

Deuteronomy 1:46

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So ye abode in Kadesh many days, according unto the days that ye abode there.

Analysis

The extended stay at Kadesh—'many days'—represents wasted time and lost opportunity due to unbelief. This prolonged encampment, intended as the launching point for Canaan conquest, became instead a monument to failure. The phrase emphasizes Israel's stagnation, contrasting sharply with God's promise of advancement and inheritance. From a Reformed perspective, this illustrates how unbelief and disobedience halt spiritual progress. Believers can remain spiritually static, dwelling in places of discipline rather than advancing into promised blessings, when they resist God's will through fear or self-reliance.

Historical Context

Kadesh-barnea, located in the wilderness of Zin (modern Ain el-Qudeirat), served as Israel's base camp during much of their 40-year wilderness wandering (Numbers 13:26, 20:1). The 'many days' likely refers to the extended period before and after the failed spy mission (circa 1445 BC). Kadesh had abundant water springs, making it suitable for prolonged encampment, yet it represented defeat and judgment rather than the promised land of milk and honey.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Israel's prolonged stay at Kadesh serve as a warning against spiritual stagnation caused by unbelief?
2. In what areas of your life might you be 'abiding in Kadesh' rather than advancing into God's promised purposes?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁבְתָם:	שָׁבֵת	בְּקָדֵשׁ	יְמִינָה	כָּתָם	כָּתָם	יְמִינָה
So ye abide	in Kadesh	according unto the days	many	according unto the days		
H3427	H6946	H3117	H7227		H3117	

רָאשָׁם:	אָשָׁר	וְשָׁבְתָם:
H834	So ye abide	H3427

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 20:1 (Parallel theme): Then came the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, into the desert of Zin in the first month: and the people abode in Kadesh; and Miriam died there, and was buried there.

Numbers 20:22 (Parallel theme): And the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, journeyed from Kadesh, and came unto mount Hor.