

Deuteronomy 2:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then we turned, and took our journey into the wilderness by the way of the Red sea, as the LORD spake unto me: and we compassed mount Seir many days.

Analysis

The phrase 'we turned, and took our journey into the wilderness' marks the tragic consequence of unbelief—Israel going backward instead of forward into promise. The 'way of the Red Sea' led them away from Canaan, prolonging their journey unnecessarily. This illustrates how disobedience doesn't just delay blessing but actively moves us away from God's purposes. The 'many days' of circling Mount Seir represents wasted time due to faithless rebellion.

Historical Context

This began the 38 years of wilderness wandering between Kadesh-barnea and finally crossing into Canaan. Numbers 14:33-34 specified exactly 40 years total (one for each day the spies explored the land), demonstrating God's precise justice tempered with continued provision.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What areas of your life are you 'circling' due to unbelief rather than progressing?
2. How long are you willing to wander before trusting God's promises?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּפְּן	וַיֵּלֶךְ	הַמִּדְבָּרָה	דֶּרֶךְ	יָם
Then we turned	and took our journey	into the wilderness	by the way	sea
H6437	H5265	H4057	H1870	H3220
סוּף	דָּבָר	יְהוָה	אֵלַי	וַיִּסָּב
of the Red	spake	as the LORD		unto me and we compassed
H5488	H1696	H3068	H413	H5437
אֶת	הָהָר	שֵׁעַ יִר	יָמִים	רַבִּים:
H853	mount	Seir	days	many
	H2022	H8165	H3117	H7227

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 21:4 (Parallel theme): And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way.

Deuteronomy 1:40 (Parallel theme): But as for you, turn you, and take your journey into the wilderness by the way of the Red sea.

Numbers 14:25 (Parallel theme): (Now the Amalekites and the Canaanites dwelt in the valley.) To morrow turn you, and get you into the wilderness by the way of the Red sea.

Deuteronomy 1:2 (Parallel theme): (There are eleven days' journey from Horeb by the way of mount Seir unto Kadesh-barnea.)

Judges 11:18 (Parallel theme): Then they went along through the wilderness, and compassed the land of Edom, and the land of Moab, and came by the east side of

the land of Moab, and pitched on the other side of Arnon, but came not within the border of Moab: for Arnon was the border of Moab.

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