

# Numbers 9:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And so it was, when the cloud abode from even unto the morning, and that the cloud was taken up in the morning, then they journeyed: whether it was by day or by night that the cloud was taken up, they journeyed.

## Analysis

**When the cloud abode from even unto the morning** (וַיֵּשׁ אֲשֶׁר־יְהִיֶּה הָעֶנָן מֵעֶרֶב עַד־בֹּקֶר, veyesh asher-yihyeh he'anan me'erev ad-boqer)—A single night's rest before moving again. **Whether it was by day or by night that the cloud was taken up, they journeyed** (וְיוֹמָם אוֹ־לַיְלָה וְנִסְעָה הָעֶנָן וַיֵּלֶךְ אֲנָחְנוּ, yomam o-laylah vena'alah he'anan venasa'u)—no exemption for inconvenient hours. Obedience doesn't wait for daylight or convenience.

This anticipates Jesus's teaching: 'I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work' (John 9:4). The cloud's movement wasn't subject to human schedules or preferences. Likewise, the Spirit's promptings may come at midnight (Acts 16:9, Paul's Macedonian vision) or dawn (Mark 1:35, Jesus's prayer)—immediate obedience required.

## Historical Context

Breaking camp at night required significant organization and faith. Families with children, elderly members, and livestock couldn't simply pack up like a modern camping trip. Yet Israel obeyed, demonstrating that God's timing superseded human convenience—a lesson Jesus reinforced when calling disciples to leave nets immediately (Matthew 4:20).

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does the day-or-night obedience challenge our tendency to negotiate with God about timing and convenience?
2. When has God's timing seemed unreasonable to you, and what did obedience in that moment reveal about faith?

## Interlinear Text

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<b>וַיִּשׁ</b> And so it was H3426	<b>אֲשֶׁר</b> H834	<b>יְהוָה ה'</b> H1961	<b>הָעָנָן  </b> and that the cloud H6051	<b>יָמָּה רַב</b> abode from even H6153	<b>עַד</b> H5704
<b>בַּבֹּקֶר</b> in the morning H1242	<b>וְנִשָּׁאָה</b> was taken up H5927	<b>הָעָנָן  </b> and that the cloud H6051	<b>בַּבֹּקֶר</b> in the morning H1242	<b>וַיִּסָּעוּ:</b> then they journeyed H5265	
<b>אִם</b> H176	<b>יּוֹמָם</b> whether it was by day H3119	<b>וְלַיְלָה</b> or by night H3915	<b>וְנִשָּׁאָה</b> was taken up H5927	<b>הָעָנָן  </b> and that the cloud H6051	
	<b>וַיִּסָּעוּ:</b> then they journeyed H5265				