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Biblical Borders of the Land of Israel

By Jim Myers

How many comments and discussions about the biblical borders of Israel have you heard over the years? Some people say that someday Israel will occupy the borders exactly as the Bible defines them. Others say that those borders were in the past and have nothing to do with present day Israel. Interestingly, most people don't really know what the Bible actually says about the borders. So let's see what it says!

On that day Yahweh made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates. (Genesis 15:18)

Look at the countries that would be affected if the borders given in Genesis became a reality today.



A substantially different set of borders is given to Moses in Numbers 34:1-13

1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,
2 "Command the sons of Israel and say to them, 'When you enter the land of

Canaan, this is the land that shall fall to you as an inheritance, *even the land of Canaan*

according to its borders. 3 'Your southern sector shall extend from the wilderness of Zin along the side of Edom, and your

southern border shall extend from the end of the Salt Sea eastward. 4 'Then your border shall turn *direction* from the south to the ascent of Akkrabbim, and continue to Zin, and its termination shall be to the south of Kadesh-barnea;

and it shall reach Hazaraddar, and continue to Azmon. 5 'And the border shall turn from Azmon to the brook of Egypt, and its termination shall be at the sea. 6 'As for the **western border**, you shall have the Great Sea, that is, *its* coastline; this shall be your west border.

7 'And this shall be your **north border**: you shall draw your *border* line from the Great Sea to Mount Hor. 8 'You shall draw a line from Mount Hor to the Lebohamath, and the termination of the border shall be at Zedad; 9 and the border shall proceed to Ziphron, and its

termination shall be at Hazar-enan. This shall be your north border. 10 'For your **eastern border** you shall also draw a line from Hazar-enan to Shepham, 11 and the border shall go down from Shepham to Riblah on the east side of

Ain; and the border shall go down and reach to the slope on the east side of the Sea of Chinnereth. 12 'And the border shall go down to the Jordan and its termination shall be at the Salt Sea. This shall be your land according to its borders all around.' "

13 So Moses commanded the sons of Israel, saying, "This is the land that you are to apportion by lot among you as a possession, which Yahweh has commanded to give to the nine and a half tribes."

Next let's turn to Deuteronomy 11:24:

"Every place on which the sole of your foot shall tread shall be yours; your border shall be **from the wilderness to Lebanon**, and from the river, **the river Euphrates**, as far as the western sea.

For another biblical reference to the borders of the land of Israel read Ezekiel 47:15-20.

It is easy to understand how people can become confused over the questions concerning the borders of Israel. This answer simply won't be answered by reading our Bibles. **BHC**



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