

Numbers 33:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the children of Israel removed from Rameses, and pitched in Succoth.

Analysis

The children of Israel removed from Rameses (וַיֵּצֵאוּ מִרַעְמֵסֵס, *vayis'u me-Ra'meses*)—The verb *nasa'* (pulled up tent pegs, broke camp) begins the Exodus itinerary. Rameses was the staging ground for Israel's departure (Exodus 12:37), a royal store-city built by Hebrew slave labor (Exodus 1:11). This first leg to **Succoth** (סֻכּוֹת, meaning "booths" or "temporary shelters") covered approximately 30-40 miles, a remarkable feat for 600,000 men plus families and livestock.

Numbers 33 provides a comprehensive retrospective of Israel's 40-year journey, listing 42 encampments from Egypt to Canaan. This verse begins the rehearsal of redemption—from slavery (Rameses) to freedom under God's cloud and fire. Each stage demonstrates covenant faithfulness: God didn't transport them instantly but led them step by step, teaching dependence and obedience through wilderness discipline.

Historical Context

The Exodus began circa 1446 BC (early dating) from Rameses in the eastern Nile Delta. Succoth is identified with Tell el-Maskhuta. This chapter was written near the end of the 40 years (circa 1406 BC) as Moses compiled an official record of the journey before his death, providing geographical and theological memory for the conquest generation.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does the name "Succoth" (temporary shelters) teach about the transitional nature of wilderness seasons in God's purposes?
2. How does reviewing past stages of your spiritual journey strengthen faith for present challenges?
3. Why is it significant that God led Israel incrementally rather than transporting them instantly to the Promised Land?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּסַּע ו	בְּנֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	מִרַעְמֵס	וַיַּחֲנוּ ו	בְּסֻכּוֹת:
removed	And the children	of Israel	from Rameses	and pitched	in Succoth
H5265	H1121	H3478	H7486	H2583	H5523

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 12:37 (References Israel): And the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot that were men, beside children.