



Spiritual Lessons from the Life of Moses

Lesson 23 – The
route from
Kadesh-Barnea

Num 20, 21

<https://d3h6k4kfl8m9p0.cloudfront.net/stories/PIDbOjryanTSIM9gDRKhQw.jpg>



Book of Numbers in pictures - part 2

Numbers 20 – 33



(1) Numbers 20:14-21. After the incident of Moses' striking the rock, the Israelites were getting to ready to move out of Kadesh Barnea. Moses sent a message to Edom to request for passage through their territory.

The king of Edom refused to allow the Israelites through Edom. The king of Edom said, 'Stay out! If you attempt to enter my land, I will meet you with an army!'

The Israelites route bypassing Edom.

Map of the Exodus:

https://blogger.googleusercontent.com/img/b/R29vZ2xl/AVvXsEi-mPn0IBLJ30fsd285k-lrsPwy04iMrh_bGkw_ewe-iK5MpOLmnBqdhyphenhyphenMxoNqdgTVFYjuqtcixedl_E-w9QP59yoVdS0xglBpwJXeQpU-NQ76ot9pr_7MXM-QAOWWRNMta51FXnnTpY/s1600/Israel+in+wilderness.webp

(2) Num 20:17 Moses planned to move through Edom onto the king's highway and head northwards towards Canaan (see map).

But the request was rejected by Edom.

Num 21:4 As a result, Moses and the Israelites had to move South towards the Red Sea and make a U-turn to avoid the land of Edom (see map).

**The 42 Camp Sites:
Organized and Illustrated
for the First Time in History**

- 1 Succoth סוּכּוֹת (Exod 12:37; Num 33:5)
- 2 Etham אֶתְחָם (Exod 13:20; Num 33:6)
- 3 Before Migdol פְּנֵים מִגְדוֹל (Exod 14:2; Num 33:7)
- 4 Marah מָרָה (Exod 15:23; Num 33:8)
- 5 Elim אֵילִם (Exod 15:27; Num 33:9)
- 6 By the Red Sea עַל יַם סוּף (Num 33:10)
- 7 The Wilderness of Sin מִדְבַּר סִין (Exod 16:1; Num 33:11)
- 8 Dophkah דּוֹפְקָה (Num 33:12-13)
- 9 Alush אֱלוֹשׁ (Num 33:13)
- 10 Rephidim רְפִידִים (Exod 17:1; 19:2; Num 33:14)
- 11 The Wilderness of Sinai מִדְבַּר סִינַי (Exod 19:1-2; Num 33:15)
- 12 Kibroth-hattaavah קִבְרוֹת הַחַטָּאָה (Num 33:16)
- 13 Hazeroth הַצְּרוֹת (Num 33:17)
- 14 Rithmah רִיתְמָה (Num 33:18)
- 15 Rimmon-perez רִמּוֹן-פֶּרֶץ (Num 33:19)
- 16 Libnah לִבְנָה (Num 33:20)
- 17 Rissah רִסָּה (Num 33:21)
- 18 Kehelathah קְהֵלֶתָה (Num 33:22)
- 19 Mount Shepher הַר שֹׁפֵר (Num 33:23)
- 20 Haradah הַרְדָּה (Num 33:24)
- 21 Makheloth מַקְהֵלֹת (Num 33:25)
- 22 Tahath תַּחַת (Num 33:26)
- 23 Terah תֵּרָח (Num 33:27)
- 24 Mithkah מִתְקָה (Num 33:28)
- 25 Hashmonah חַשְׁמוֹנָה (Num 33:29)
- 26 Moseroth מִסְרוֹת (Num 33:30)
- 27 Bene-jaakan בְּנֵי יַעֲקֹב (Num 33:31)
- 28 Hor-haggidgad הַר הַגִּידְגָד (Num 33:32)
- 29 Jotbathah יוֹטְבָתָה (Num 33:33)
- 30 Abronah אֲבֵרוֹנָה (Num 33:34)
- 31 Ezion-geber עִזְיוֹן גִּבְרָה (Num 33:35)
- 32 Kadesh-barnea קָדֵשׁ בַּרנֶּה (Num 33:36)
- 33 Mount Hor הַר הָהָר (Num 33:37)
- 34 Zalmonah צַלְמוֹנָה (Num 33:41)
- 35 Punon פּוֹנוֹן (Num 33:42)
- 36 Oboth אֹבָה (Num 33:43)
- 37 Iye-abarim עֵי הַעֲבָרִים (Num 33:44)
- 38 Dibon-gad דִּבְיוֹן גַּד (Num 33:45)
- 39 Almon-diblathaim אֱלִמֹן דִּבְלַתְיָה (Num 33:46)
- 40 The Mountain of Abarim הַר עֲבָרִים (Num 33:47)
- 41 The Plains of Moab עֲרָבָה מוֹאָב (Num 33:48-49)
- 42 Gilgal גִּלְגָּל (Josh 4:19)

Oral traditions recounted by indigenous peoples during site visits were taken into consideration for the location of a few camp sites.

Map of the Exodus AND WILDERNESS JOURNEY

"And Moses recorded their starting places according to their journeys by the command of the Lord, and these are their journeys according to their starting places." (Num 33:2)
Exod 13:17-19:3; 40:17; Num 10:11-12:16; Deut 1:1-3:29; 34:1-8; Josh 4:19

Mediterranean Sea

Goshen

EGYPT

Rameses

Succoth

On

Ba'al-zephon (uncertain)

Phahiroth

Crossing the Red Sea

The Battle against Amalek

Rephidim

Scale 1 : 1,150,000



1406 BC, ~ 1st month, 10th day
"Now the people came up from the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month and camped at Gilgal on the eastern edge of Jericho." (Josh 4:19)

The Battle of Hormah
The early stage of the wilderness journey—lost due to disobedience. (Num 14:39-45; Deut 1:40-44)
The last stage of the wilderness journey—victory by defeating the king of Arad in southern part of Canaan. (Num 21:1-3)

The Death of Aaron
1407 BC, 5th month, 1st day, ~ 8 months before entry into Canaan (Num 20:22-29)
"Then Aaron the priest went up to Mount Hor at the command of the Lord, and died there, in the fortieth year after the sons of Israel had come from the land of Egypt on the first day in the fifth month." (Num 33:38)

The Death of Miriam
1407 BC, 1st month, ~ 1 year before entry into Canaan
"Then the sons of Israel, the whole congregation, came to the wilderness of Zin in the first month; and the people stayed at Kadesh. Now Miriam died there and was buried there." (Num 20:1)

"Hence God led the people around by the way of the wilderness to the Red Sea, and the sons of Israel went up in martial array from the land of Egypt." (Exod 13:18)

"Tell the sons of Israel to turn back and camp before Phahiroth, between Migdol and the sea; you shall camp in front of Baal-zephon, opposite it, by the sea." (Exod 14:2)

The Battle against Amalek (Exod 17:8-16)
"So Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword... I will utterly blot out memory of Amalek from under heaven... And Moses built an altar, and named it 'The Lord is My Banner.'" (Exod 17:13-17)

1446 BC, 3rd month - 1445 BC, 2nd month, 20th day (Num 10:11-12)
Remained here about 1 year
- The Ten Commandments were given. (Exod 20:1-17)
- The tabernacle was erected. 2nd year, 1st month, 1st day of the Exodus. (Exod 40:17)
- The first census of soldiers (603,550): 2nd year, 2nd month, 1st day of the Exodus. (Num 1:1-4, 46)
- Worship of golden calf: 3,000 people killed. (Exod 32:1-35)

1390 BC, Joseph's bones were buried 16 years after entry into Canaan. (Josh 24:32)

The route of the 12 spies in the land of Canaan (Num 13:21-29)

Naphtali

Land of the Amorites

Gilgal

Jerusalem

The Mountain of Abarim

Hebron

Beersheba

Hormah

Bene-jaakan

Kadesh-barnea

Rithmah

Mount Shepher

Libnah

Makheloth

Hor-haggidgad

Abnonah

Jotbathah

The Wilderness of Paran

The Wilderness of Sin

The Wilderness of Sinai

Bashan

The Victory over Og, king of Bashan

The Conquest of Gilead

The Battle against Midian

The Plains of Moab

The Mountain of Abarim

The Victory over Sihon, King of the Amorites

The Death of Moses

Those who were still alive from the 603,550 soldiers from the first census died, except Joshua and Caleb.

The Graves of Greediness

Then they set out from Mount Hor by the way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the people became impatient because of the journey.

Then they turned and went up by the way of Bashan, and Og the king of Bashan went out with all his people for battle at Edrei.

They killed with the sword every male, the kings of Midian, and Balaam, the son of Beor.

And they camped by the Jordan, from Beth-jeshimoth as far as Abel-shittim in the plains of Moab.

24,000 died from the plague as a result of sexual immorality. The plague stopped after Phinehas killed Cozbi and Zimri, who committed adultery.

God shows Moses all of the Promised Land, Canaan.

But Sihon...came to Jahaz and fought against Israel. Then Israel...look possession of his land from Arnon to the Jabbok...

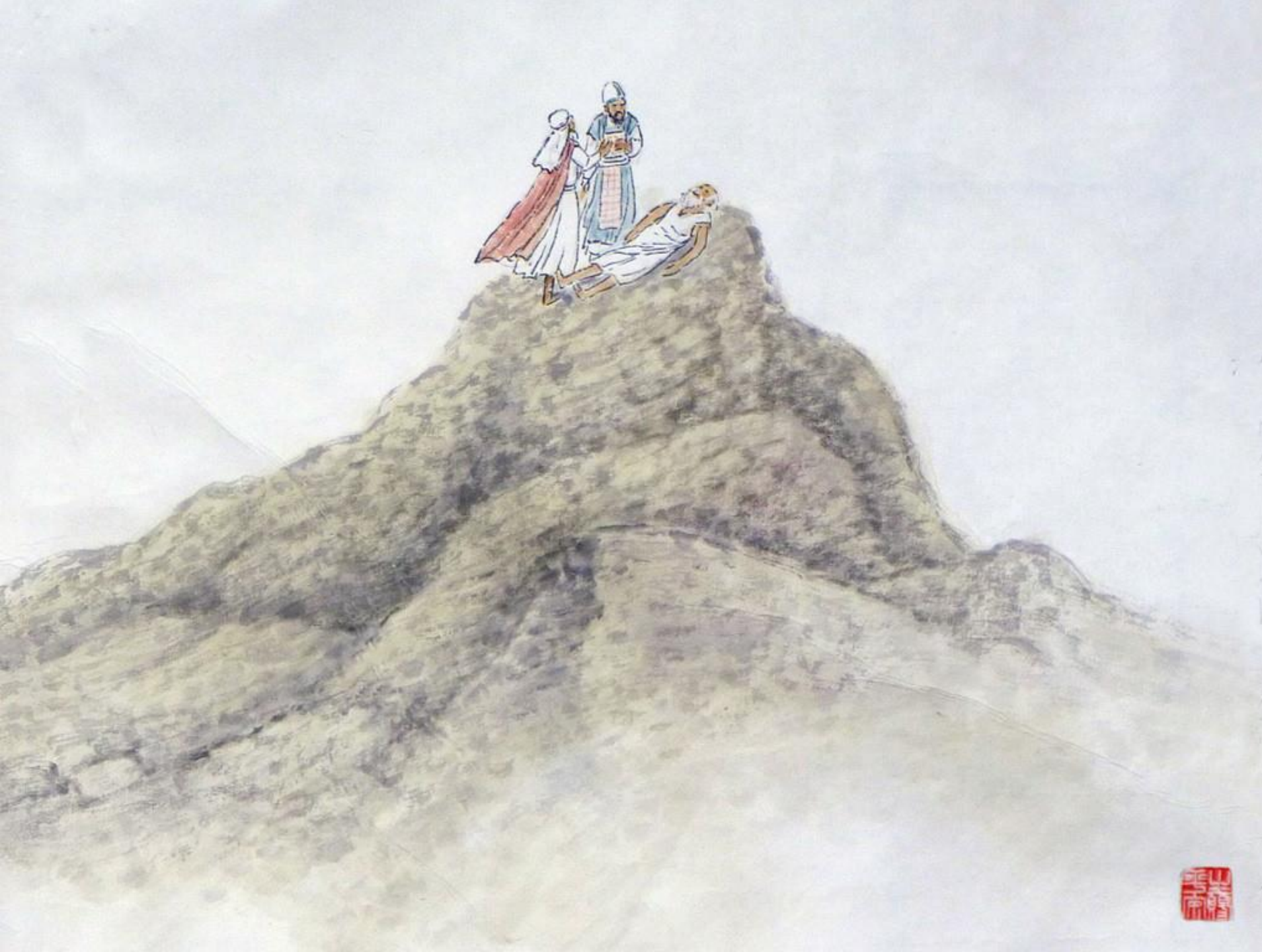
So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the valley of the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no man knows his burial place to this day.

Now the people came up from the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month and camped at Gilgal on the eastern edge of Jericho.

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<https://www.thebiblejourney.org/find-people-places-maps/find-maps-diagrams/>

- Deut 2:5 – God told the Israelites that they were not to take any of the land of the Edomites.



(3) The death of Aaron. Numbers 20:23-29
(v23) Then the Lord said to Moses and Aaron at Mt Hor (see map), near the border of the land of Edom, 'The time has come for Aaron to die—for he shall not enter the land I have given the people of Israel, for the two of you rebelled against my instructions concerning the water at Meribah.'



(4) The death of Aaron. Numbers 20:23-29 (v28) When they reached the summit, Moses removed the priestly garments from Aaron and put them on his son Eleazar; and Aaron died on the top of the mountain.



(5) The defeat of the Canaanites. Numbers 21:1-3

(v2-3) When the king of Arad heard that the Israelites were moving along the road to Atharim (see map), he attacked the Israelites.

The Lord then helped the Israelites to defeat the Canaanites; and the Israelites completely destroyed them and their cities.

The Israelites route bypassing Edom.

The battle against Arad

Map of the Exodus:

https://blogger.googleusercontent.com/img/b/R29vZ2xl/AVvXsEi-mPn0IBLJ30fsd285k-lrsPwy04iMrh_bGkw_ewe-iK5MpOLmnBqdhyphenhyphenMxoNqdgTVFYjuqtciXedl_E-w9QP59yoVdS0xglBpwJXeQpU-NQ76ot9pr_7MXM-QAOWWRNMta51FXnnTpY/s1600/Israel+in+wilderness.webp



(6) The plague of serpents.
Numbers 21:4-6

Due to the big U-turn to go around Edom (see map), the Israelites began to murmur against God and to complain against Moses. 'Why have you brought us out of Egypt to die here in the wilderness?' they whined. 'There is nothing to eat here, and nothing to drink, and we hate this insipid manna.'

So the Lord sent poisonous snakes among them to punish them, and many of them were bitten and died.



(7) The serpent on the pole. Numbers 21:7-9

The Israelites repented of their sin. The Lord told Moses, 'Make a bronze replica of one of these snakes and attach it to the top of a pole; anyone who is bitten shall live if he simply looks at it!'

(8) Judges 11:17 –

17 Then Israel sent messengers unto the king of Edom, saying, Let me, I pray thee, pass through thy land: but the king of Edom would not hearken thereto. And in like manner they sent unto the king of Moab: but he would not consent: and Israel abode in Kadesh.

18 Then they went along through the wilderness, and compassed the land of Edom, and the land of Moab, and came by the east side of the land of Moab, and pitched on the other side of Arnon, but came not within the border of Moab: for Arnon was the border of Moab.

Map of the Exodus:

https://blogger.googleusercontent.com/img/b/R29vZ2xl/AVvXsEi-mPn0IBLJ30fsd285k-lrsPwy04iMrh_bGkw_ewe-iK5MpOLmnBqdhyphenhyphenMxoNqdgTVFYjuqtciXedl_E-w9QPi59yoVdS0xglBpwJXeQpU-NQ76ot9pr_7MXM-QAOWWRNMta51FXnnTpY/s1600/Israel+in+wilderness.webp

(9) Israelites' journey:

Avoiding the land of Edom and Moab, the Israelites moved:

Mt Hor

Ezion-geber

Oboth (Num 21:10)

Iye Abarim (Num 21:10)

Zered Valley (Num 21:12)

Arnon (Num 21:13)

Beer

Mattanah

Nahaliel

Bamoth (Num 21: 19)

Valley in Moab (Num 21:20)

(10) Numbers 21:21-25

²¹ And Israel sent messengers unto Sihon king of the Amorites, saying,

²² Let me pass through thy land: we will not turn into the fields, or into the vineyards; we will not drink of the waters of the well: but we will go along by the king's high way, until we be past thy borders.

²³ And Sihon would not suffer Israel to pass through his border: but Sihon gathered all his people together, and went out against Israel into the wilderness: and he came to Jahaz (see map), and fought against Israel.

²⁴ And Israel smote him [king Sihon] with the edge of the sword, and possessed his land from Arnon unto Jabbok, even unto the children of Ammon: for the border of the children of Ammon was strong.

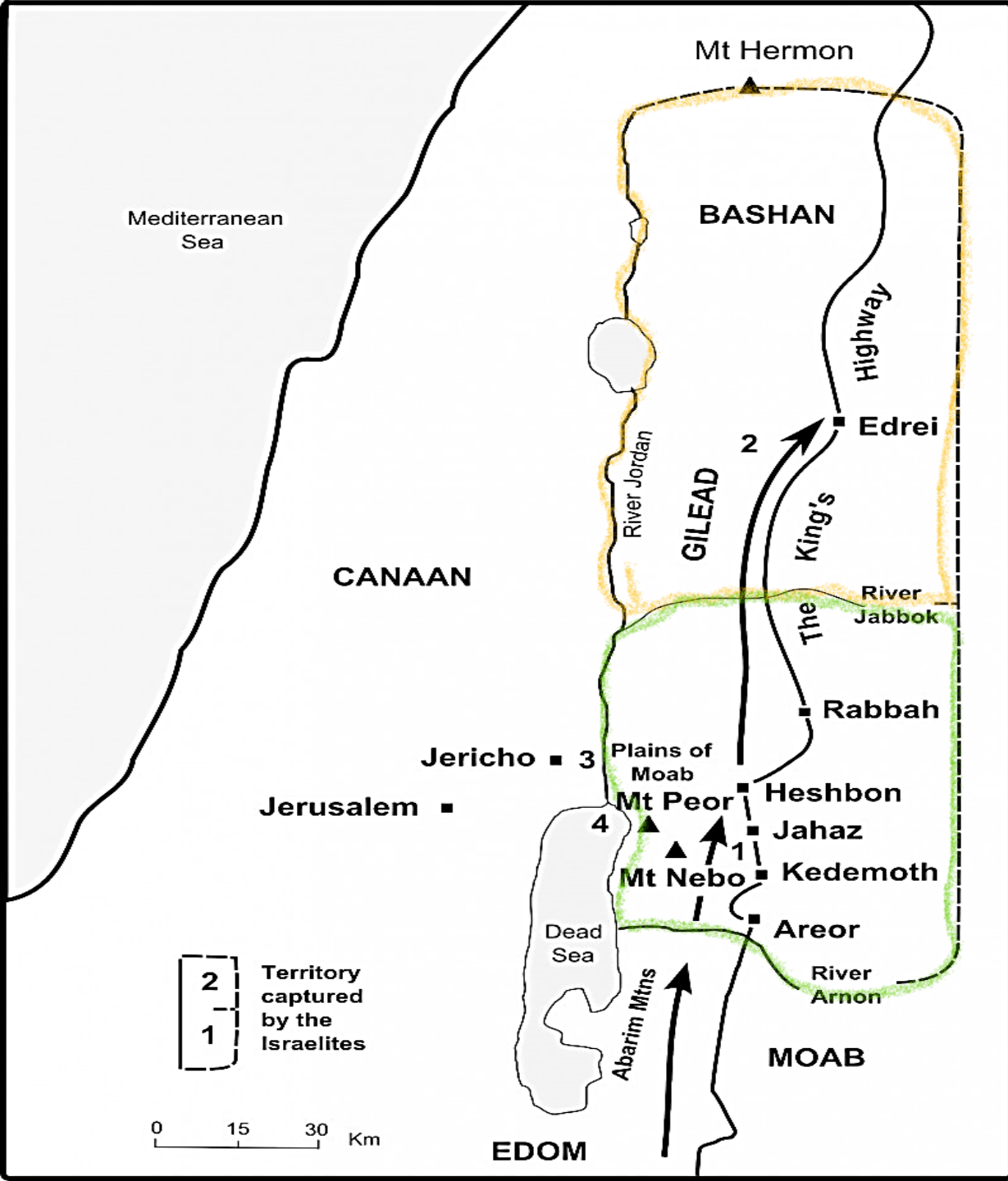
²⁵ And Israel took all these cities: and Israel dwelt in all the cities of the Amorites, in Heshbon, and in all the villages thereof.

(Further reading Judges 11:19-22)

Map of the Exodus:

https://blogger.googleusercontent.com/img/b/R29vZ2xl/AVvXsEi-mPn0IBLJ30fsd285k-lrsPwy04iMrh_bGkw_ewe-iK5MpOLmnBqdhyphenhyphenMxoNqdgTVFYjuqtciXedl_E-w9QP59yoVdS0xglBpwJXeQpU-NQ76ot9pr_7MXM-QAOWWRNMta51FXnnTpY/s1600/Israel+in+wilderness.webp

(11) The Israelites defeated King Sihon of the Amorites and destroyed them.



(12) Defeat of king Sihon and taking over the land in green (Num 21:21-25)

(13) Defeat of king Og and taking over the land in orange (Num 21: 33-35)



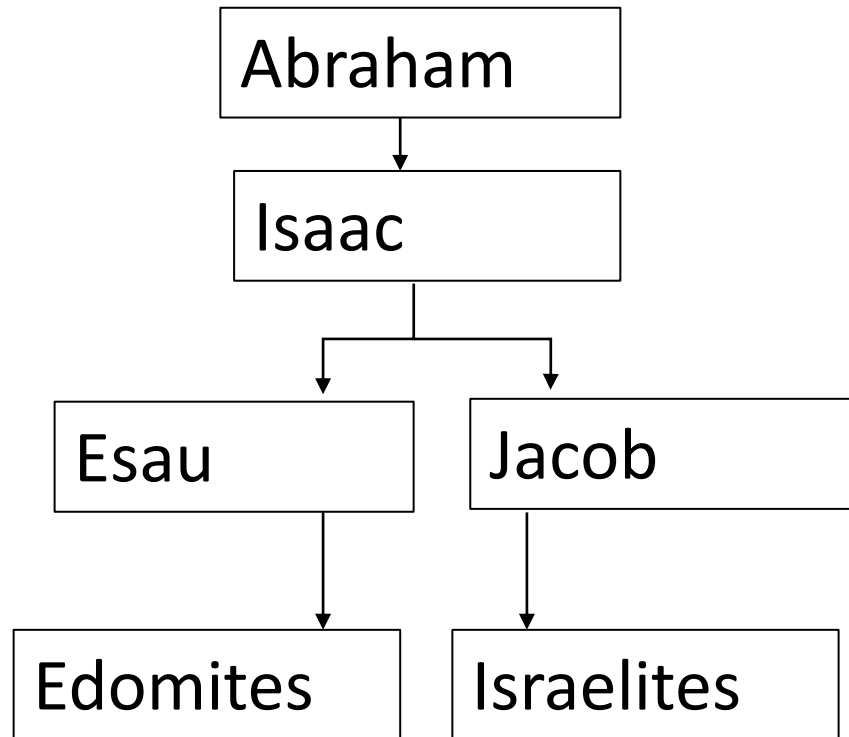
(5) Victory over the kings of Amorites and Bashan. Numbers 21:21-35 (v25-26) So Israel captured all the cities of the Amorites and lived in them, including the city of Heshbon, which had been King Sihon's capital.

(v34) The Lord told Moses not to fear—that the enemy was already conquered! 'The same thing will happen to King Og as happened to King Sihon at Heshbon,' the Lord assured him.

(6) Spiritual Lessons

(a) Edom refused the Israelites passage through their territory (Num 20:14-21)

- The Edomites and Israelites were relatives.



- But the Edomites refused to help the Israelites with passage through their territory.
- God judged the Edomites in Obadiah 1:8-10.
- Are we also hostile towards others? Examples: not friendly, not helpful and aggressive towards our family members, relatives, friends, colleagues, neighbours etc. in our speech and actions.

(b) The death of Aaron

- The sins of Aaron:
 - Aaron and Moses rebelled against God at the water of Meribah.
 - Aaron led the making of the golden calf
 - Aaron with Miriam spoke against Moses for marrying a Cushite woman
- Aaron would not be allowed entry to Canaan.
- Aaron would die on Mt Hor.

- Similarly, we also rebel against God's Word:
 - Lies
 - Pride
 - Hatred and unforgiveness
 - Faithlessness and unbelief
 - Etc
- God is merciful towards us. If we seek forgiveness and repent, He is still faithful and protects us.

(c) The Bronze snake

- Again, the Israelites complained and grumbled of no bread and no water.
- God sent poisonous snakes to bite them.
- The Israelites cried out to Moses to seek God's forgiveness for their sin against God.
- God instructed Moses to put up a bronze snake.
- Whoever looked at the bronze snake would be cured of the snake bites.

- Similarly, we also sin against God.
- God will send afflictions to reform us.
- If we cry out in repentance and seeking forgiveness, God will also deliver us from our afflictions.

(d) The Amorites refused Israelites' entry into their territory (Num 21:22-23)

- King Sihon of the Amorites refused entry and attacked the Israelites.
- God told the Israelites to fight king Sihon and king Og.
- The Israelites were victorious.

- Again, the lesson to us is not to be hostile and provocative towards others. (Num 21:23-24) Examples: combative and abusive towards our family members, relatives, friends, colleagues, neighbours etc. in our speech and actions.