

# Numbers 10:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when it rested, he said, Return, O LORD, unto the many thousands of Israel.

## Analysis

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**When it rested, he said, Return, O LORD, unto the many thousands of Israel**—Moses' invocation (שׁוּבָה יְהוָה shuvah YHWH) whenever the cloud halted uses the verb 'return' (שׁוּב), not merely 'remain,' suggesting dynamic divine presence rather than static location. The phrase **many thousands** (רִבְבוֹת אֲלֵפִי rivvot alfei, literally 'ten thousands of thousands') emphasizes Israel's vast multitude under God's protection.

This verse pairs with 10:35 to form liturgical brackets around Israel's march—'Rise up, LORD' (קוּמָה יְהוָה) when departing, 'Return, LORD' when encamping. These invocations became fixed elements of Jewish liturgy and appear in synagogue ark ceremonies. The pattern establishes that all movement (spiritual and physical) requires divine initiative and presence, foreshadowing Christ's promise to be with His church always (Matthew 28:20).

## Historical Context

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This verse concludes the section on cloud movements and trumpet signals (Numbers 9:15-10:36), establishing liturgical patterns for Israel's wilderness journeys. Moses spoke these formulas at each camp and departure throughout the 38-year wandering period (ca. 1445-1407 BC).

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How do Moses' invocations ('Rise up... Return') model dependence on God's presence for all life transitions?
2. What does Israel's need for divine presence in both movement and rest teach about continuous reliance on God?
3. How can you develop liturgical practices that acknowledge God's presence in your daily comings and goings?

## Interlinear Text

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וּבָנָהּ הַ	יֹאמַר	שׁוּבָה הַ	יְהוָה הַ	רַב־וַת	אַלְפֵי י
And when it rested	he said	Return	O LORD	unto the many	thousands
H5117	H559	H7725	H3068	H7233	H505

יִשְׂרָאֵל:  
of Israel  
H3478

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 1:10** (References Lord): The LORD your God hath multiplied you, and, behold, ye are this day as the stars of heaven for multitude.