**Joshua 11:2** (Parallel theme): And to the kings that were on the north of the mountains, and of the plains south of Chinneroth, and in the valley, and in the borders of Dor on the west,

**Luke 5:1** (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret,

**Joshua 19:35** (Parallel theme): And the fenced cities are Ziddim, Zer, and Hammath, Rakkath, and Chinnereth,

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