

Deuteronomy 11:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And what he did unto you in the wilderness, until ye came into this place;

Analysis

Moses recounts God's providential care during the wilderness wandering—a period of divine discipline yet also divine provision. The phrase 'what he did unto you in the wilderness' encompasses both judgment (Numbers 14-25) and grace (manna, water, cloud, fire, preserved clothing). The wilderness served as Israel's crucible, where God tested, purified, and prepared them for Canaan. The phrase 'until ye came into this place' indicates the journey's completion—forty years of daily dependence on divine provision. This reinforces the dual nature of divine chastisement: corrective yet caring, severe yet sustaining.

Historical Context

The forty-year wilderness period (c. 1446-1406 BC or 1260-1220 BC depending on Exodus dating) transformed a slave rabble into a covenant nation. They received the Law at Sinai, experienced God's holy presence in the Tabernacle, learned warfare, developed tribal organization, and saw the faithless generation die off. The wilderness was classroom, training ground, and purifying fire. Deuteronomy 8:2-5 interprets this period as God 'humbling and testing' Israel to reveal what was in their hearts.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How has God used 'wilderness' seasons in your life for spiritual formation and preparation?
2. What is the relationship between God's discipline and His love in the wilderness experience?
3. How do periods of dependence and testing reveal the true condition of our hearts?

Interlinear Text

בְּאַכְּמָן עַד בְּמִלְּדָבָר נָשָׁה הַלְּכָה מִלְּאָשָׁר רַאשְׁתָּךְ
H834 And what he did H0 unto you in the wilderness H5704 until ye came
H6213 H4057 H935

בְּהַזָּה: בְּמִלְּקָה וְמִלְּאָשָׁר
H5704 into this place H2088
H4725

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