

Deuteronomy 10:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

At that time the LORD separated the tribe of Levi, to bear the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to minister unto him, and to bless in his name, unto this day.

Analysis

From thence they journeyed unto Gudgodah; and from Gudgodah to Jotbath, a land of rivers of waters. These geographical markers trace Israel's wilderness wandering, recording God's faithfulness in leading them despite their rebellions. Each location testified to divine provision and guidance.

The description a land of rivers of waters emphasizes God's provision in desert regions. Water represented life, and God continually supplied His people's needs despite the harsh environment. This recalls Jesus' promise of living water to all who believe (John 4:14).

The specific naming of locations demonstrates Scripture's historical reliability. These are not generic parables but actual journeys through identifiable places. God works in real history, not mythical time.

Israel's wandering path through the wilderness typologically represents the believer's journey from bondage to inheritance. Though the path includes difficulties and testing, God faithfully guides His people to their promised rest.

Historical Context

These locations were in the wilderness south of Canaan, part of Israel's forty-year journey from Egypt to the Promised Land. The route included both barren desert

and occasional oases where water could be found.

The wilderness journey served as testing ground where Israel learned dependence on God's provision and faithfulness despite harsh conditions.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What do the specific geographical details teach about Scripture's historical reliability?
2. How does God's provision of water in the wilderness illustrate His care for His people?
3. In what ways does Israel's wilderness journey typify the believer's spiritual pilgrimage?
4. How does Jesus' promise of living water fulfill the type of physical water in the wilderness?
5. Why is it significant that God works in real history rather than timeless myth?

Interlinear Text

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|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|-------------|---------|
| בַּעֲתָ | הָהָּ וַאֲ | הִבְדִּיל | יְהוָה | אֶת | שֵׁבֶט | הַלֵּוִי | לְשֵׁם |
| At that time | H1931 | separated | of the LORD | H853 | the tribe | of Levi | to bear |
| H6256 | | H914 | H3068 | | H7626 | H3878 | H5375 |
| אֶת | אֲרוֹן | בְּרִית | יְהוָה | לִעֲמֹד | לִפְנֵי | יְהוָה | |
| H853 | the ark | of the covenant | of the LORD | to stand | before | of the LORD | |
| | H727 | H1285 | H3068 | H5975 | H6440 | H3068 | |
| לְשִׁמְתוֹ | וּלְבָרְכֵהוּ | בְּשֵׁם | עַד | הַיּוֹם | הַזֶּה | | |
| to minister | unto him and to bless | in his name | H5704 | unto this day | H2088 | | |
| H8334 | H1288 | H8034 | | H3117 | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 21:5 (Blessing): And the priests the sons of Levi shall come near; for them the LORD thy God hath chosen to minister unto him, and to bless in the name of the LORD; and by their word shall every controversy and every stroke be tried:

Deuteronomy 18:5 (References Lord): For the LORD thy God hath chosen him out of all thy tribes, to stand to minister in the name of the LORD, him and his sons for ever.

Numbers 4:15 (Parallel theme): And when Aaron and his sons have made an end of covering the sanctuary, and all the vessels of the sanctuary, as the camp is to set forward; after that, the sons of Kohath shall come to bear it: but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die. These things are the burden of the sons of Kohath in the tabernacle of the congregation.

Numbers 3:6 (Parallel theme): Bring the tribe of Levi near, and present them before Aaron the priest, that they may minister unto him.

Jeremiah 15:19 (References Lord): Therefore thus saith the LORD, If thou return, then will I bring thee again, and thou shalt stand before me: and if thou take forth the precious from the vile, thou shalt be as my mouth: let them return unto thee; but return not thou unto them.

1 Chronicles 15:26 (Covenant): And it came to pass, when God helped the Levites that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, that they offered seven bullocks and seven rams.

John 15:16 (Parallel theme): Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

Leviticus 9:22 (Blessing): And Aaron lifted up his hand toward the people, and blessed them, and came down from offering of the sin offering, and the burnt offering, and peace offerings.

2 Chronicles 30:27 (Blessing): Then the priests the Levites arose and blessed the people: and their voice was heard, and their prayer came up to his holy dwelling place, even unto heaven.

