

Exodus 16:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt.

Analysis

And they took their journey from Elim—Israel's wilderness journey from Elim to Sin represents the transition from initial refreshment to testing of faith. The Hebrew מִדְבָּר-סִן (midbar-Sin) means 'Wilderness of Sin,' possibly related to thorny bushes. This second month after exodus marks a critical period where Israel must learn dependence on God's provision rather than Egyptian security. The congregation's unity in journeying ('all the congregation') sets the stage for their collective murmuring, revealing how corporate faith can quickly become corporate unbelief.

Historical Context

This occurred approximately 45 days after leaving Egypt, in the second month (Iyar). The route from the Red Sea through Elim led into the barren Sinai peninsula where food supplies from Egypt would be exhausted.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do seasons of abundance (Elim) prepare us for seasons of testing (wilderness of Sin)?
2. What does this journey teach about corporate faith versus individual faith?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעֲשֻׂוּ	וַיַּעֲשֻׂוּ	אֵלֶּם	אֵלֶּם	כָּל	כָּל	וְיַבְּאֵוּ	וְיַבְּאֵוּ	עַד	עַד	תְּ	תְּ
And they took their journey	from Elim	came	H3605	and all the congregation	H5712						
H5265	H362	H935									
בְּנֵי	בְּנֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	מִדְבָּר	מִדְבָּר	בֵּין	בֵּין	אֲשֶׁר	אֲשֶׁר	סֵן	סֵן
of the children	of Israel	H413	unto the wilderness	H4057	of Sin	H834	H996				
H1121	H3478			H5512							
לְחַדְשָׁה	לְחַדְשָׁה	יּוֹם	יּוֹם	עַשְׁר	עַשְׁר	בְּצִמְשָׁה	בְּצִמְשָׁה	סֵן	סֵן	אֵלֶּם	אֵלֶּם
from Elim	H996	and Sinai	on the fifteenth	H2568	H6240	day	day	month	month		
H362		H5514				H3117	H2320				
בְּשַׁנְּתִי	בְּשַׁנְּתִי	לְצַאת	מִ	מִאָרֶץ	מִאָרֶץ	מִצְרַיִם	מִצְרַיִם				
of the second	after their departing out	H3318	of the land	H776	H4714	of Egypt					
H8145											

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