

# Numbers 33:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they departed from Kibroth-hattaavah, and encamped at Hazereth.

## Analysis

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### **And they departed from Kibroth-hattaavah, and encamped at Hazereth.**

Moving from the "graves of craving" to Hazereth marks transition from judgment to continued journey, demonstrating God's faithfulness despite Israel's rebellion. Though thousands died at Kibroth-hattaavah, God did not abandon His covenant people but led them onward toward the Promised Land.

**Hazereth** (חָזֵרֶת, Chatseroth—"courts" or "villages") served as the site of another significant rebellion—Miriam and Aaron's challenge to Moses's unique prophetic authority (Numbers 12). Miriam's leprous judgment and subsequent healing demonstrated that even covenant leadership must submit to God's appointed order. The name may indicate an oasis with settled enclosures or courts, providing temporary respite in the wilderness.

The progression from Kibroth-hattaavah to Hazereth shows that one act of divine discipline doesn't exhaust human sinfulness. Israel's complaints about provision (chapter 11) were followed by leadership rebellion (chapter 12), revealing the pervasive nature of sin even among God's people. Yet God's patience persisted—He judged sin but continued leading His people. This pattern anticipates the greater patience God shows believers in Christ, who bore our judgment so we might journey toward heavenly Canaan.

## Historical Context

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Hazeroth was located in the northern Sinai wilderness, though its precise site remains uncertain (possibly modern 'Ain Khadra). The encampment witnessed Miriam and Aaron's rebellion against Moses (Numbers 12:1-16), resulting in Miriam's temporary leprosy and seven-day quarantine outside the camp. This event demonstrated God's unique validation of Moses as His spokesman, whom God spoke with "face to face" (Numbers 12:8). The incident delayed Israel's journey for seven days while Miriam remained excluded from camp. Archaeological surveys have identified numerous ancient wells and oases in northern Sinai that could correspond to biblical Hazeroth. The name suggests some kind of settlement or established encampment area, perhaps with multiple court-like enclosures.

## Related Passages

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's continued guidance after Kibroth-hattaavah's judgment demonstrate the perseverance of His covenant faithfulness despite human failure?
2. What does Miriam's rebellion at Hazeroth teach about the danger of challenging God's appointed authority, even from positions of spiritual privilege?
3. In what ways does Israel's pattern of repeated sin followed by divine patience foreshadow God's long-suffering toward believers in Christ?

## Interlinear Text

## Additional Cross-References

**Numbers 11:35** (Parallel theme): And the people journeyed from Kibroth-hattaavah unto Hazerot; and abode at Hazerot.

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