

Numbers 33:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they removed from Jotbathah, and encamped at Ebronah.

Analysis

Removed from Jotbathah, and encamped at Ebronah—עֲבְרֹנָה ('Abrōnāh, perhaps from עֲבָרָה, 'crossing' or 'ford'). The root suggests a passage or transition point, though the exact location remains unidentified.

Israel's journey consisted of constant removal and encampment—never settling, always moving. This enforced nomadism trained them to trust God's timing rather than their own preferences. The patriarchs similarly 'confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth' (Hebrews 11:13), seeking a better country. Christian life mirrors this transience: we have no continuing city (Hebrews 13:14).

Historical Context

The 40-year period in the wilderness was punishment for unbelief (14:26-35), but also preparation. The generation that entered Canaan had known only desert life and total dependence on manna—they had no nostalgic attachment to Egypt.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does viewing earthly life as a series of temporary 'encampments' rather than permanent settlements change your priorities?
2. What attachments prevent you from 'moving' when God calls you to a new season?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּסְעוּ	מִמָּטֶב תַּה	וַיִּחַן ו	בְּעֵבְרֹנָה:
And they removed	from Jotbathah	and encamped	at Ebronah
H5265	H3193	H2583	H5684

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