

Halak, Mount

Mount Halak (MT *hāhār heḥālāq*, “smooth mountain”) is a mountain range located north of Seir in the central Negev west of the Arabah (Josh 11 : 17; 12 : 7) indicating the southern limit of the land conquered by Joshua. Maybe Halak, an opposite term to Seir (“hairy,” i.e., with foliage), is not a proper toponym but just an adjective with article. The parallel to the brother-nations Israel-Edom is obvious: Jacob is qualified “smooth-skinned” and Esau “hairy” (Gen 27 : 11) so that Mount Halak is an appropriate term for the southern border, accurately described elsewhere (Num 34 : 3–5; Josh 15 : 1–4) without referring to Mount Halak. This mountain range is located between Kadesh-Barnea and the Dead Sea. It is sometimes identified with Jebel Ḥalāq (1330.0360). Eusebius refers to textual variants and wrongly locates Mount Halak near Paneas (*Onom.* 20.8).

Bibliography: ■ Bekkum, K. van, *From Conquest to Coexistence* (Culture and History of the Ancient Near East 45; Leiden 2011). ■ Boling, R./G. E. Wright, *Joshua* (AB 6; New York 1982). ■ Musil, A., *Arabia Petraea II*, vol. 1 (Vienna 1907).

Erasmus Gaß