

Numbers 34:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the border shall fetch a compass from Azmon unto the river of Egypt, and the goings out of it shall be at the sea.

Analysis

And the border shall fetch a compass from Azmon unto the river of Egypt, and the goings out of it shall be at the sea—The southern boundary curves (nasav, compass/turn) from Azmon westward to Wadi el-Arish (the 'river of Egypt,' nachal Mitzrayim—not the Nile but seasonal stream marking Egypt-Canaan border), terminating at the Mediterranean (yam, sea).

This border separates covenant people from Egypt (representing bondage, worldliness). God redeemed Israel from Egypt to Canaan—the boundary formalizes that separation. Spiritually, Christians are delivered from the domain of darkness into Christ's kingdom (Colossians 1:13). Clear borders prevent mixture, protect distinct identity, and define where God's specific covenant laws apply. The NT parallel: the Church is 'in the world, not of it' (John 17:14-18).

Historical Context

The 'river of Egypt' (Wadi el-Arish) marked Egypt's northeastern frontier, running from Sinai to Mediterranean. Solomon's kingdom reached this boundary (1 Kings 4:21), representing maximum extent of Israel's influence. The border prevented Egyptian political/religious encroachment while allowing trade. Modern Gaza Strip sits near this ancient boundary.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What 'borders' has God established in your life to protect your spiritual identity and calling?
2. How does the OT land boundary illuminate NT teachings about separation from worldly systems?

Interlinear Text

וְנָסַב	וְהָיָה	מֵעֶזְמוֹן	עַד הַנָּהָר	מִצְרַיִם
shall fetch a compass	And the border	from Azmon	unto the river	of Egypt
H5437	H1366	H6111	H5158	H4714
וְהָיָה	וְהָיוּ	הַיֹּצֵאִים	הָעוֹצֵאִים	הַיָּם
H1961	and the goings out	of it shall be at the sea		
	H8444	H3220		

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 15:4 (References Egypt): From thence it passed toward Azmon, and went out unto the river of Egypt; and the goings out of that coast were at the sea: this shall be your south coast.

Genesis 15:18 (References Egypt): In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

Isaiah 27:12 (References Egypt): And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall beat off from the channel of the river unto the stream of Egypt, and ye shall be gathered one by one, O ye children of Israel.

Joshua 15:47 (References Egypt): Ashdod with her towns and her villages, Gaza with her towns and her villages, unto the river of Egypt, and the great sea, and the border thereof:

1 Kings 8:65 (References Egypt): And at that time Solomon held a feast, and all Israel with him, a great congregation, from the entering in of Hamath unto the river of Egypt, before the LORD our God, seven days and seven days, even fourteen days.

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