

# Exodus 17:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the LORD, and pitched in Rephidim: and there was no water for the people to drink.

## Analysis

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**And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin**—Israel's journey from Sin to Rephidim marks continued testing after manna provision. The phrase 'according to the commandment of the LORD' (אל-פי יהוה, *al-pi YHWH*, literally 'by the mouth of the LORD') emphasizes divine direction—they move only as God speaks through the cloud/fire pillar. Yet this obedience in location doesn't translate to obedience in attitude. Rephidim (רֶפְּהִדִּים) 'rests' or 'supports') becomes the place of testing without water, showing that following God's direction doesn't eliminate trials. Paul warns believers against Israel's wilderness failures (1 Cor 10:5-11), urging us to trust God through appointed difficulties.

## Historical Context

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Rephidim's exact location is uncertain but likely in the southern Sinai peninsula before reaching Mount Sinai. The site becomes significant for both water from rock and the Amalek battle.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does obedience to God's direction not exempt believers from trials?
2. What does journeying 'by the mouth of the LORD' teach about following divine guidance even into difficulty?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיֵּשֶׁב אֶל־ of Israel	בְּנֵי of the children	עַד־תְּ And all the congregation	כָּל journeyed	לִפְנֵי from the wilderness
H3478	H1121	H5712	H3605	H4057
מִמְדָּבָר according to the commandment	עַל after their journeys	לִמְסֻעִת of Sin	מִן־ from the wilderness	מִמְדָּבָר according to the commandment
H6310	H5921	H4550	H5512	H3605
לִשְׁתָּת־תְּ to drink	מִן־ and there was no water	בְּרֵפֵיד־יָם in Rephidim	יְהִי־ה and pitched	יְהִי־ה and pitched
H8354	H4325	H369	H2583	H3068
לְעַמִּים for the people				
				H5971

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 16:1** (Sin): 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.

**Exodus 19:2** (Sin): For they were departed from Rephidim, and were come to the desert of Sinai, and had pitched in the wilderness; and there Israel camped before the mount.

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