

Numbers 33:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they took their journey out of the wilderness of Sin, and encamped in Dophkah.

Analysis

Took their journey out of the wilderness of Sin, and encamped in Dophkah

—Dophkah (דָּפָקָה, possibly from daphaq, "to knock/beat") is mentioned only here, with no narrative details in Exodus. Some scholars associate the name with copper smelting ("to beat metal"), suggesting this may have been a mining area. The lack of recorded events doesn't mean nothing significant happened; Israel's 42 encampments included mundane marching as well as miraculous interventions.

Dophkah represents the unrecorded days of faithfulness—the ordinary obedience between spectacular moments. Not every stage required manna's introduction, water from rocks, or quail from heaven. Some stations simply required following the cloud when it moved, pitching tents, and maintaining community discipline. These "ordinary" encampments teach that most of spiritual life is steady obedience in unremarkable circumstances, not constant crisis or miracle.

Historical Context

Dophkah's location is uncertain, likely somewhere in the western Sinai between the Wilderness of Sin and Mount Sinai. This stage occurred approximately 5-6 weeks after the Exodus (circa 1446 BC). The journey from Egypt to Sinai took about three months total (Exodus 19:1).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does the Bible's silence about certain wilderness stages teach about the importance of faithful obscurity?
2. How does Dophkah's uneventful mention challenge the assumption that spiritual significance requires spectacular experiences?
3. When has your most important spiritual growth occurred during "ordinary" seasons that nobody else noticed?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעֲשֵׂה	מִלְבָר	וְיָמִן	לִפְנֵי	תְּלִגְתָּה:
And they took their journey	out of the wilderness	of Sin	and encamped	in Dophkah
H5265	H4057	H5512	H2583	H1850

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