

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

Psalm 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

אֵל	צָא	וְ	סִבְעָה	מִים	יִשְׂרָאֵל	אֶת	מִשְׁהַה	וַיַּעֲשֵׂה
brought	So Moses	H853	Israel	sea	from the Red	and they went out		H413
H5265	H4872		H3478	H3220		H5488		H3318
וְלֹא	בְּמִדְבָּר	יָמִים	שְׁלֹשָׁת	יְלִכֵּד	וְשָׁוֹר	בְּמִדְבָּר		
in the wilderness	of Shur	H1980	three	days	in the wilderness			H3808
H4057	H7793		H7969	H3117		H4057		
מִים:	מִצְאָה							
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.