

Numbers 33:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they departed from mount Hor, and pitched in Zalmonah.

Analysis

Departed from mount Hor, and pitched in Zalmonah—צֶלְמֹנָה (Ṣalmōnāh, 'shade' or 'shady place'). After Aaron's death and the victory over Arad, Israel resumed the march. The move from Mount Hor (death site) to Zalmonah ('shade') may suggest divine comfort after bereavement—God provides shelter and relief.

The wilderness journey continued despite leadership loss. Aaron died, but Israel moved forward under Eleazar's priesthood. This illustrates God's greater faithfulness: His purposes transcend any individual leader. Paul would later write, 'I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase' (1 Corinthians 3:6). Ministers come and go; God's work endures.

Historical Context

The thirty-day mourning period for Aaron (20:29) had concluded, and Israel was now approaching Moab's borders. The transition from Mount Hor toward the plains of Moab (where the book of Numbers will conclude) shows geographical progression toward conquest.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does the place name 'Zalmonah' (shade) function as divine comfort after the grief of Aaron's death?
2. What does Israel's continued march despite losing Aaron teach about the relationship between human leadership and God's unchanging purposes?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּסַּע ו	מֵהָר	הַר	וַיִּסָּן ו	בְּצֶלְמֹנָה:
And they departed	Hor	from mount	and pitched	in Zalmonah
H5265	H2023	H2022	H2583	H6758

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