

Section 1 Introduction

There can be no doubt that God does want His people to influence His world. This is clear by the aggressive and loving marching orders given in Matthew 28:19 and Acts 1:8. As we consider the progressive revelation of God, it is interesting to note how He worked in people before the time of Christ. We refer to this as the Old Testament (OT) or “before Christ” (BC), and mark it as a time of the progressive revelation (see TTWMKvol4) of God to man.

Our study will be centered in the middle second millennium BC and the activities of those to whom God revealed Himself ...

particularly Moses. [Section 7 Moses, Miriam and Aaron](#)

It is here that we come to the end of our study. Apparently, the Israelites were doing a little too well for the “**new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph**”. The new king, of course, was Sesostri III, who along with his son Amenhemet III were the most evil kings of the Twelfth Dynasty! Unlike Egyptologists of the past, Stewart notes that Sesostri III (right) not only reigned with an iron fist, but exhibited cruelty heretofore unseen against enemies ... both in and out of Egypt.



He is generally lauded as the greatest of the Twelfth Dynasty pharaohs, by historians and Egyptians, for his solidifying the southern border against the Nubians and excursions into Canaan. Additionally, it is of note that he was deified with his own cult. His pyramid at Dhashur exceeds all other Twelfth Dynasty pyramids in grandeur. Upon further review, it is obvious that a different picture emerges. Not only was cult worship necessary for survival in his reign, it could also be argued that he represented the beginning of the end for the dynasty! Here is a quote from the pharaoh himself after extending the southern border:

The true son is he who champions his father, who guards the border of his begetter. But he [who] abandons it, who fails to fight for it, he is not my son, he was not born to me. Now my majesty has had an image made of my majesty, at this border which my majesty has made, in order that you maintain it, in order that you fight for it.

To maintain this worldly realm, and destroy the dynasty, Sesostri III brought cruelty and injustice to an already thriving kingdom.

To wit, he removed the nomarchs, seized their lands and re-instituted the practice of death by the Nile. The first two are spoken of by Ankhu son of Neti, priest of On. The Egyptians viewed throwing someone into the Nile as the worst form of death possible, since the body, rather than being buried respectfully, would be consumed by the crocodiles of the river. Hence, the third sin is the most heinous. Sesostris III ruled as the Hitler of his time, and like many Democrats would rule today... all peoples under him (and his family) equal in squalor, ignorance and fear! And the Israelites were not totally blameless in this either!

It was into this morass that Moses, Miriam and Aaron were born. We can speculate that Moses's name (meaning "from water drawn") is a shortening of Mem-ses, where Mem is the Egyptian name for water (ancestor of the letter M), and ses means drawn/created. This is similar to the name Raam-ses ("created by Ra"). Stewart believes that Sithathor, daughter of Sesostris III, was the foster mother of Moses. This coincides with the Jewish tradition told by Josephus the historian. Josephus also notes that Moses served as a general under the pharaoh, and was instrumental in extending and securing the border against the Nubians. It was at this time that Moses took a Nubian/Ethiopian wife, the whom caused later consternation ([Numbers 12:1](#)) with Miriam and Aaron.

The story of Moses and the Exodus, is in itself, worth a whole other Bible study. Moses was faithful to God and led the Israelites out of Egypt, and ultimately to edge of the promised land. In the meantime, 2 lesser pharaohs, descendants of Sesostris III, led the Twelfth Dynasty to extinction. These were Amenhemet III and Amenhemet IV. It was the latter who pursued the Israelites through the Sinai peninsula to his death (and to the destruction of his army) in the gulf of Aqaba in 1446 BC.



Exodus 14

23And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. 24And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, 25And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians.

26And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen. 27And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. 28And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them. 29But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. 30Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore.



Following a recent question from Don Dawson, we need to ask “Why does this route make sense”? **First**, we must remember that Moses served as a general under Sesostris III. He also ran away to Midian after killing the Egyptian. So he would've been quite familiar with the geography of the region. To have fled southeast would've been suicidal! So crossing the gulf of Suez (or the Red Sea proper) is out of the question.

Second, crossing through a marsh or swamp or Reed Sea (“Yam Sup” as the liberals prefer) near Goshen is a ridiculous idea ... both for the Israelites and Egyptians. The 100 mile long Suez canal took 10 years to build. Even with 19th century technology, this is a long time. If the whole area were swampland, it wouldn't have been such a big dealio. Give ancient Egypt and Israel some credit ... they weren't morons! **Third**, though geography has likely changed in the last 2500 years, it is unlikely that the gulf of Suez ran all the way to the Mediterranean. Otherwise travel between Canaan and Egypt would've been severely restricted. **Fourth**, Sesostris III, Darius, and Ptolemy II are all believed to have attempted a canal between the gulf of Suez and the Nile (near present day Cairo). All attempts are believed to have failed. **Finally**, note that the Philistines, Edomites and others blocked the way to the northeast. Passing through these areas would be costly (see **Numbers 21:21**).

So the only plausible route would be almost due east out of Goshen and over the top of Sinai peninsula. Moses had pleaded with Amenhem IV to have the Israelites worship God in the “wilderness”, and the only wilderness to the peoples of the region was the Sinai peninsula.

Genesis 5

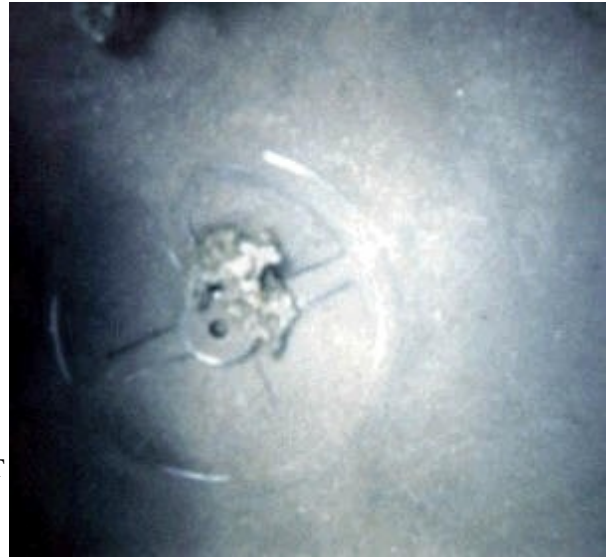
And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness. 2And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go. 3And they said, The God of the Hebrews hath met with us: let us go, we pray thee, three days' journey into the desert, and sacrifice unto the LORD our God; lest he fall upon us with pestilence, or with the sword. 4And the king of Egypt said unto them, Wherefore do ye, Moses and Aaron, let the people from their works? get you unto your burdens.

Moses had been on the way to Midian twicet! A logical explanation is that the Israelites were headed there and then broke south after learning that Amenhem IV and his army were in hot pursuit (remember they were following a pillar of cloud and fire). It turns out that Ron Wyatt has done extensive research at the crossing site and found important evidence. The following excerpt is taken from

<http://www.truthorfiction.com/rumors/c/chariot-wheels.htm#.VCLkvSUKX3A>

Confirmation of the actual Exodus route has come from divers finding coral-encrusted bones and chariot remains in the Gulf of Aqaba . ONE of the most dramatic records of Divine intervention in history is the account of the Hebrews' exodus from Egypt. The subsequent drowning of the entire Egyptian army in the Red Sea was not an insignificant event, and confirmation of this event is compelling evidence that the Biblical narrative is truly authentic. Over the years, many divers have searched the Gulf of Suez in vain for artifacts to verify the Biblical account.

But carefully following the Biblical and historical records of the Exodus brings you to Nuweiba, a large beach in the Gulf of Aqaba, as Ron Wyatt discovered in 1978. Repeated dives in depths ranging from 60 to 200 feet deep (18m to 60m), over a stretch of almost 2.5 km, has shown that the chariot parts are scattered across the sea bed. Artifacts found include wheels, chariot bodies, as well as human and horse bones. Divers have located these on the Saudi coastline opposite Nuweiba as well. Since 1987, Ron Wyatt found three four-spoke gilded chariot wheels. Coral does not grow on gold, hence the shape has remained very distinct, although the wood inside the gold veneer has disintegrated making them too fragile to move.



The hope for future expeditions is to explore the deeper waters with remote cameras or mini-sub. (ABOVE- GILDED CHARIOT WHEEL - Mute witness to the miracle of the crossing of the Red Sea by the Hebrews 3,500 years ago. Found with a metal detector. Coral-encrusted chariot wheel, filmed off the Saudi coastline, matches chariot wheels found in Tutankhamen's tomb. Mineralized bone, one of many found at the crossing site (above center). This one tested by the Department of Osteology at Stockholm University, was found to be a human femur, from the right leg of a 165-170 cm tall man. It is essentially 'fossilized,' i.e., replaced by minerals and coral, hence cannot be dated by radiocarbon methods, although this specimen was obviously from antiquity. Chariot wheel and axle covered with coral and up-ended. Exodus 14:25 'And took off their chariot wheels, that they drove them heavily...' Solomon's memorial pillars.



When Ron Wyatt first visited Nuweiba in 1978, he found a Phoenician style column lying in the water. Unfortunately the inscriptions had been eroded away, hence the column's importance was not understood until 1984 when a second granite column was found on the Saudi coastline opposite -- identical to the first, except on this one the inscription was still intact!

In Phoenician letters (Archaic Hebrew), it contained the words: Mizraim (Egypt); Solomon; Edom; death; Pharaoh; Moses; and Yahweh, indicating that King Solomon had set up these columns as a memorial to the miracle of the crossing of the sea. Saudi Arabiades not admit tourists, and perhaps fearing unauthorized visitors, the Saudi Authorities have since removed this column, and replaced it with a flag marker where it once stood.

We want to conclude our study on the Exodus trip to and through the Gulf of Aqaba with a final map study. Shortly after the crossing we're given a time reference on the other side of the gulf.

Exodus 16

And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt.

So we can surmise that the journey took about 30 days. Mapping the trip on Google Maps (below) we see that the total distance was about 225 miles. This comes out to an average of 7.5 miles/day (the distance from McDonald's in Jefferson City to Walker's Truck service on 11-E).



This is quite realistic given that the nation crossed 8 miles through the sea in one night, and that they likely made faster time once it was known that Amenhemet IV was in hot pursuit!



And, thus endeth the Twelfth Dynasty. Little is recorded or known of Amenhemet IV. He was strangely succeeded by his sister Sobekneferu who obviously cut off her nose to spite her face and ended the Twelfth Dynasty at her death. We will end this section here too.

Section 1 Quiz

1. When (approximately) did the Twelfth dynasty end?
 - a) 1750 BC
 - b) 1400 BC
 - c) 1100 BC
 - d) 586 BC
 - e) When Deacon Thomas was a young lad
2. In what part of Egypt is Goshen?
 - a) Northeast
 - b) Southwest
 - c) Northwest
 - d) Southeast
3. Select from below all modern leader(s) similar to Sesotris III.
 - a) Barack Obama
 - b) Adolf Hitler
 - c) Jong-Un Kim
 - d) Saddam Hussein
 - e) Franklin D. Roosevelt

4. Which Twelfth Dynasty ruler drowned in the Gulf of Aqaba?
 - a) Amenhemet I
 - b) Sesostris I
 - c) Amenhemet II
 - d) Sesotris III
 - e) Amenhemet IV
5. It is thought that Moses played what role in Sesosteris III's court?
 - a) Cup Bearer
 - b) Butler
 - c) Priest
 - d) General
 - e) Vizier
6. Match the following times with the appropriate events.
 - a. 1675 BC, 1654 BC, 1585 BC, 1540 BC, 1446 BC
 - b. Exodus, Potiphar, XIIth dynasty peak, famine, Jewish persecution
7. What part of the Red Sea was miraculously crossed by the Israelites in their exodus?
 - a. the gulf of Aqaba
 - b. the gulf of Suez
 - c. the Suez canal
 - d. the Goshen marshes
 - e. the Joseph canal
 - f. the Nile
8. Sesotris III instituted the unthinkable death by ...
 - a. tickling
 - b. brickmaking
 - c. the Nile
 - d. mosquitos
 - e. hanging
9. Which two of Egypt's storehouses/forts were built by the Israelites?
 - a. Pithom
 - b. Cairo
 - c. Alexandria
 - d. Raamses
 - e. Memphis/On
 - f. Thebes

Section 2 After the Beach

Following the miraculous crossing of the Red Sea (Gulf of Aqaba) the Israelites were likely exhausted from the excitement and encamped on the beach in Midian. The thought is that Moses at God's direction marched the Israelites east toward Midian. I'm sure they didn't have crossing the Gulf of Aqaba as part of the plan. **Of course we must always be prepared to change plans at God's bidding.** This is likely one of the hardest things Christians must learn, and certainly hard for the Israelites as they took part in one of the greatest stories of faith. Let's look at more scripture.

Exodus 15

*22*So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water. *23*And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. *24*And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? *25*And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them, *26*And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.

*27*And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water, and threescore and ten palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters.

Exodus 16

*1*And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt.

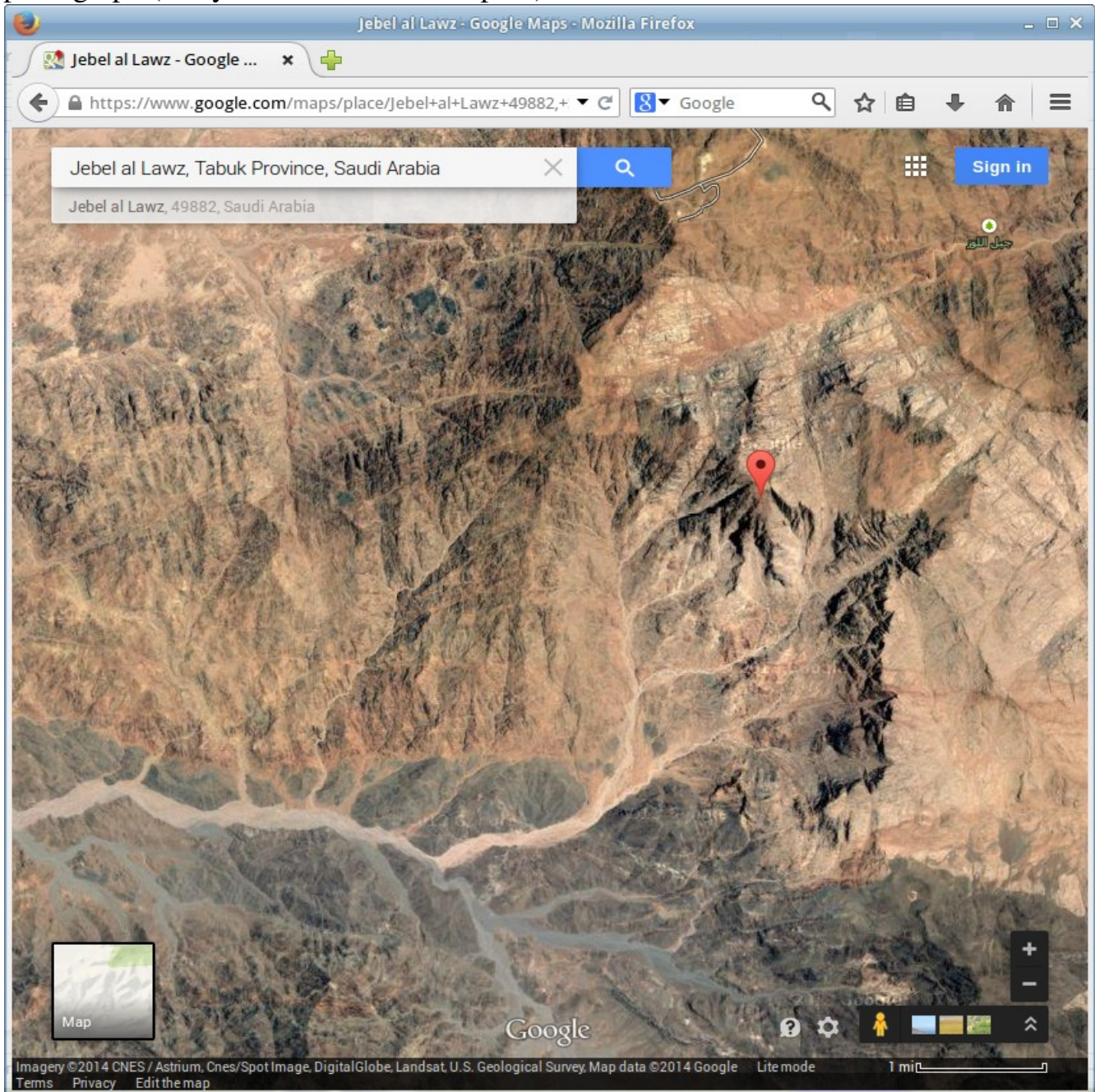
Unfortunately, it is very difficult to ascertain the locations of Shur, Elim, Marah, and Sin. Thanks to Ron Wyatt, et. al., we do have a pretty sure lock on Sinai ... and no, it's not where a lot of folks think it is. It's actually in northwest Saudi Arabia ... previously known as Midian. Moses was there once before. Remember?

Exodus 3

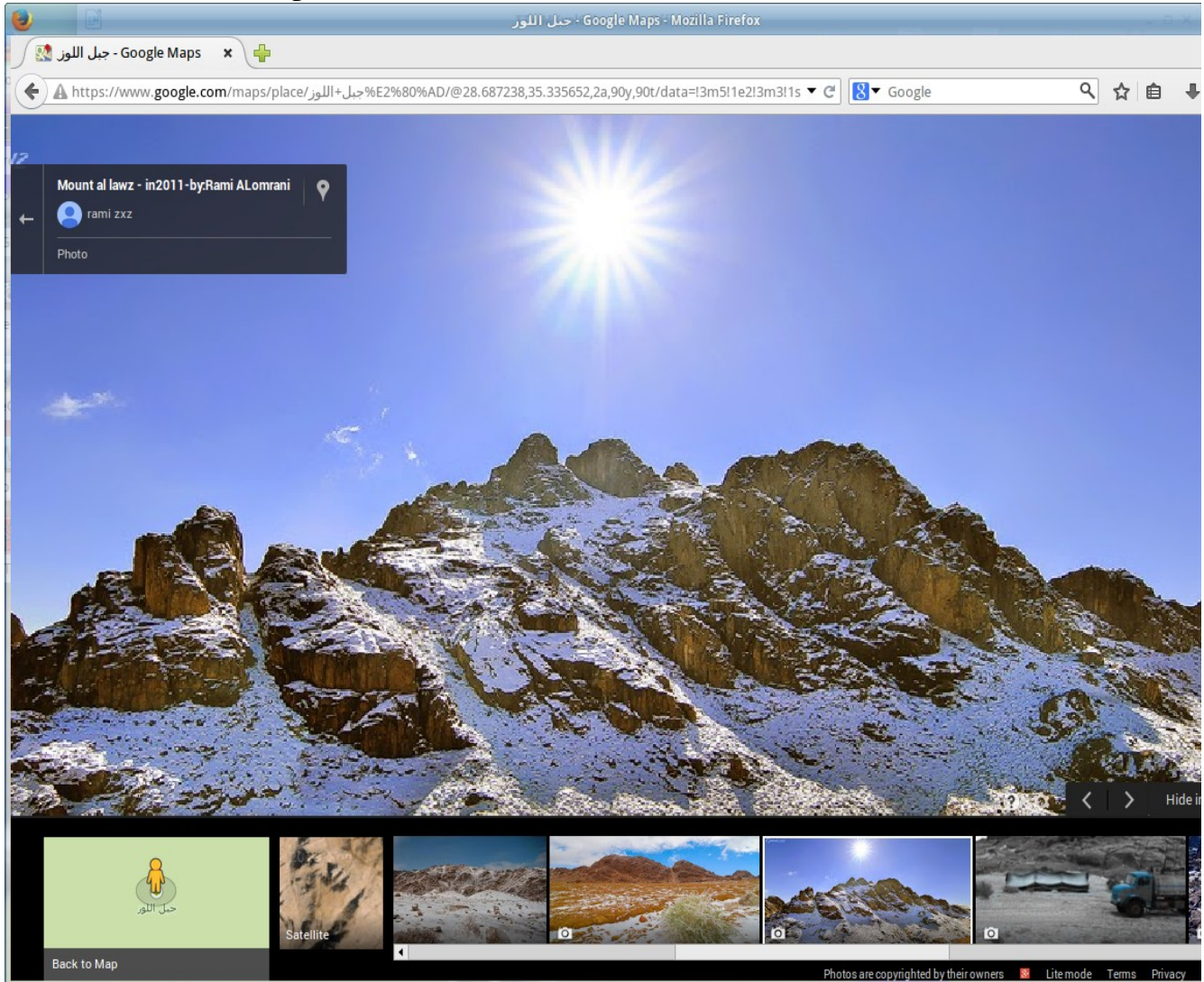
*1*Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.

2And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed... 12And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.

Oh yeah! That's right. Moses had spent the second 40 yrs of his life in Midian. And Horeb was where he encountered the burning bush. Here's a map view along with a photograph (fairly close to an Arabian park).



As indicated by Ron Wyatt, a closer (zoomed in) view indicates that the top is a dark gray to this day. A wider view shows that the Arabs have crop circles several miles to the east, and a broad wadi can be seen to the south stretching to the west toward the gulf of Aqaba. I believe this to be the camping (and party) area for the nation of Israel. As seen below in the photo from the northeast, it even snows there on occasion!



Clearly, this is one rugged piece of terrain having all the features of the mountain of God (Horeb or Sinai). Although many refute that this is the mountain of God (Gordon Franz, E. Harding, and Lambert Dolphin among them), their arguments are weak and offer little to no alternatives. **In fact, most of the claims they make only serve to strengthen the argument for Jebel al-Lawz as the mountain in question!** We know that the Israelites left Egypt on what would become the first day of the year, travelled across the north part of the Sinai peninsula and crossed the gulf of Aqaba to Midian. Jethro is going to come later and visit his son-in-law. Why would he go back around the gulf of Aqaba for this?

We also want to make note of the calendar utilized in **Exodus 16:1**. Note that they arrived on the **fifteenth day of the second month**. Let's look at some previous verses.

Exodus 12

2This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.

6And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

7And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it

24And ye shall observe this thing for an ordinance to thee and to thy sons for ever.

These times were given to Moses by God in preparation for an important event. What is this event they speak of? Passover. **When was Christ conceived? Passover (maybe).** When was Christ crucified and resurrected? Passover.

This was to occur in the middle of the first month, which places the beginning of the year at about the Spring Equinox. This is the calendar used throughout the entire Bible and is known more commonly as the **Liturgical year**.

John 4

35Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

Before eschewing this notion, keep in mind the numbering of our current months. September, October, November, and December actually coincides with the liturgical year. Each of those months begins with the Latin prefix for 7, 8, 9 and 10 respectively. So, in effect, we're already using the Liturgical year!

Now back to the Exodus. At this point, the Israelites leave Mt. Horeb and head north.

Exodus 17

1And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the LORD, and pitched in Rephidim: and there was no water for the people to drink.

5And the LORD said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go. **6**Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

8Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim.

13And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. 14And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. 15And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi: 16For he said, Because the LORD hath sworn that the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.

Exodus 18

1When Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses' father in law, heard of all that God had done for Moses, and for Israel his people, and that the LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt;

5And Jethro, Moses' father in law, came with his sons and his wife unto Moses into the wilderness, where he encamped at the mount of God: 6And he said unto Moses, I thy father in law Jethro am come unto thee, and thy wife, and her two sons with her.

13And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening. 14And when Moses' father in law saw all that he did to the people, he said, What is this thing that thou doest to the people? why sittest thou thyself alone, and all the people stand by thee from morning unto even? 15And Moses said unto his father in law, Because the people come unto me to enquire of God:

17And Moses' father in law said unto him, The thing that thou doest is not good.

18Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone. 19Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Be thou for the people to God-ward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God:

21Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens: 22And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee. 23If thou shalt do this thing, and God command thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure, and all this people shall also go to their place in peace.

24So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law, and did all that he had said.

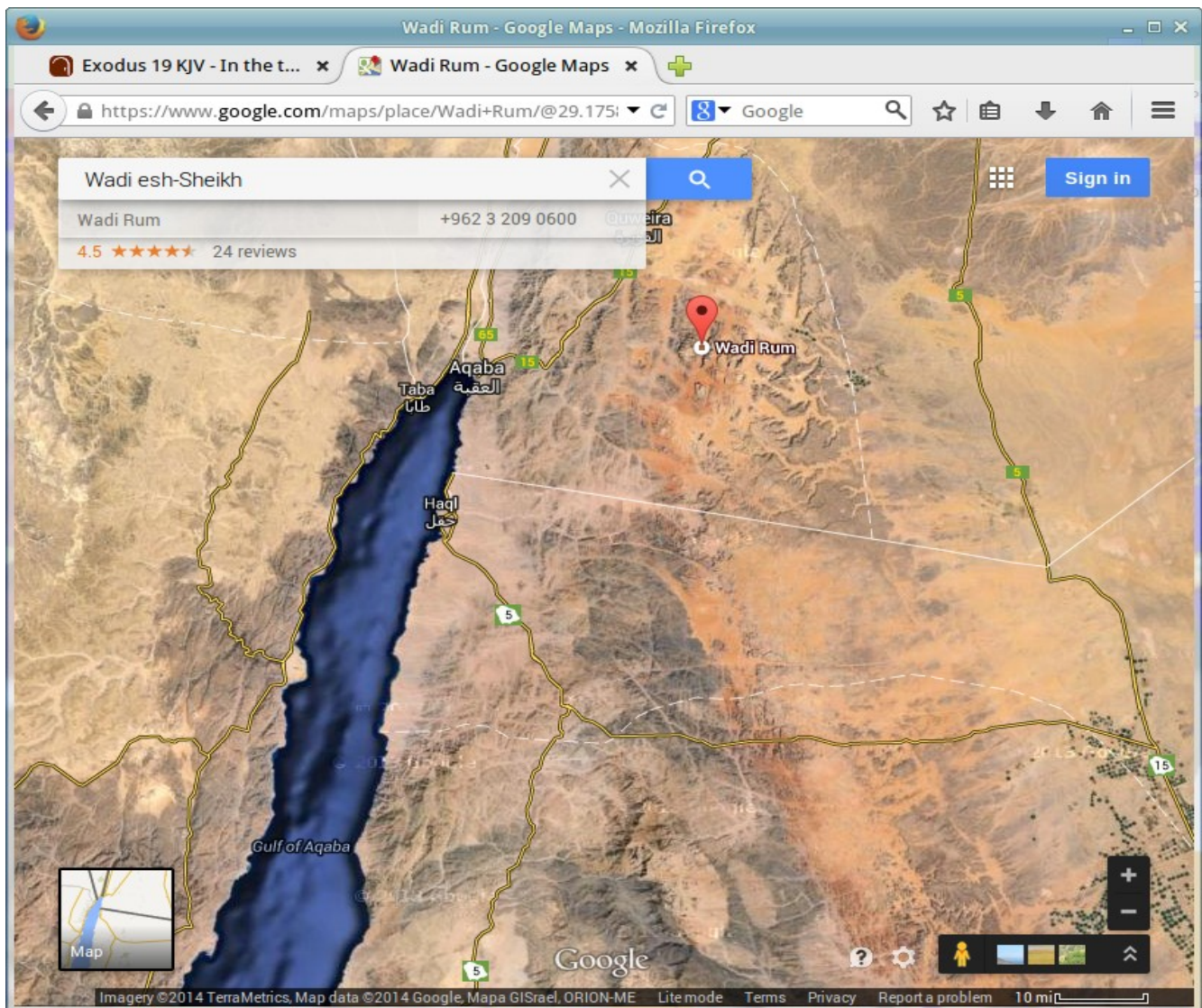
27And Moses let his father in law depart; and he went his way into his own land.

Exodus 19

In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai. 2For they were departed from Rephidim, and were come to the desert of Sinai, and had pitched in the wilderness; and there Israel camped before the mount.

Here we see clues (again) that the mountain of God (Horeb) is special and distinct from Sinai; that it is on the east side of the gulf of Aqabah, and that it is in or near Midian.

Note that Rephidim is fairly close to Horeb and is still in Midian where the Israelites might take on the Amalekites. My guess is that it is in the vicinity of the cities of Aqaba and Eilat on the north end of the gulf. This is generally in the historical territory of the Amalekites (the southern valley dwellers). It is also close to the historical location given by Wikipedia as in southern Jordan.



Israel would've drawn the ire of these folks since water and grazing land were (and still are) valuable in that part of the world. After heading back to Horeb and getting water, Moses, once again, heads the nation toward the promised land. They break south at this point in the Sinai ([notice the name change in chapter 19](#)).

Some have tried to insist that since Jethro went back to “**his own land**”, that the Israelites are in the Sinai peninsula. I find this argument weak since it assumes “land” means “country” ... which is not a problem if one considers that the Amalekites were nomadic and different from the Midianites, AND that Mt Horeb was in an area likely not claimed by either.

Section 3 Preparation for Invasion

Now we will take up the many adventures that occurred to the Israelites in the Sinai Peninsula. The mount mentioned in chapter 19 may, in fact, be [Jebel Musa](#) that many mistake for the “mountain of God”. From the previous scripture through the end of Exodus and through Leviticus everything pretty much happens here. 40 days, 40 nights, giving of the law, breaking of the tablets, new tablets, instructions for the tabernacle, more law, unauthorized fire, death by lightning and sinkhole. Now around June of 1445 BC, the nation approaches the southern edge of the promised land, and encamps in Paran. Here Miriam and Aaron question Moses's marriage to his Ethiopian wife (discussed earlier) and Miriam is smitten for a time with leprosy and sent outside of the camp.



Numbers 13

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, every one a ruler among them. 3And Moses by the commandment of the LORD sent them from the wilderness of Paran: all those men were heads of the children of Israel. 17And Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said unto them, Get you up this way southward, and go up into the mountain: 18And see the land, what it is, and the people that dwelleth therein, whether they be strong or weak, few or many; 19And what the land is that they dwell in, whether it be good or bad; and what cities they be that they dwell in, whether in tents, or in strong holds;

20 And what the land is, whether it be fat or lean, whether there be wood therein, or not. And be ye of good courage, and bring of the fruit of the land. Now the time was the time of the firstripe grapes.

The wilderness of Paran is apparently located on the northeast side of Ailat. This is based on a geographic “middle ground” of many proposed locations. The time of the year is given as June by the grape harvest above.

Evidently, the Israelites had once again crossed the plain of Rephedim where they fought the Amalekites about a year earlier. Camping up against the mountains, Moses sent out the 12 spies to search out the land from south to north. The land that would become their home is about the size of New Jersey.

Numbers 13

21 So they went up, and searched the land from the wilderness of Zin unto Rehob, as men come to Hamath.

22 And they ascended by the south, and came unto Hebron; where Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmi, the children of Anak, were. (Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) 23 And they came unto the brook of Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bare it between two upon a staff; and they brought of the pomegranates, and of the figs. 24 The place was called the brook Eshcol, because of the cluster of grapes which the children of Israel cut down from thence. 25 And they returned from searching of the land after forty days.

26 And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land. 27 And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it. 28 Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there. 29 The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.

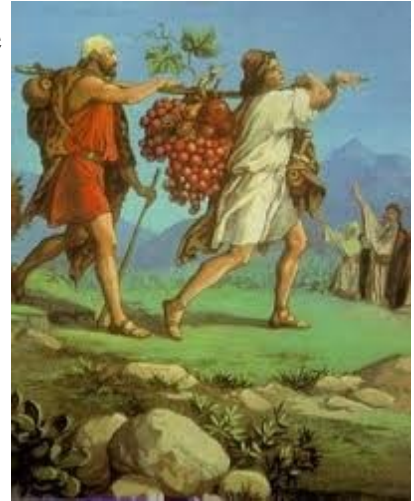


The land of Israel can basically be divided into 4 sections: the **Negev**, the **coastal plains (Shephelah)**, the **Jordan rift** (1500 ft below sea level), and the **central mountains**. These territories are covered in the descriptives above. Respectively, the Amalekites dwelt in the Negev (**Hebron** ?), the Canaanites in the Shephelah (**by the sea**), and around the Jordan river (**Rehob**), and the Hittites, Jebusites (Jerusalem), and Amorites in the central mountains. Of course, there is a great deal of agricultural fertility in Israel, so much so that the grape clusters had to be carried by two men on a staff (instead of two men and a truck). There is much to be said about the value of the territory.

It is now about September of 1445 BC and the excitement should be growing!

Numbers 13

30And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. **31**But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we. **32**And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. **33**And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.



There were multiple purposes for spying out the promised land. First, there was the military purpose. The Israelites needed to know the personal capabilities of the inhabitants they would face, where the population centers were, routes of attack, weapons available, strongholds, cover and concealment, and logistical estimates. The second purpose was civil. The Israelites needed to know the size of the land, the geography, the agriculture, the climate, where various settlements could be made or had, and transportation modes and venues. Finally, and most importantly, I believe that God sent them in to see His faithfulness. For several months the people had to have heard about the land they would inherit. Now it was time for God to show Himself as faithful and true!

Notwithstanding, the children of Jacob could not conceive of actually taking ownership of such a land. **How many times do we doubt the power and goodness of God?**

Instead of preparing for *another* miraculous undertaking, the people became leery of spending the rest of their lives in the desert. Granted, the view and colors are a little monotonous. But when God is providing the food, drink, protection and the lodging, there's not much reason for complaining!

Unfortunately spiritual blindness is a serious malady.

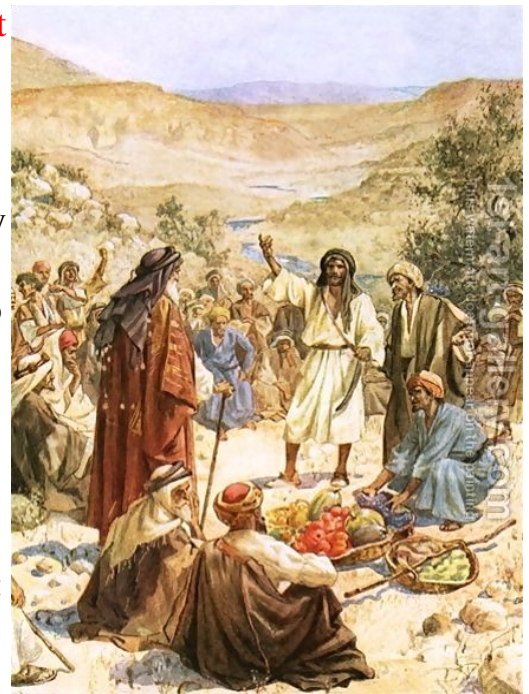
Numbers 14

And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. 2And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! 3And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? 4And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.

Now, instead of planning the conquest, the Israelites have a no confidence situation! They are actively seeking another leader to make the return to Egypt. In fact, at one point, they even consider murder. Moses and Aaron, at odds sometime earlier, now cojoin in prayer to God, while Joshua and Caleb go into “fix it” mode.

Numbers 14

5Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel. 6And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes: 7And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. 8If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. 9Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not. 10But all the congregation bade stone them with stones. And the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel.



And then, God! In spite of all, Moses did not fear for his life. Instead of fleeing, he sought the Lord. **He wasn't afraid of the people; he feared God, and made supplication to Him.** Then, after God offered to make a nation of Moses, pleaded with God not to do away with the nation. The prayer of Christ on the Cross was similar. Compare.

Numbers 14

19 Pardon, I beseech thee, the iniquity of this people according unto the greatness of thy mercy, and as thou hast forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.

Luke 23

34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.

And similar to that April day in 28 (34 AD), God relented. Here's a review quiz.

Sections 1- 3 Review Quiz

1. When (approximately) did the Exodus take place?
 - a) 1750 BC
 - b) 2400 BC
 - c) 1446 BC
 - d) 586 BC
 - e) 1 billion years ago
2. In what general direction was the Exodus?
 - a) East
 - b) West
 - c) North
 - d) South
 - e) Positive
 - f) New
3. What was the approximate size of the Hebrew congregation?
 - a) 2,000
 - b) 20,000
 - c) 200,000
 - d) 2,000,000
 - e) 20,000,000
4. Where did the Red Sea crossing take place?
 - a) Eilat
 - b) Nuweibah
 - c) Jericho
 - d) Succoth
 - e) Goshen

5. Why did the Israelites not go south and cross over the gulf of Suez (select all that apply)?
- a) it makes absolutely no sense.
 - b) that area is still part of Egypt
 - c) it contained only reeds
 - d) they hadn't made reservations
 - e) Moses knew Midian
6. How long was the Israelites's trip out of Egypt to Midian?
- a) about a year
 - b) about a week
 - c) about 40 years
 - d) about a month
 - e) about a billion years
7. Which month corresponds well to the third month of the *real* year.
- a) May
 - b) March
 - c) September
 - d) December
 - e) July
8. What is the current name of the real Mt. Horeb?
- a) Jebal Al Lawz
 - b) Saudi
 - c) an elementary school
 - d) Jebal al Musa
 - e) Seir
9. Who was stricken with leprosy as a result of speaking out against Moses?
- a) Aaron
 - b) Korah
 - c) Deborah
 - d) Reuben
 - e) Miriam
10. Who has done some serious archaeological research on the Exodus?
- a) Hal Lindsey
 - b) Billy Graham
 - c) Emmett Manley
 - d) Ron Wyatt
 - e) Kenneth Massey

11. What reasons were given for not invading the promised land the first time?

- a) People were too big
- b) no internet coverage
- c) no running water
- d) land was not agriculturally productive
- e) cities were too well fortified

Section 4 Jewish storm in the east

In this section we discuss the aftermath of the democratic debacle and the final march of the nation of Israel from Horeb to (and through) Jericho which kicks off the conquering of Canaan. It was in the autumn of 1445 BC trouble came to the Israelites. Here's Moses's accounting of what happened next.

Deuteronomy 1

*41*Then ye answered and said unto me, We have sinned against the LORD, we will go up and fight, according to all that the LORD our God commanded us. And when ye had girded on every man his weapons of war, ye were ready to go up into the hill. *42*And the LORD said unto me, Say unto them, Go not up, neither fight; for I *am* not among you; lest ye be smitten before your enemies. *43*So I spake unto you; and ye would not hear, but rebelled against the commandment of the LORD, and went presumptuously up into the hill. *44*And the Amorites, which dwelt in that mountain, came out against you, and chased you, as bees do, and destroyed you in Seir, *even* unto Hormah. *45*And ye returned and wept before the LORD; but the LORD would not hearken to your voice, nor give ear unto you.

And there were still more that the nation had to learn at Kadesh Barnea. Sometime later God taught lessons to some of the people, and the ten unfaithful spies died from a plague. Amazingly, the defeat and the death of the 10 spies angered the people even more ... which angered God even more! Ultimately, three challengers arose against Moses: Korah (Levi), Dathan (Reuben) and Abiram (Reuben). Again, Moses appealed to God's judgment. Again, God came through and caused the ground to swallow the three families to the horror of the rest of the Israelites.



Numbers 16

25And Moses rose up and went unto Dathan and Abiram; and the elders of Israel followed him. 26And he spake unto the congregation, saying, Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins. 27So they gat up from the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, on every side: and Dathan and Abiram came out, and stood in the door of their tents, and their wives, and their sons, and their little children. 28And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for *I have not done them* of mine own mind. 29If these men die the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; *then* the LORD hath not sent me. 30But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that *appertain* unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD. 32And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that *appertained* unto Korah, and all *their* goods. 33They, and all that *appertained* to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.

So the main question now is *what exactly happened during the better part of those 40 years in the wilderness?* The best answer to that question can be found from Moses's recount found in Deuteronomy. As it turns out, the nation hung out in and around Kadesh Barnea for a long time ... perhaps 19 yrs.

Deuteronomy 1

46So ye abode in Kadesh many days, according unto the days that ye abode *there*.

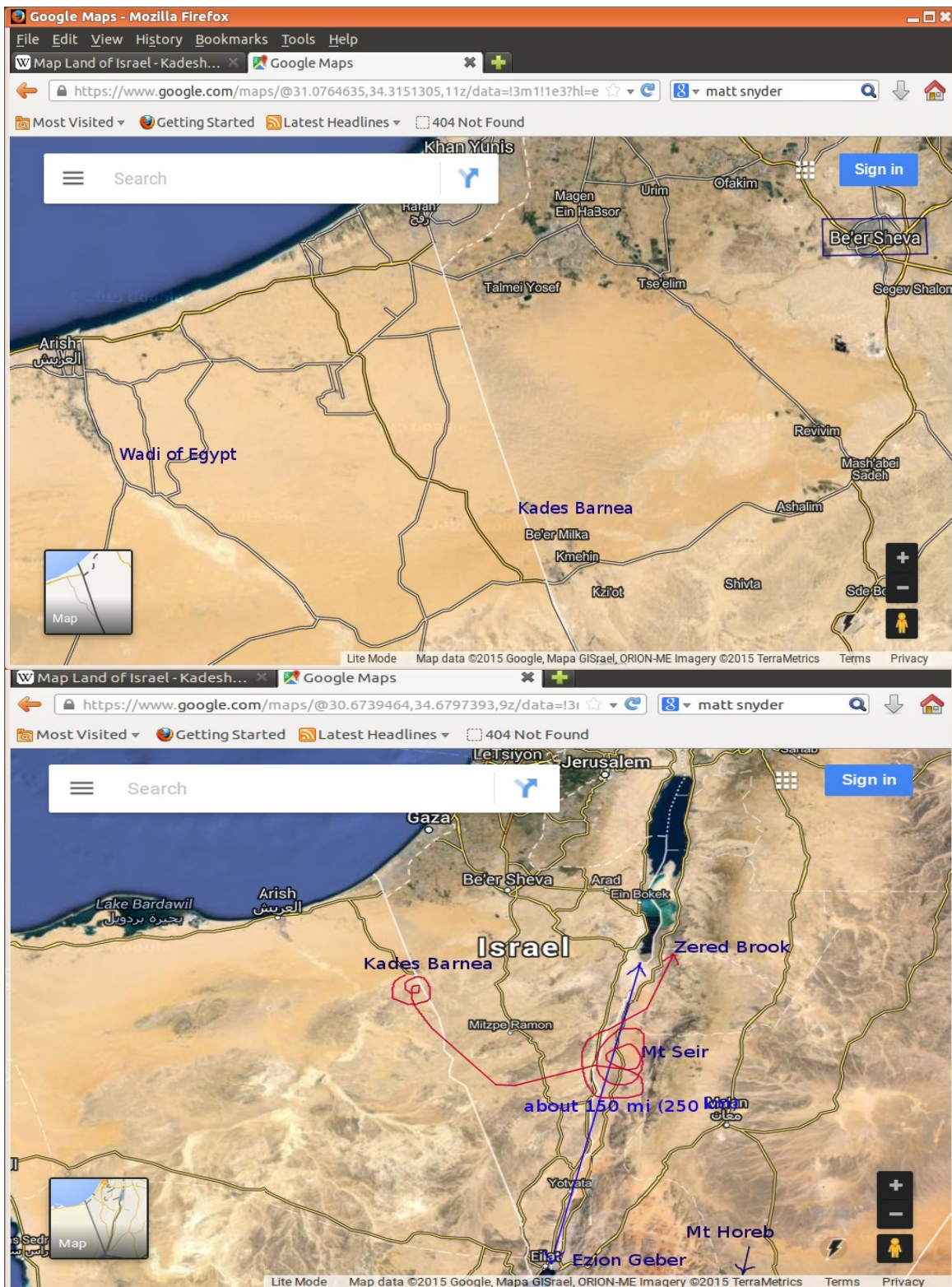
And then perhaps another 18 years in the region of Mt Seir. This was in order to allow the previous “generation” to die out with the exceptions of Moses, Joshua and Caleb.

Deuteronomy 2

*I*Then we turned, and took our journey into the wilderness by the way of the Red sea, as the LORD spake unto me: and we compassed mount Seir many days. 2And the LORD spake unto me, saying, 3Ye have compassed this mountain long enough: turn you northward. 4And command thou the people, saying, Ye are to pass through the coast of your brethren the children of Esau, which dwell in Seir; and they shall be afraid of you: take ye good heed unto yourselves therefore: 5Meddle not with them; for I will not give you of their land, no, not so much as a foot breadth; because I have given mount Seir unto Esau for a possession.

14And the space in which we came from Kadeshbarnea, until we were come over the brook Zered, was thirty and eight years; until all the generation of the men of war were wasted out from among the host, as the LORD swore unto them.

So here are two maps depicting the Israelite journey in the final 40 years of Moses's life.



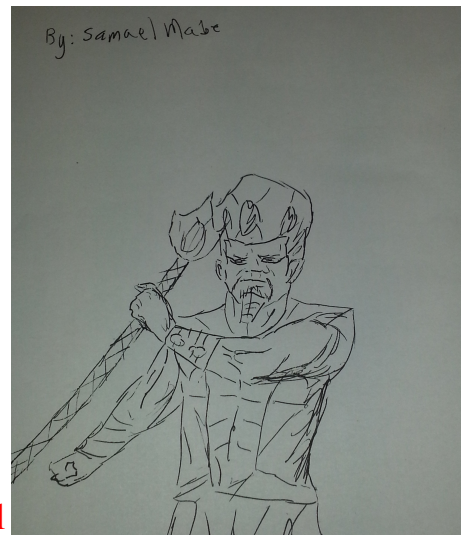
We're actually not sure exactly how much time they spent in either place, or whether they moved around in each area. We do know that those were the two areas of interest mentioned in Moses's account. And we do know that 38 years after Kades Barnea, they came to the Zered brook moving north looking to move in to the promised land. Interestingly, God warns Israel not to mess with Edom, Moab nor Ammon ... future bitter enemies. Perhaps because of the relationships that existed between Esau, Loth and Jacob. [And Moses gives a brief report on the giant peoples of the day.](#)

Deuteronomy 2

24 Rise ye up, take your journey, and pass over the river Arnon: behold, I have given into thine hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land: begin to possess *it*, and contend with him in battle. 25 This day will I begin to put the dread of thee and the fear of thee upon the nations *that are* under the whole heaven, who shall hear report of thee, and shall tremble, and be in anguish because of thee.

26 And I sent messengers out of the wilderness of Kedemoth unto Sihon king of Heshbon with words of peace, saying, 27 Let me pass through thy land: I will go along by the high way, I will neither turn unto the right hand nor to the left. 28 Thou shalt sell me meat for money, that I may eat; and give me water for money, that I may drink: only I will pass through on my feet; 29 (As the children of Esau which dwell in Seir, and the Moabites which dwell in Ar, did unto me;) until I shall pass over Jordan into the land which the LORD our God giveth us. 30 But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass by him: for the LORD thy God hardened his spirit, and made his heart obstinate, that he might deliver him into thy hand, as *appeareth* this day. 31 And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have begun to give Sihon and his land before thee: begin to possess, that thou mayest inherit his land.

32 Then Sihon came out against us, he and all his people, to fight at Jahaz. 33 And the LORD our God delivered him before us; and we smote him, and his sons, and all his people. 34 And we took all his cities at that time, and utterly destroyed the men, and the women, and the little ones, of every city, we left none to remain: 35 Only the cattle we took for a prey unto ourselves, and the spoil of the cities which we took. 36 From Aroer, which *is* by the brink of the river of Arnon, and *from* the city that *is* by the river, even unto Gilead, there was not one city too strong for us: the LORD our God delivered all unto us:



Here we see the primary conflict(s) east of the Jordan. They are not originally with Moab, Ammon and Edom, but rather the remaining Rephaites. Is this the end of the giants? Not quite. Goliath and others are still to come. **But the legend and fear of the Israelites begins to grow.**

Note also, that **God hardened the heart of Sihon.** Have we seen this before or since?

Deuteronomy 3

Then we turned, and went up the way to Bashan: and Og the king of Bashan came out against us, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei. **2**And the LORD said unto me, Fear him not: for I will deliver him, and all his people, and his land, into thy hand; and thou shalt do unto him as thou didst unto Sihon king of the Amorites, which dwelt at Heshbon. **3**So the LORD our God delivered into our hands Og also, the king of Bashan, and all his people: and we smote him until none was left to him remaining. **4**And we took all his cities at that time, there was not a city which we took not from them, threescore cities, all the region of Argob, the kingdom of Og in Bashan.

The second king of the Amorites is Og king of Bashan. This is the land a little further to the north of Heshbon against and around the Jordan and the sea of Galilee (Kinneret as in v. 17). It is grazing land ... good for cattle. Note that this east bank land essentially mirrors that of the land to be conquered on the west side of the Jordan.

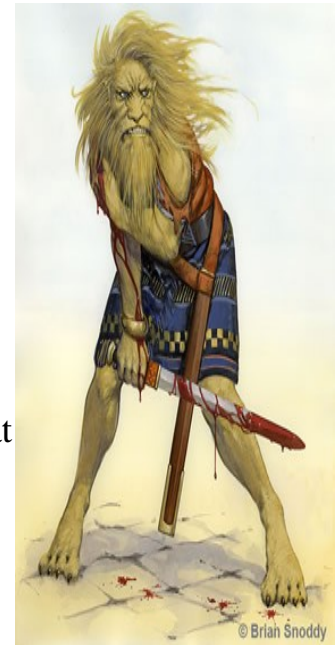
5All these cities *were* fenced with high walls, gates, and bars; beside unwalled towns a great many.

Now this last verse is pertinent. **Why did Moses include this description of the conquered cities?** Likely to show that God could've easily done that 40 years prior, AND so that when the western cities were taken, the people would remember that the Amorite towns were no pushovers.

8And we took at that time out of the hand of the two kings of the Amorites the land that *was* on this side Jordan, from the river of Arnon unto mount Hermon; **9**(Which Hermon the Sidonians call Sirion; and the Amorites call it Shenir;) **10**All the cities of the plain, and all Gilead, and all Bashan, unto Salchah and Edrei, cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan. **11**For only Og king of Bashan remained of the remnant of giants; behold, his bedstead *was* a bedstead of iron; *is* it not in Rabbath of the children of Ammon? nine cubits *was* the length thereof, and four cubits the breadth of it, after the cubit of a man.

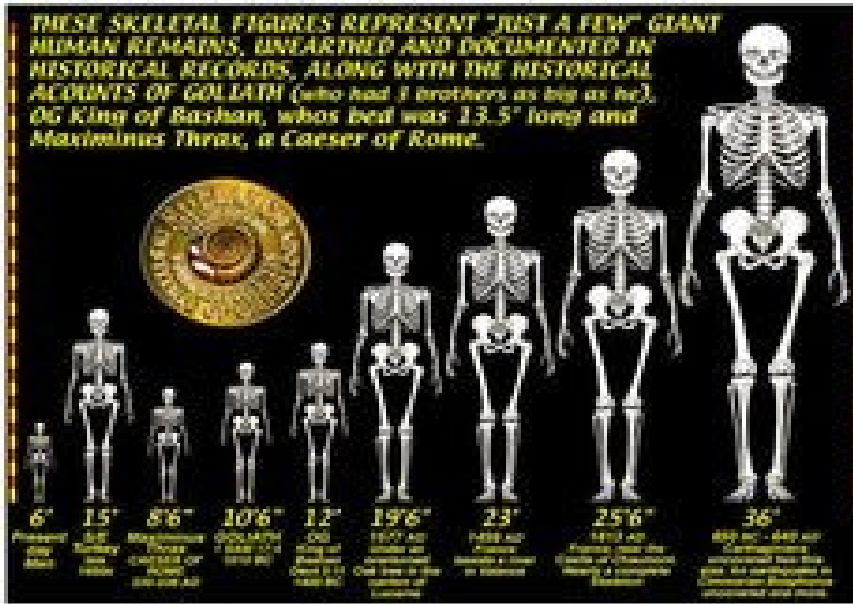
The word “giants” in v. 11 is translated as “Rephaim” in the ESV. Are we to understand that Sihon and Og represented the last of the Rephaim? Was Goliath (a Philistine) of another line of giants? Actually he was. And there have been strange humanlike creatures throughout history.

This is not the end of them, but it is the end of the area Rephaim. Skeletons of giants (anyway) have been unearthed from various times in history. In both of **2 Samuel 21** and **1 Chronicles 20** we read of men with 6 digits on hands and feet from the city-state of Gat. In **2 Samuel 23** we read of the defeat of two Moabites at the hands of Benaiah known in the Hebrew as angelic lion (Ari) men. This is pretty creepy!



The point here is that we may encounter all kinds of God's creation.

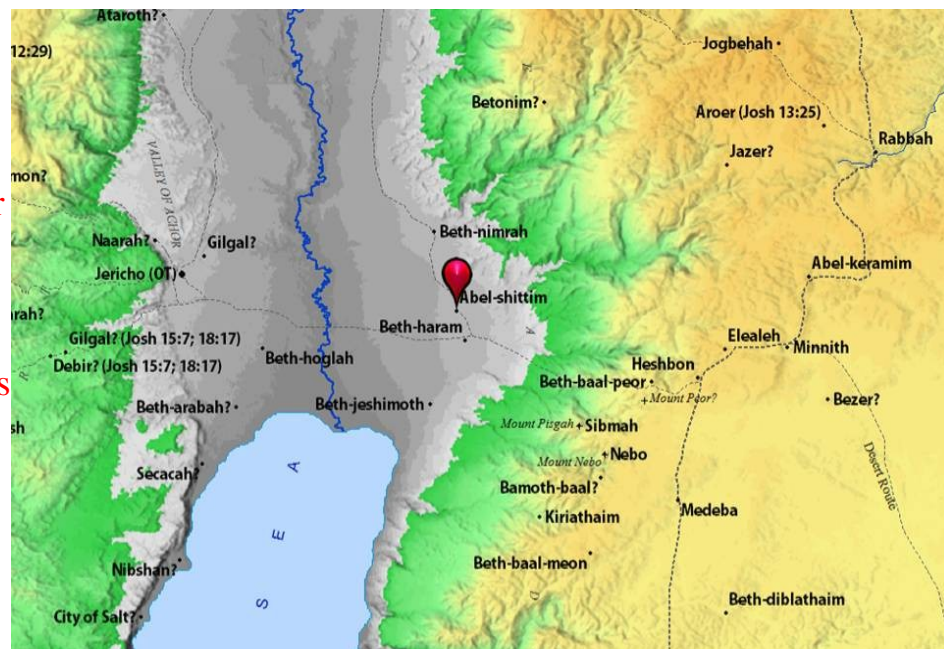
He's always in charge of it. We need not be afraid of them.



A detailed account of the locations in the Israelites' complete journey can be found in **Numbers 33**.

We now come to the sorrowful time of departure ... both for Moses and the Israelites.

Deuteronomy 3
23And I pleaded with the Lord at that time, saying, **24**'O Lord God, you have only begun to show your servant your greatness and your mighty hand. For what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do such works and mighty acts as yours? **25**Please let me go over and see the good land beyond the Jordan, that good hill country and Lebanon.'



26But the Lord was angry with me because of you and would not listen to me. And the Lord said to me, ‘Enough from you; do not speak to me of this matter again. 27Go up to the top of Pisgah and lift up your eyes westward and northward and southward and eastward, and look at it with your eyes, for you shall not go over this Jordan. 28But charge Joshua, and encourage and strengthen him, for he shall go over at the head of this people, and he shall put them in possession of the land that you shall see.’ 29So we remained in the valley opposite Beth-peor.

Here we have a site (Beth-Peor) where another interesting earlier encounter took place. Prior to the Amoritic conquests Israel faced another threat ... perhaps unknown to them at the time. Moab was already fearful of the nation. Knowing that the coming nation of Israel would be too much to handle militarily, their king Balak summoned the prophet Balaam from Aram, some 200 miles away, to curse the nation. Instead Balaam, apparently a true prophet, blessed them.



Numbers 24

7He shall pour the water out of his buckets, and his seed *shall be* in many waters, and his king shall be higher than Agag, and his kingdom shall be exalted.

8God brought him forth out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn: he shall eat up the nations his enemies, and shall break their bones, and pierce *them* through with his arrows. 9He couched, he lay down as a lion, and as a great lion: who shall stir him up? Blessed *is* he that blesseth thee, and cursed *is* he that curseth thee. 10And Balak's anger was kindled against Balaam, and he smote his hands together: and Balak said unto Balaam, I called thee to curse mine enemies, and, behold, thou hast altogether blessed *them* these three times. 11Therefore now flee thou to thy place: I thought to promote thee unto great honour; but, lo, the LORD hath kept thee back from honour.



*12*And Balaam said unto Balak, Spake I not also to thy messengers which thou sentest unto me, saying, *13*If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the commandment of the LORD, to do *either* good or bad of mine own mind; *but* what the LORD saith, that will I speak?

It is easy to see that Moses was quite close to God. It is not surprising that he appeared again in Mount Hermon in AD 27 in the transfiguration. **It is also important to note his earnest desire to continue to lead the nation ... in spite of having led them for 40 years!** Good leadership is hard to find. Alas, Moses passed away on Mt Nebo.

Deuteronomy 34

And Moses went up from the plains of Moab unto the mountain of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, that *is* over against Jericho. And the LORD shewed him all the land of Gilead, unto Dan, *2*And all Naphtali, and the land of Ephraim, and Manasseh, and all the land of Judah, unto the utmost sea, *3*And the south, and the plain of the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, unto Zoar. *4*And the LORD said unto him, This *is* the land which I swear unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying, I will give it unto thy seed: I have caused thee to see *it* with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go over thither. *5*So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD. *6*And he buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Bethpeor: but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day. *7*And Moses *was* an hundred and twenty years old when he died:

At this point the Israelites prepare to cross over the Jordan under Joshua's command. Jericho, a heavily walled city, will be their first undertaking. Further study on the taking of Jericho can be found at starnes.limfinity.com under **MSBC Bible Studies, TTWMK Vol 1, Section 3.**

Final Exam

1. When (approximately) did the conquest of Canaan take place?
 - a) 1400 BC
 - b) 1446 AD
 - c) 1446 BC
 - d) 586 BC
 - e) 1 billion years ago

2. What peoples did God tell Moses *not* to fight with as they reached the staging area?
 - a) Moab
 - b) Ammon
 - c) Sidon
 - d) Galilee
 - e) Etruscan
 - f) Philistia
3. What was the approximate height of Og king of Bashan?
 - a) 7 ft
 - b) 8 ft
 - c) 9 ft
 - d) 10 ft
 - e) 11 ft
 - f) 12ft
 - g) 13 ft
4. What is about the seventh month of the actual year?
 - a) March
 - b) May
 - c) July
 - d) September
 - e) November
5. What Egyptian dynasty crumbled as a result of the Exodus?
 - a) XII
 - b) VIII
 - c) XX
 - d) XXII
 - e) IV
6. Which tribes remained on the east side of the Jordan?
 - a) Naphtali
 - b) Reuben
 - c) Judah
 - d) Gad
 - e) Levi

7. Who prophesied in favor of Israel to Balak?
 - a) Og
 - b) Judah
 - c) Ammon
 - d) Sihon
 - e) Balaam
8. Who challenged Moses's authority following Israel's defeat at Kadesh Barnea?
 - a) Balaam
 - b) Korah
 - c) Dathan
 - d) Abiram
 - e) Caleb
9. With what was Miriam struck when she challenged Moses?
 - a) Leprosy
 - b) Diabetes
 - c) Pinkeye
 - d) Depression
 - e) Broken Ankle
10. True or False: Mt Horeb is in the Sinai peninsula?
 - a) True
 - b) False
11. What foods did God provide for the Israelites during the Exodus?
 - a) Quail
 - b) Donuts
 - c) Horeb
 - d) Fish
 - e) Manna
12. It is thought that Moses played what role in Sesosteris III's court?
 - a) Cup Bearer
 - b) Butler
 - c) Priest
 - d) General
 - e) Vizier

13. Who was the last ruler of the fallen Exodus dynasty?
- a) Sesostris IV
 - b) Amenhemet III
 - c) Rameses
 - d) Tutankanem
 - e) Sobeknefru
14. The Edomites were the descendants of ... ?
- a) Esau
 - b) Loth
 - c) Rephaim
 - d) Anak
 - e) Ephraim
15. The word "lion" in Hebrew is ...?
- a) Ben
 - b) Beer
 - c) Ari
 - d) Bet
 - e) Nepi
16. The Israelites took on the Amalekites in the vicinity of ... ?
- a) Bashan
 - d) Golan
 - c) Sinai
 - d) Eilat
 - e) Kadesh Barnea
17. The distance from the gulf of Aqaba to the Dead Sea is about ... ?
- a) 200 mi
 - b) 150 mi
 - c) 50 mi
 - d) 25 mi
 - e) 10 mi
18. The Zered brook feeds into the ... ?
- a) Dead Sea
 - b) Sea of Galilee
 - c) Red Sea
 - d) Jordan River
 - e) Euphrates River

19. The transfiguration featured which of the following?
- a) Jesus
 - b) Moses
 - c) Elijah
 - d) Joshua
 - e) Judges
20. How did God lead the Israelites?
- a) a pillar of cloud by day
 - b) a pillar of salt by morning
 - c) a bed pillar by night
 - d) a pillar of fire by night
 - e) a pillar denoting the Red Sea crossing by mid-morning
21. Where were Moses's wives from?
- a) Egypt
 - b) the Sinai
 - c) the tribe of Levi
 - d) Kadesh Barnea
 - e) Midian
22. (extry credit) About when was Moses born?
- a) 1526 BC
 - b) 1486 BC
 - c) 1446 BC
 - d) 1406 BC
 - e) 1786 BC

And away they go!

