

Exodus 15:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water, and threescore and ten palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters.

Analysis

The relief: 'they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water, and threescore and ten palm trees.' After bitter Marah comes abundant Elim—twelve wells (one per tribe?) and seventy palms (matching the seventy elders, Exodus 24:1?). The phrase 'and they encamped there by the waters' pictures rest after crisis. The progression—no water (v. 22), bitter water (v. 23), sweet water (v. 25), abundant water (v. 27)—shows God's pedagogy: testing, then relief; trial, then comfort; wilderness, then oasis.

Historical Context

Elim (possibly Wadi Gharandel, about 60 miles from Egypt) provided abundant water in contrast to Marah. The specific numbers (12 wells, 70 palms) may be symbolic or literal, representing God's provision matching Israel's structure.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the progression from no water to bitter water to abundant water reveal God's training methods?
2. What 'Elim' has God provided in your life after 'Marah' experiences to refresh and restore you?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּבֹאוּ	אֵילֵי מְהֵ	וְשָׁם	שְׁתֵּי יָם	עֲשָׂרָה	עֵינֵי ת
And they came	to Elim	H8033	where were twelve	H6240	wells
H935	H362		H8147		H5869
הַמַּיִם:	וְשָׁבַע יָם	תְּמָרֵי יָם	וַיִּחַנוּ	שָׁם	עַל
of water	and threescore and ten	palm trees	and they encamped	H8033	H5921
H4325	H7657	H8558	H2583		
הַמַּיִם:					
of water					
H4325					

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 22:2 (Parallel theme): In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

Revelation 7:17 (Parallel theme): For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Numbers 33:9 (Parallel theme): And they removed from Marah, and came unto Elim: and in Elim were twelve fountains of water, and threescore and ten palm trees; and they pitched there.

Isaiah 12:3 (Parallel theme): Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

Ezekiel 47:12 (Parallel theme): And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine.

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