

Numbers 14:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

(Now the Amalekites and the Canaanites dwelt in the valley.)
To morrow turn you, and get you into the wilderness by the way of the Red sea.

Analysis

God commands Israel to turn back toward the Red Sea, retracing steps already taken. This humiliating retreat was a direct consequence of unbelief—they forfeited forward progress and must return to where they began. Disobedience doesn't merely delay God's blessings; it often requires retracing steps and starting over.

Historical Context

The Red Sea route meant heading back toward Egypt rather than forward to Canaan. This generation that wanted to return to Egypt (14:3-4) would indeed go that direction, though not as they imagined. They would wander in the wilderness between Canaan and Egypt until they died.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What progress have you forfeited through unbelief or disobedience?

2. How does God discipline His people to bring them back to the path of obedience?

Interlinear Text

וְהָעֲמֻלִּיקָי	וְהַכְּנַעֲנִי	יֹשֵׁב	בְּעֵמְקֵי	מָחָר	פָּנֹה
Now the Amalekites	and the Canaanites	dwelt	in the valley	To morrow	turn
H6003	H3669	H3427	H6010	H4279	H6437
וְסָעוּ	לְךָ	הַמִּדְבָּר	דֶּרֶךְ	יָם	סוּף:
you and get	H0	you into the wilderness	by the way	sea	of the Red
H5265		H4057	H1870	H3220	H5488

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 1:40 (Parallel theme): But as for you, turn you, and take your journey into the wilderness by the way of the Red sea.

Numbers 13:29 (Parallel theme): The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.