

Numbers 33:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they removed from the Red sea, and encamped in the wilderness of Sin.

Analysis

Removed from the Red sea, and encamped in the wilderness of Sin—The Wilderness of Sin (מִדְבַּר-סִין, Midbar-Sin, probably from Akkadian Sinu, the moon god) was a coastal plain along the western Sinai. This location became the site of Israel's first major complaint about food: "Would to God we had died in Egypt... where we did eat bread to the full" (Exodus 16:3). Their selective memory forgot Egyptian slavery, romanticizing bondage over wilderness freedom.

God's response was patience, not punishment: He provided manna (Exodus 16:4-36), teaching daily dependence on divine provision. The bread from heaven anticipated Christ: "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35, 48-51). Each morning's manna demonstrated that God's people live not by accumulated resources but by daily trust in His faithfulness. Sin's wilderness became a school of sustained reliance.

Historical Context

The Wilderness of Sin lay between Elim and Mount Sinai, approximately one month after the Exodus (Exodus 16:1). The manna provided here sustained Israel for 40 years until they entered Canaan (Joshua 5:12). Moses preserved a jar of manna in the Ark (Exodus 16:32-34) as perpetual testimony to God's wilderness faithfulness.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. When have you romanticized past bondage because present freedom required uncomfortable trust in God's provision?
2. How does daily manna (no hoarding, no accumulation) challenge modern assumptions about security through abundance?
3. What does Jesus's identification as "bread from heaven" (John 6) reveal about manna as prophetic type?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּסְעוּ	מִיָּם	סוּף	וַיִּחַנוּ	בְּמִדְבַּר	סִין:
And they removed	sea	from the Red	and encamped	in the wilderness	of Sin
H5265	H3220	H5488	H2583	H4057	H5512

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 16:1 (Sin): And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt.