

II. Midianite Exile

- A. When he was forty years old, Moses was incensed by an act of Egyptian violence toward one of his enslaved countrymen.
- B. Killing the taskmaster, he hid the Egyptian's body in the sand.
- C. The next day, realizing that everyone including Pharaoh knew about his deed, he fled to the wilderness.
- D. While in Midian, Moses met a priest – Jethro – and married his daughter, Zipporah
 - Moses had two sons with her, Gershom and Eliezer.
- E. As a fugitive, he was content to live with Jethro, and he became a shepherd in the wilderness.

III. Confrontation with Pharaoh

- A. Moses' life changed dramatically when, at eighty years old, he came across a burning bush in the wilderness.
 - 1. Speaking from the bush, God commanded him to return to Egypt with a message of freedom for the Israelites.
 - 2. Aaron his brother met him as Moses returned to Egypt.
 - 3. Yet despite God's impressive signs, the Egyptians only responded with increased labor for their captives and with their own signs.
- B. God directed Moses to call down ten devastating plagues to demolish Egypt, culminating in the death of every firstborn Egyptian.
 - 1. Pharaoh, finally convinced of the futility of fighting God, freed the Israelites.
 - 2. However, he changed his mind again and pursued them to the Red Sea.
 - 3. The Israelites escaped by crossing the sea on dry ground, while Pharaoh and his army followed them and drowned.

IV. Journey to Sinai

- A. Finally safe from their overlords, the Israelites began to murmur about insufficient food and water.
 - 1. Jehovah responded by miraculously providing water and 'manna,' food which appeared each morning in the dew for the Israelites to gather.
 - 2. Psalms 78:25 Man did eat angels' food
 - 3. Following a successful battle with Amalekites, the Israelites approached Mount Sinai.
 - 4. At this mountain they were met by God.
 - 5. In a terrifying display of Divine power, Jehovah gave Moses a series of laws, encapsulated in the Ten Commandments.
- B. The Israelites were guided in building the Tabernacle, a portable temple, for the Lord.
 - 1. When Moses went missing on the mountain, however, they built a golden calf and worshipped it.
 - 2. Moses returned with strict punishment for the Jews.
 - 3. Meanwhile, Aaron – by this time the High Priest – had his own difficulties when his two sons Nadab and Abihu desecrated the Tabernacle and died as a result.

V. The Wilderness of Paran

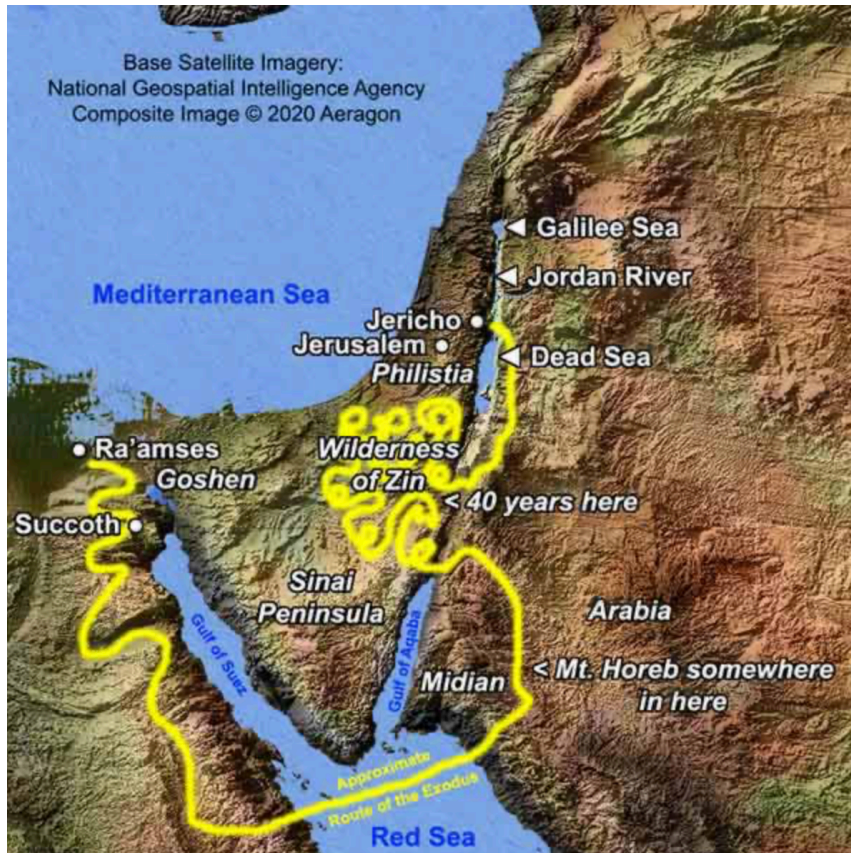
- A. Leaving Sinai, the Israelites proceeded north toward the Promised Land into the Wilderness of Paran.
- B. They prepared for the conquest by sending out twelve spies, but ten of the spies returned discouraged.
- C. Rather than believing the two hopeful spies, the Israelites refused to enter the Promised Land. As punishment, Jehovah condemned them to wander in the wilderness for forty years.
- D. During this time Moses continued to receive legal instruction for the Israelites.
- E. He also contended with the dangerous rebellion of Korah, fomented by over 250 Israelite leaders, but spectacularly judged by a divine fire and earthquake.

VI. Later Wanderings

- A. As the forty years crept by, Miriam – Moses' older sister – eventually died.
- B. At one point, irritated by the continual rebellion of the Israelites, Moses and Aaron disobeyed God's command by striking a stone.
- C. Both were condemned to die before entering the Promised Land.
- D. Later, after Aaron's death, Jehovah dealt with the Hebrew murmuring by sending a swarm of deadly snakes into the camp.
- E. Moses fashioned a brazen serpent in response, and all who looked on it were healed.
- F. The Israelites finally moved from the south to the east of Canaan, winning two spectacular wars with Sihon of Heshbon and Og of Bashan.

VII. The Plains of Moab

- A. Finally situated tantalizingly close to Canaan – separated only by the Jordan River – the Israelites risked everything when they began to commit fornication with the daughters of Moab.
 - The sin finally stopped, and war was waged against Moab's ally, the Midianite nation.
- B. Some of the Israelite tribes, satisfied with the prosperity of their current position, received permission from Moses to settle permanently on 'this side' of the Jordan; the other tribes waited expectantly to cross into Canaan.
- C. Moses, however, preparing for his end, gave authority to his younger assistant Joshua.
 - 1. He then delivered a series of orations to the Israelites, pleading with them to love and serve Jehovah.
 - 2. At the age of 120, after composing his 'Song of Moses' and blessing the Israelite tribes, Moses headed out, by himself, to ascend Mount Nebo on the border of Canaan.
- D. After surveying the Promised Land, Moses died on the mountain and was buried by the Lord in an unmarked grave in the land of Moab.
 - The lawgiver, judge, and prophet of Israel was memorialized by thirty days of weeping and mourning.



THE LIFE OF MOSES

THE MAN OF GOD!

I. Early Life in Egypt

- A. Born into a humble Levitical slave family in Egypt, Moses' life was immediately threatened when Pharaoh ordered all Hebrew male infants drowned in the Nile.
- B. Though his mother Jochebed hid him for three months, she was eventually forced to set him adrift in a basket.
- C. The infant was rescued when Pharaoh's daughter found and adopted him into the elite of Egyptian royalty.

