

Exodus 13:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they took their journey from Succoth, and encamped in Etham, in the edge of the wilderness.

Analysis

The journey from Succoth to Etham marks progress. Succoth was the first camp after leaving Rameses (Exodus 12:37); Etham was 'in the edge of the wilderness'—the boundary between civilization and wilderness. This spatial progression symbolizes spiritual movement from bondage toward promise, through wilderness testing. The journey requires leaving security for dependence on God.

Historical Context

Succoth likely means 'booths' or 'temporary shelters.' Etham's exact location is debated but represented the last Egyptian settlement before Sinai wilderness proper.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What 'edge of the wilderness' are you currently standing at, ready to leave familiar security for dependence on God?

2. How does the journey from Succoth to Etham picture the Christian life as movement through stages toward the promised rest?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעֲשֵׂה	מֵקֵם	וְיָצַא	בְּאַתְּ מִ	בְּלִזְבּוּן
And they took their journey	from Succoth	and encamped	in Etham	in the edge
H5265	H5523	H2583	H864	H7097
בְּמִדְבָּר:				
of the wilderness				
H4057				

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