

# Numbers 9:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle, then after that the children of Israel journeyed: and in the place where the cloud abode, there the children of Israel pitched their tents.

## Analysis

**When the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle, then after that the children of Israel journeyed** (וּלְפִי הַעֲלוֹת הָעֶבֶן מֵעַל הָאֹהֶל אַחֲרֵי־כֵן יִסְעוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, ul'fi he'alot he'anan me'al ha'ohel aḥarey-chen yis'u veney yisra'el)—Le'fi means 'according to the mouth/command of.' The cloud's movement was Yahweh's visible command. Nasa (to journey, pull up tent stakes) required complete obedience to divine timing.

**In the place where the cloud abode, there the children of Israel pitched their tents** (שָׁם יָחֹנוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, sham yaḥanu veney yisra'el)—Ḥanah (to encamp) meant settling, unpacking, dwelling. Israel had no control over duration or destination. This total dependence on God's visible presence prefigures life in the Spirit: 'As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God' (Romans 8:14).

## Historical Context

The wilderness journey (1444-1405 BC) covered approximately 40 years and numerous encampments. The cloud (Exodus 13:21-22) provided visible, tangible evidence of God's presence—the Shekinah glory. This was necessary for a newly-

redeemed slave nation learning to trust Yahweh's leadership after 400 years in polytheistic Egypt.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does absolute dependence on the cloud's movement challenge our desire for control, planning, and security?
2. In what ways should Christians cultivate sensitivity to the Spirit's leading that mirrors Israel's attention to the cloud?

## Interlinear Text

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וּלְפִי	הָעֶלְוֹת	הָעֶנָּן	מֵעַל	הָאֹהֶל	וְאַחֲרָיו	כִּי
And when	was taken up	the cloud	H5921	from the tabernacle	then after	H3651
H6310	H5927	H6051		H168	H310	
יָסַע	בְּנֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	וּבְמִקְוָם	אֲשֶׁר	יָשְׁכַן	שָׁם
journeyed	that the children	of Israel	and in the place	H834	abode	H8033
H5265	H1121	H3478	H4725		H7931	
הָעֶנָּן	שָׁם	יָחֲנוּ	בְּנֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל		
the cloud	H8033	pitched their tents	that the children	of Israel		
H6051		H2583	H1121	H3478		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 73:24** (Parallel theme): Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

**Psalms 32:8** (Parallel theme): I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

**John 10:9** (Parallel theme): I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

**Isaiah 49:10** (Parallel theme): They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.

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