

**Boundary Lines  
(That is Not Yours)  
(Joshua 1:4)**

4 Your territory will extend **from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west.**

**Big Question:** What are you not supposed to have?

**My Goal:** I want to clear your mind and focus your attention on what really matters in your life.

**The Promise Land Map:**

- <https://stephenmillerbooks.com/israel-tiny-part-promised-land/>
- The Promised Land Described in Modern Language (See end Notes)

**Series Text: Joshua 1:1–6 (NIV):**

1. **What are you not supposed to have?** (Part 1)
2. What are you supposed to have?
3. How to get what you are supposed to have?

**I. The Establishment of Boundaries**

- 1 After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses 'aide: 2 “Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. **3 I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses.**

**Statement:** You don't get to keep your Moses forever and you don't get to own everything around you.

**II. The Boundary Lines Described  
(God was very specific)**

- 4 Your territory will extend **from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west.**

**Statement:** You don't get to conquer everything around you

### III. The Reward for Living Within the Boundaries

- **5** No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. **6** Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

#### Statement:

- They would be fully supported by God if they fought within the boundaries He prescribed for them.

#### Question: Why Doesn't God Give Us Everything?

- He has more children than you
- He doesn't want you overextended

#### Closing

### IV. Seven Boundary Line Insights (Exodus 23:20–33, NIV)

#### 1. You Must Listen to the Boundary Instructions

- **Exodus 23:20** “See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared. **21** Pay attention to him and **listen to what he says**. Do not rebel against him; he will not forgive your rebellion, since my Name is in him.

#### 2. You Will be Protected Within the Boundaries

- **23:22** If you listen carefully to what he says and do all that I say, **I will be an enemy to your enemies** and will oppose those who oppose you. **23** My angel will go ahead of you and bring you into the land of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hivites and Jebusites, and I will wipe them out.

#### 3. You Must Not Compromise the Boundaries

- **23:24** **Do not bow down** before their gods or **worship them** or **follow their practices**. You must demolish them and break their sacred stones to pieces.

#### 4. You Must Honor God and the Boundaries He Has Established

- **23:25** **Worship the Lord** your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you, **26** and none will miscarry or be barren in your land. I will give you a full life span.

#### 5. Your Enemies Will be Confused If You Stay in The Boundaries

- 23:27 “I will send my terror ahead of you and **throw into confusion every nation you encounter**. I will **make all your enemies turn their backs and run**. 28 I will send the hornet ahead of you to drive the Hivites, Canaanites and Hittites out of your way.

#### 6. Your Success Will Come in Pieces Within the Boundaries

- 23:29 But I will not drive them out in a single year, **because the land would become desolate and the wild animals too numerous for you**. 30 Little by little I will drive them out before you, **until you have increased** enough to take possession of the land.

**Note: Extending your boundaries too quickly will harm you!**

#### 7. You Must Remember Your Borders

- 23:31 **“I will establish your borders** from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea, and from the desert to the Euphrates River. I will give into your hands the people who live in the land, and you will drive them out before you. 32 Do not make a covenant with them or with their gods. 33 Do not let them live in your land or **they will cause you to sin against me**, because the worship of their gods will certainly be a snare to you.”

**Next Time: What are you supposed to have?**

**End Notes:**

**The Borders of the Promised Land  
by Stephen Miller**

**Source: <https://stephenmillerbooks.com/israel-tiny-part-promised-land/>**

**Israel is about the size of New Jersey.** God promised Abraham and his descendants what appears to be all of today’s Israel, all of the **Palestinian Territories, and parts of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Turkey.**

#### **The Promise in Two Passages.**

“The LORD said, “Today I have given this land to your descendants. They own everything from the river along the border with Egypt to the great Euphrates River.” **Genesis 15:18**, Casual English Bible

“You’re an immigrant in this land of Canaan. But I’m giving every bit of this land to you and your descendants. This will be a family-owned land forever.” **Genesis 17:8**, Casual English Bible  
Only two borders are obvious. North and West.

### The Boundary Lines of the Promised Land

**North.** The Euphrates River that runs into Turkey is the northern border.

**West.** God doesn't mention the Mediterranean Sea, but it's a fairly obvious western border for the ancient Jews who were more sea-fearers than seafarers. Give them a flock of sheep, a deep well, and a puff of dust as they plant their feet on solid ground.

**South.** A mysterious "river along the border with Egypt," serves as the southern border. If only we could find a river in Egypt, other than the Nile River. Some say that's the river God was talking about. Too bad for the Egyptians. Almost all of them live along the banks of that river. Other folks speculate that the river God had in mind is now a dry riverbank known as the Wadi El-Arish, just across Israel's southern border, perhaps a day's dry walk into Egypt.

**East.** The Eastern border seems to be the opposite of the Mediterranean Sea. It's a sprawling desert. When Joshua and the Jewish refugees invaded what is now Israel, many of them settled on the east side of the Jordan River, in what is now the Arab country of Jordan. But most of those Jews lived within a few day's walk of the river. If they went much further east, they would find nothing much more than desert sand as far as they could see.

There was a time when Jews controlled just about all of this Promised Land.

### Questions You Should Ask Me

1. How can a person get their boundary lines wrong?

- **Answer:** Bad Theology (Claiming promises God never really gave you)

2. How can bad boundary lines affect your life?

- **Answer:** You will spend years outside of your boundaries

3. Why does God take so long to give us what we ask for?

- **Answer:** It would overwhelm you (How well are you handling what you have?)
- 23:29 But I will not drive them out in a single year, because the land would become desolate and the wild animals too numerous for you. 30 Little by little I will drive them out before you, **until you have increased** enough to take possession of the land.