

Psalms 68:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O God, when thou wentest forth before thy people, when thou didst march through the wilderness; Selah:

Analysis

The imagery shifts to God as military leader: 'O God, when thou wentest forth before thy people' recalls the pillar of cloud and fire leading Israel through the wilderness (Exodus 13:21). 'Marchedst through the wilderness' emphasizes God's active guidance through desolate, dangerous terrain. This was both historical reality and theological paradigm—God goes before His people into hostile territory, securing their path. It anticipates Christ as the Good Shepherd who goes before His sheep (John 10:4).

Historical Context

The wilderness journey from Egypt to Canaan lasted 40 years, during which God's visible presence led Israel. This formative experience established trust in God's guidance and provision, making the wilderness a metaphor for any trial where God's presence sustains His people.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing that God goes before you into uncertain circumstances build courage and faith?
2. What 'wilderness' are you currently walking through where you need to see God's leading more clearly?
3. In what ways does Christ fulfill the pattern of God marching before His people to secure their way?

Interlinear Text

אֱלֹהִים יְהוָה	בְּצֵאתְךָ	לִפְנֵי	עַמְּךָ	בְּצֵעְדְךָ
O God	when thou wentest forth	before	thy people	when thou didst march
H430	H3318	H6440	H5971	H6805
בְּיָשִׁיבְךָ	סֵלָה:			
through the wilderness	Selah			
H3452	H5542			

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 13:21 (Parallel theme): And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:

Judges 5:4 (Parallel theme): LORD, when thou wentest out of Seir, when thou marchedst out of the field of Edom, the earth trembled, and the heavens dropped, the clouds also dropped water.

Judges 4:14 (Parallel theme): And Deborah said unto Barak, Up; for this is the day in which the LORD hath delivered Sisera into thine hand: is not the LORD gone out before thee? So Barak went down from mount Tabor, and ten thousand men after him.