

Exodus 40:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if the cloud were not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up.

Analysis

'If the cloud were not taken up, then they journeyed not' teaches waiting on God's timing. The Hebrew לֹא יָשַׁׁב (lo yis'u, they did not journey) indicates halted movement until divine signal. This discipline—remaining stationary despite impatience or perceived need to move—teaches submission to God's pace, not human urgency. The phrase 'till the day that it was taken up' emphasizes patience's necessity. This prefigures believers waiting on the Spirit's leading (Acts 1:4; 13:2; 16:6-10), not presuming action without divine guidance.

Historical Context

Numbers 9:19-22 specifies that Israel remained encamped whether the cloud stayed 'two days, or a month, or a year.' This required remarkable faith—trusting God's timing even when prolonged waiting seemed counterproductive. The discipline forged corporate dependence, teaching that God's schedule, not human planning, governs His purposes.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does remaining stationary until the cloud moved teach the discipline of waiting on God's timing?
2. What does the cloud's unpredictable timing (sometimes brief, sometimes prolonged) reveal about trusting God's wisdom over human understanding?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵם לֹא הָעַלְתָּנוּ | בְּעֵת | וְאֵם לֹא יָסַע וְאֵם
H518 H3808 **that it was taken up** But if the cloud H3808 **then they journeyed**
H5927 H6051 H5265

וְאֵם לֹא הָעַלְתָּנוּ
H5704 **not till the day** **that it was taken up**
H3117 H5927

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