

Wilderness Gleanings 3: The Red Sea Revisited

Numbers 33:9-11: “And they removed from Marah, and came unto Elim: and in Elim were twelve fountains of water, and threescore and ten palm trees; and they pitched there. And they removed from Elim, and encamped by the Red Sea. And they removed from the Red sea, and encamped in the wilderness of Sin.”

In Numbers we read that the people encamped at the Red Sea between Elim and the Wilderness of Sin, which is not mentioned in the historical account in Exodus. Having experienced the consolations and confidences at Elim, they return and survey the scene of their redemption – their emancipation and the elimination of the enemy. This seemingly unremarkable event has a particular spiritual significance. As wilderness pilgrims we have available the consolations and confidences of Elim (the Word of God and the ministry of His appointed servants). They revitalise us and cause us to revisit and reflect upon **Calvary**, the **cross** and the **empty tomb**, three precious landmarks of our redemption in Christ and earthly pilgrimage – His death, burial and resurrection; His victory over sin and death. This brings to mind our glorious emancipation in Christ; the elimination of the enemy through His death and resurrection and God’s estimation of it all. We revisit what we have been brought out of, which brings into relief what we have been brought into. We “survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died.” This is not a daily feeding on *Christ* as the Manna come down.