

Numbers 34:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the border shall go on to Ziphron, and the goings out of it shall be at Hazar-enan: this shall be your north border.

Analysis

And the border shall go on to Ziphron, and the goings out of it shall be at Hazar-enan: this shall be your north border—The Hebrew gebul (גָּבוֹל, 'border/boundary') appears repeatedly in Numbers 34, establishing Israel's Promised Land boundaries. Hazar-enan (חָצֵר עִירָן, 'village of springs') marked the northeastern limit—approximately 50 miles northeast of Damascus. God's meticulous boundary delineation demonstrates His sovereignty over geography and nations.

These borders weren't arbitrary but divinely ordained allotments (Acts 17:26). Yet Israel never fully possessed these boundaries until Solomon's reign (1 Kings 4:21-24), and even then incompletely. The ultimate fulfillment awaits Christ's kingdom when He rules 'from sea to sea' (Psalm 72:8).

Historical Context

These boundaries were given circa 1406 BC as Israel prepared to cross the Jordan. The northern border described here encompasses territory beyond what Israel historically controlled, suggesting God's ideal rather than merely attainable goals. Ziphron and Hazar-enan were likely in modern Syria near the Lebanese border.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's precise boundary-setting for Israel inform your understanding of His sovereignty over nations today?
2. What does Israel's incomplete possession of promised territory teach about the 'already but not yet' nature of God's promises?
3. In what ways does the Promised Land foreshadow the eternal inheritance believers receive in Christ?

Interlinear Text

אֵצֶץ אֵצֶץ	גַּבְעַל	נָהָר זִפְרָן	וְעַל	תְּזַצְּאָתְךָ	רַצְחָנָךְ
shall go on	And the border	to Ziphron	H1961	and the goings out	H0
H3318	H1366	H2202		H8444	
עַל-	לְכָם	הַיָּה	זֶה	לְכָם	גַּבְעַל
of it shall be at Hazarenan	H2088	H1961	H0	And the border	
	H2704			H1366	
אַפְרַן.					
this shall be your north					
H6828					

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 47:17 (Parallel theme): And the border from the sea shall be Hazar-enan, the border of Damascus, and the north northward, and the border of Hamath. And this is the north side.