

Numbers 33:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they departed from Dophkah, and encamped in Alush.

Analysis

They departed from Dophkah, and encamped in Alush—Like Dophkah, Alush (אֲלַשׁ, meaning uncertain, possibly "kneading" or "crowd") appears only in this itinerary with no accompanying narrative. The brevity underscores that Numbers 33 functions as geographical testimony, not exhaustive chronicle. Moses compiled this list (33:2) to preserve the historical route, creating memorial markers for future generations.

Alush's anonymity reminds us that God sees every step, even those unrecorded in Scripture. These forgotten stations between Wilderness of Sin and Mount Sinai weren't meaningless wandering; each encampment brought Israel geographically and spiritually closer to Sinai's covenant encounter. Sometimes progress feels invisible, yet every obedient stage—every time we follow the pillar of cloud to another unremarkable location—advances God's purposes. Faithfulness doesn't require fame.

Historical Context

Alush's location is unknown, presumably in the southern Sinai region approaching Mount Sinai. This stage occurred approximately 6-8 weeks after the Exodus. The sparse details reflect this chapter's purpose: creating an official travel log rather than narrative theology (though the itinerary itself carries theological weight).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does God's recording of "forgotten" encampments like Alush demonstrate His attentiveness to every step of our journey?
2. What encouragement does Alush's mention offer when you're in a season that feels anonymous or unremarkable?
3. Why is creating memorials of God's past faithfulness (like this itinerary) important for future faith?

Interlinear Text

וְאֶלְעָשָׂה תִּסְעָה מִלְגָדָה תִּשְׁכַּח וְאֶלְעָשָׂה
And they departed from Dophkah and encamped in Alush
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