

# 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

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**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 (יָם 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

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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

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

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

## Study Questions

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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

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יֵרֵד ד	הַגֹּבַל ל	מִשְׁפַּחַם	הַרְבֵּל ה	קִדְמָה:	לַעֲיִן
shall descend	And the coast	from Shepham	to Riblah	eastward	of Ain
H3381	H1366	H8221	H7247	H6924	H5871
יֵרֵד ד	הַגֹּבַל ל	וּמָה ה	עַל	כְּתָף	יָם
shall descend	And the coast	and shall reach	H5921	unto the side	of the sea
H3381	H1366	H4229		H3802	H3220
כֶּנֶת רַת	קִדְמָה:				
of Chinnereth	eastward				
H3672	H6924				

## Additional Cross-References

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**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-pisgah 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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