

Numbers 34:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

From mount Hor ye shall point out your border unto the entrance of Hamath; and the goings forth of the border shall be to Zedad:

Analysis

From mount Hor ye shall point out your border unto the entrance of Hamath; and the goings out of the border shall be at Zedad—The northern boundary continues from Mount Hor inland to Lebo-Hamath (entrance/approach to Hamath), a strategic pass between Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon ranges, then to Zedad (possibly modern Sadad, northeast of Damascus).

Hamath was Aramean/Syrian kingdom; 'entrance of Hamath' marked where Israelite territory ended and foreign kingdoms began. David and Solomon both reached this boundary (2 Samuel 8:9; 1 Kings 8:65), representing Israel's fullest extent. The precision shows God's covenant specificity: not vague 'from sea to sea,' but exact landmarks. This teaches that God's promises, while certain, have defined scope. We must neither diminish them through unbelief nor inflate them through presumption.

Historical Context

Lebo-Hamath (modern Lebweh or the Beqaa Valley entrance) controlled access between Mesopotamia and Egypt/Palestine. It appears throughout OT as Israel's ideal northern limit (Numbers 13:21; Joshua 13:5; Judges 3:3; 1 Kings 8:65). During divided kingdom era, northern border rarely reached this far, showing incomplete conquest fulfillment.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do unfulfilled aspects of God's promises (like Israel's incomplete conquest) inform expectations of NT promises' fulfillment?
2. What does the 'entrance of Hamath' as boundary marker teach about strategic thinking in spiritual warfare and territory claiming?

Interlinear Text

מֶהֱרָ	הָהָר	תִּתְּאוּ	לְבִי	חֲמַת
Hor	From mount	ye shall point out	your border unto the entrance	of Hamath
H2023	H2022	H8376	H935	H2574
וְהִי	תוֹצֵאת	הַגֶּבֶל	צִדְדָּהּ:	
H1961	and the goings forth	of the border	shall be to Zedad	
	H8444	H1366	H6657	

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 13:21 (Parallel theme): So they went up, and searched the land from the wilderness of Zin unto Rehob, as men come to Hamath.

2 Kings 14:25 (Parallel theme): He restored the coast of Israel from the entering of Hamath unto the sea of the plain, according to the word of the LORD God of Israel, which he spake by the hand of his servant Jonah, the son of Amittai, the prophet, which was of Gath-hepher.