

Numbers 34:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And your border shall turn from the south to the ascent of Akrabbim, and pass on to Zin: and the going forth thereof shall be from the south to Kadesh-barnea, and shall go on to Hazar-addar, and pass on to Azmon:

Analysis

And your border shall turn from the south to the ascent of Akrabbim (Ma'aleh Aqrabbim, Scorpion Pass)—God defines Promised Land boundaries with geographic precision before Israel enters. The southern border curves from Wilderness of Zin through treacherous Scorpion Pass (steep ascent southeast of Dead Sea) to Kadesh-barnea (where Israel rebelled 38 years prior, 13:26-14:4).

This isn't abstract theology but real estate covenant. The Hebrew *gevil* (border/boundary) appears repeatedly (34:3-12), showing God's promises are concrete, not merely spiritual. Abraham received general promise (Genesis 15:18-21); now Moses receives surveyor's specifications. The borders mark both gift and limitation—Israel must occupy what God gives, not expand beyond. Obedience has geography.

Historical Context

Numbers 34 (ca. 1406 BC) details borders before conquest. Kadesh-barnea was Israel's camping location during 38-year wilderness punishment. Akrabbim Pass (modern Naqb es-Safa) controlled southern access to Judean highlands. These borders defined tribal inheritances Joshua allocated (Joshua 15-19), though Israel never fully occupied all territories.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do specific, limited boundaries challenge 'prosperity gospel' assumptions about unlimited blessing?
2. What does God's pre-specification of borders teach about divine sovereignty over nations and their territories?

Interlinear Text

וְנָס ב	לָכֶם	הַגֹּב וְל	מִן גֹּב	לְמַעַל ה	עֲקֶרְבִּים
shall turn	H0	And your border	from the south	to the ascent	of Akkrabbim
H5437		H1366	H5045	H4608	H4610
וְעָבַר	צִינָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה יוֹ	מִן גֹּב	לְקֵד שׁ
and pass on	to Zin	H1961	and the going forth	from the south	H0
H5674	H6790		H8444	H5045	
בְּרֵנָה	וְיָצָא	חֲצָרָה	אֶדְרָה	וְעָבַר	עַצְמוֹנָה:
to Kadeshbarnea	and shall go on	H0	to Hazaraddar	and pass on	to Azmon
H6947	H3318		H2692	H5674	H6111

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 32:8 (Parallel theme): Thus did your fathers, when I sent them from Kadesh-barnea to see the land.