

Numbers 21:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they journeyed from Oboth, and pitched at Ije-abarim, in the wilderness which is before Moab, toward the sunrising.

Analysis

They journeyed from Oboth, and pitched at Ije-abarim (עֵי הָעֲבָרִים, *yye ha-abarim*, "ruins of the regions beyond")—Israel's encampment names marked their progress toward Canaan. **In the wilderness which is before Moab, toward the sunrising** locates them east of the Dead Sea, approaching Transjordan from the southern route. Each encampment testified to God's faithfulness through decades of wandering.

The geographic precision reflects Moses' firsthand account—these weren't mythic wanderings but historical movements through real terrain. Deuteronomy 2:1-8 expands this narrative, showing God's sovereign direction even through seemingly aimless desert circuits.

Historical Context

This occurred in the 40th year after the Exodus (c. 1406 BC), as Israel circumnavigated Edom and Moab to approach Canaan from the east. Ije-abarim was in the mountain range overlooking Moab's plateau, marking the final phase of wilderness wandering.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God's detailed preservation of Israel's journey encourage you in seasons that feel aimless or directionless?
2. What 'encampments' in your spiritual journey mark God's faithfulness through difficult transitions?
3. How does the geographic precision of Scripture validate its historical trustworthiness for you?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּסַּע וְ	מֵאֹבֹת	וַיִּחַן וְ	בְּעֵי יְ	הַעֲבָר יִם	
And they journeyed	from Oboth	and pitched	H0	at Ijeabarim	
H5265	H88	H2583		H5863	
בַּמִּדְבָּר	אֲשֶׁר	עַל	פְּנֵי יְ	מוֹאָב	מִמֶּזֶרַח ח
in the wilderness	H834	H5921	which is before	Moab	toward the sunrising
H4057		H6440		H4124	H4217
הַשָּׁמַיִם:					
H8121					

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