

Deuteronomy 1:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

(There are eleven days' journey from Horeb by the way of mount Seir unto Kadesh-barnea.)

Analysis

The eleven-day journey from Horeb (Sinai) to Kadesh-barnea highlights the tragic consequence of Israel's unbelief. What should have been an eleven-day journey became a forty-year wandering due to their refusal to enter Canaan after the spies' negative report (Numbers 13-14). The specific temporal and geographical detail emphasizes how disobedience transforms blessing into discipline, proximity into distance, and immediate inheritance into generational delay.

Historical Context

Mount Seir refers to the region of Edom southeast of the Dead Sea. The eleven-day journey calculation shows Moses' intimate knowledge of the geography and serves as a poignant reminder of opportunity lost. This verse was written after the forty years of wandering, making the contrast between what could have been and what actually occurred painfully clear.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does unbelief and disobedience transform your spiritual journey from direct paths to prolonged wandering?
2. What opportunities might you be missing due to fear or lack of faith in God's promises?

Interlinear Text

אַחַד	עָשָׂר	יּוֹם	מַחֲרֵב	דֶּקֶךְ	הָהָר
There are eleven	H6240	days	journey from Horeb	by the way	of mount
H259		H3117	H2722	H1870	H2022
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יֵרֵךְ	עַד	שֵׁעַר	קַדְשִׁבְרְנָע:		
Seir	H5704	H0	unto Kadeshbarnea		
H8165			H6947		

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 13:26 (Parallel theme): And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land.

Numbers 32:8 (Parallel theme): Thus did your fathers, when I sent them from Kadesh-barnea to see the land.

Deuteronomy 9:23 (Parallel theme): Likewise when the LORD sent you from Kadesh-barnea, saying, Go up and possess the land which I have given you; then ye rebelled against the commandment of the LORD your God, and ye believed him not, nor hearkened to his voice.