

Numbers 21:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

From thence they removed, and pitched in the valley of Zared.

Analysis

From thence they removed, and pitched in the valley of Zared (תַּחַת נַחַל זָרֶד, nachal Zared)—This wadi marked the boundary between Edomite territory and Moabite lands. Deuteronomy 2:13-14 identifies this crossing as the moment when the condemned generation finally died off—38 years after Kadesh-barnea. The nachal (torrent valley) becomes a theological marker: death's boundary crossed, judgment complete.

The terseness of this itinerary conceals profound significance. Crossing Zared meant the old generation was buried, the oath fulfilled, and God's purpose advancing despite human failure. Geography carries theology.

Historical Context

The valley of Zared (modern Wadi el-Hasa) flows westward into the Dead Sea, forming Moab's southern border. Israel's crossing marked both geographical progress and generational transition—the wilderness judgment was complete.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What 'valleys' in your life mark the completion of one chapter and the beginning of another?
2. How does God's faithfulness to complete His purposes encourage you when human failure seems to derail His plans?
3. Where do you see God turning boundary markers into symbols of His redemptive timing?

Interlinear Text

מֵשֶׁךְ

H8033

נִפְרָא עַל

H5265

פִּיחַנְתִּי

H2583

בְּנֵי כָּל

H5158

צָרֵד:

H2218

From thence they removed and pitched in the valley of Zared

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