

Numbers 33:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they removed from Ezion-gaber, and pitched in the wilderness of Zin, which is Kadesh.

Analysis

Removed from Ezion-gaber, and pitched in the wilderness of Zin, which is Kadesh—מִדְבַּר שִׁין (midbar Şin) at קָדֵשׁ (Qādēsh, 'holy' or 'sanctuary'). This verse records Israel's return to Kadesh-barnea, where they had rebelled 38 years earlier (13:26-14:45). The second generation now stood where their fathers fell into unbelief.

Kadesh was both judgment site (where the wilderness sentence was pronounced) and boundary of promise (on the edge of Canaan). Israel's circular route brought them back to square one—yet not unchanged. The old generation had died; new leadership and new faith would carry them forward. God's discipline is never merely punitive but always redemptive, preparing His people for inheritance.

Historical Context

Kadesh-barnea (possibly modern Ain el-Qudeirat) was a major oasis in the northern Sinai, serving as Israel's base of operations during much of the wilderness period. This return to Kadesh (around year 40) sets the stage for the events of chapter 20, including Miriam's death and Moses' striking the rock.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's bringing Israel back to Kadesh after 38 years demonstrate both justice and mercy?
2. Have you experienced 'returning' to a place of past failure, but this time with greater faith and maturity?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּסְעוּ	מֵעִי	גִּבְרָ	וַיִּחַן	בְּמִדְבָּר	צִן
And they removed		from Eziongaber	and pitched	in the wilderness	of Zin
H5265	H0	H6100	H2583	H4057	H6790
וְהָ	קָדֵשׁ:				
H1931	which is Kadesh				
	H6946				

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 20:1 (Parallel theme): Then came the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, into the desert of Zin in the first month: and the people abode in Kadesh; and Miriam died there, and was buried there.

Numbers 27:14 (Parallel theme): For ye rebelled against my commandment in the desert of Zin, in the strife of the congregation, to sanctify me at the water before their eyes: that is the water of Meribah in Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin.