

# Obadiah 1:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they of the south shall possess the mount of Esau; and they of the plain the Philistines: and they shall possess the fields of Ephraim, and the fields of Samaria: and Benjamin shall possess Gilead.

## Analysis

**And they of the south shall possess the mount of Esau; and they of the plain the Philistines**—God specifies territorial restoration. "They of the south" (הַנֶּגֶב, ha-Negev) refers to southern Judah, who will possess Edom's mountainous region. "They of the plain" (הַשְּׁפֵלָה, ha-Shephelah)—the western lowlands—will possess Philistine territory. This reverses centuries of hostile occupation and border conflicts.

**And they shall possess the fields of Ephraim, and the fields of Samaria: and Benjamin shall possess Gilead**—comprehensive restoration of all tribal territories, including the northern kingdom (Ephraim, Samaria) conquered by Assyria (722 BC). Benjamin, the smallest tribe, will possess Gilead east of the Jordan—land typically held by Gad, Reuben, and Manasseh. The verb יָרַשׁ (yarash, "possess") is the conquest term—they will inherit and occupy what God promised.

This has partial historical fulfillment in post-exilic restoration and Maccabean expansion, but the complete fulfillment is eschatological. Christ's kingdom includes all God's promises to Israel, fulfilled in the new heavens and new earth. Romans 4:13 declares Abraham's promise extends beyond Canaan to inheriting the world. Believers in Christ—the true Israel (Galatians 6:16)—will inherit all things (Matthew 5:5, Revelation 21:7).

## Historical Context

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After the exile, returning Jews gradually reoccupied the land. During the Maccabean period (165-63 BC), Jewish territory expanded significantly, including former Edomite and Philistine regions. John Hyrcanus conquered Idumea (former Edom) and the coastal plain. The Hasmonean dynasty controlled extensive territory approximating this prophecy. Yet Roman conquest (63 BC) limited fulfillment. The ultimate reality awaits Christ's return when God's people inherit the renewed creation (Romans 8:18-23). The land promises point beyond geography to comprehensive restoration of all creation under God's rule through the Messiah.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How do Old Testament land promises find ultimate fulfillment in Christ and the new creation rather than merely geographic territory?
2. In what ways does believers' future inheritance (the new heavens and earth) exceed even the most extensive territorial expansion in biblical history?
3. How should confidence in future complete restoration shape present contentment despite incomplete justice or limited resources?

## Interlinear Text

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וְיָרְשׁוּ and they shall possess H3423	הַנָּגֶב And they of the south H5045	אֶת H853	הַר the mount H2022	עֵשָׂו of Esau H6215		
וְהַשְּׂפֵלָה and they of the plain H8219	אֶת H853	פְּלִשְׁתֵּי יָם the Philistines H6430	וְיָרְשׁוּ and they shall possess H3423	אֶת H853		
שָׂדֵה and the fields H7704	אֶפְרַיִם of Ephraim H669	וְאֵת H853	שָׂדֵה and the fields H7704	שֹׁמֵרֹן of Samaria H8111	וּבִנְיָמִן and Benjamin H1144	אֶת H853
הַגִּלְעָד: shall possess Gilead H1568						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 32:44** (Parallel theme): Men shall buy fields for money, and subscribe evidences, and seal them, and take witnesses in the land of Benjamin, and in the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, and in the cities of the mountains, and in the cities of the valley, and in the cities of the south: for I will cause their captivity to return, saith the LORD.

**Amos 9:12** (Parallel theme): That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen, which are called by my name, saith the LORD that doeth this.

**Ezekiel 36:28** (Parallel theme): And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.