

Numbers 33:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they removed from Kadesh, and pitched in mount Hor, in the edge of the land of Edom.

Analysis

Removed from Kadesh, and pitched in mount Hor, in the edge of the land of Edom—הַר הָהָר (Hôr hāhār, 'Mount Hor' or 'mountain of the mountain'). Positioned on Edom's border, this elevation would become Aaron's burial site, marking a major transition in Israel's leadership.

The geographic notation—**in the edge of the land of Edom**—underscores Israel's liminal status: no longer deep in wilderness, not yet in Canaan, but on boundaries of inhabited lands. They were poised for transition. Mount Hor represents the threshold moment when old leadership yields to new, prefiguring how Moses himself would later view but not enter the Promised Land.

Historical Context

Mount Hor's precise location is debated (either Jebel Harun near Petra or Jebel Madurah northeast of Kadesh). Its significance lies not in exact geography but in theological function: it's where the Aaronic priesthood passed from father to son (Eleazar), ensuring continuity despite death.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. Why is Mount Hor positioned 'on the edge'—neither in wilderness nor in Canaan—appropriate for Aaron's death?
2. How does God ensure continuity of ministry across generational transitions (Aaron to Eleazar)?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּסְעוּ	מִקֵּדֶשׁ	וַיִּחַנוּ	בְּהֹר	בְּהַר	בְּקֵצֵה
And they removed	from Kadesh	and pitched	Hor	in mount	in the edge
H5265	H6946	H2583	H2023	H2022	H7097
אֶרֶץ	אֶדְוֹם:				
of the land	of Edom				
H776	H123				

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 21:4 (Parallel theme): And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way.