

# 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

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**Removed from Ezion-gaber, and pitched in the wilderness of Zin, which is Kadesh**—מִדְבָּר קָדֵשׁ (midbar Ṣin) 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

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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

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form 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

בְּמִדְבָּר	בְּמִדְבָּר	מְעֵזֵי	בְּרֵגֶל	תְּבַנֵּן	מְעֵזֵי	תְּבַנֵּן	תְּבַנֵּן
And they removed	H0	from Eziongaber	and pitched	in the wilderness	of Zin		

א יא ב קדש: 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.