

Exodus 15:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water.

Analysis

The abrupt transition 'So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur' shifts from celebration to journey. Three days of travel 'and they found no water' creates immediate testing. From triumph at the sea to desperate thirst in three days shows how quickly circumstances change. The 'wilderness of Shur' represents desolate, waterless terrain. This transition from mountain-high worship to valley-low need reveals spiritual realities—testing follows triumph.

Historical Context

The Wilderness of Shur was the arid region east of Egypt, between the Red Sea and Beersheba. Its name means 'wall,' possibly referring to Egyptian border fortifications. Three days without water in desert conditions creates life-threatening crisis.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when testing immediately follows spiritual triumph?
2. What does the pattern of triumph-then-testing teach about God's methods of spiritual formation?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּבֹאוּ	מֹשֶׁה	אֶת	יִשְׂרָאֵל	מֵיָם	סוּף	וַיֵּצְאוּ	אֶל
brought	So Moses		Israel	sea	from the Red	and they went out	
H5265	H4872	H853	H3478	H3220	H5488	H3318	H413
בַּמִּדְבָּר	שׁוּר	וְלֹכֶה	שְׁלֹשֶׁת	יָמִים	בַּמִּדְבָּר	וְלֹא	
in the wilderness	of Shur		three	days	in the wilderness		
H4057	H7793	H1980	H7969	H3117	H4057		H3808
וַיֵּצְאוּ	מֵיָם:						
and found	no water						
H4672	H4325						

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 16:7 (Parallel theme): And the angel of the LORD found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur.

Genesis 25:18 (Parallel theme): And they dwelt from Havilah unto Shur, that is before Egypt, as thou goest toward Assyria: and he died in the presence of all his brethren.

1 Samuel 15:7 (Parallel theme): And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt.