

Exodus 19:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai.

Analysis

In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai.

The third month (Sivan) marks Israel arriving at Sinai exactly fifty days after Passover—the same timing as Pentecost, when the Spirit would write the law on hearts rather than tablets. The Hebrew phrase 'bayom hazeh' (on this very day) emphasizes divine precision: God's redemptive schedule is exact. The wilderness of Sinai (מִדְבָּר סִינַי, midbar Sinai) becomes the birthplace of Israel as a covenant nation. Just as the exodus delivered them FROM slavery, Sinai will constitute them FOR God's purposes—a kingdom of priests mediating His presence to the world.

Historical Context

Written approximately three months after the exodus from Egypt (circa 1446 BC traditional dating). Mount Sinai's exact location is debated, but the traditional site in the southern Sinai Peninsula has been revered since the 4th century AD. The wilderness setting emphasizes Israel's total dependence on God's provision.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does the precise timing of Israel's arrival demonstrate God's sovereignty over redemptive history?
2. What does the wilderness setting teach about the conditions necessary for receiving God's revelation?

Interlinear Text

month	In the third	were gone forth	when the children	of Israel
H2320	H7992	H3318	H1121	H3478
out of the land	of Egypt	the same day	came	they into the wilderness
H776	H4714	H3117	H2088	H935
סִינָי:			בְּאֹהֶל מוֹעֵד	
of Sinai			H4057	
H5514				

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 12:6 (References Israel): And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

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.