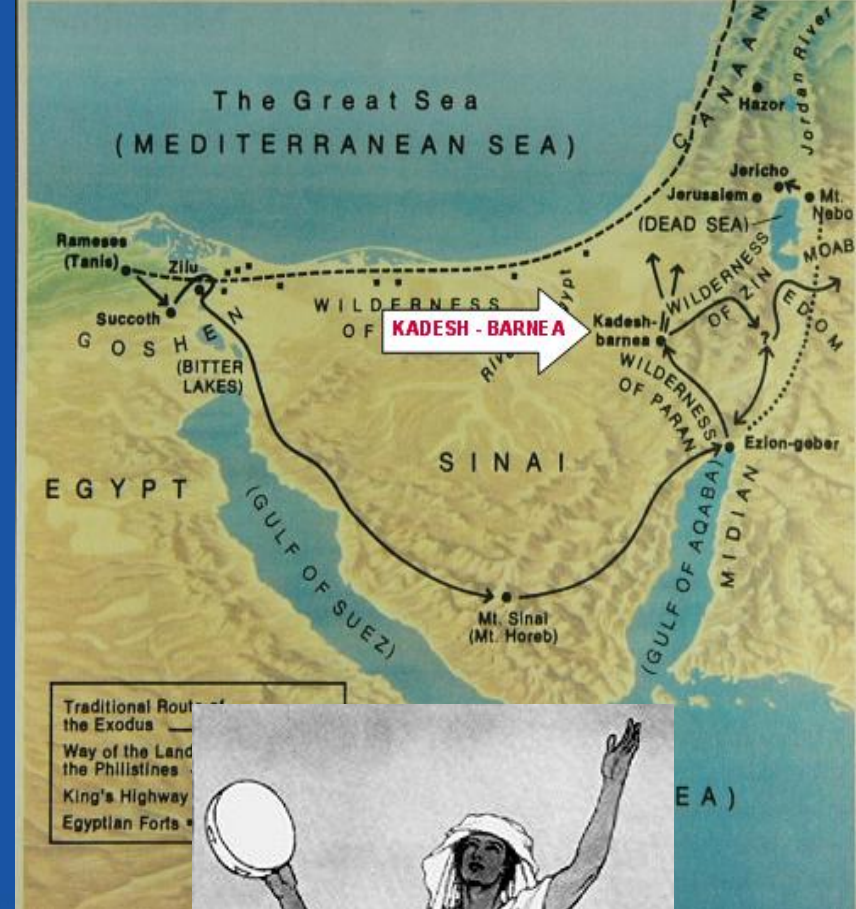


NUMBERS 20

- Israel now at Kadesh
- Miriam dies, with no comment made about her
- Other cultures' literature tends to focus on deaths and battles, but not the Bible
- Miriam (Moses' sister) focal female figure in the OT
- Miriam (Mary, Jesus' mother) focal female figure in the NT





MOSES STRIKES THE ROCK

- Israel grumbles to Moses about water
- They say that they long for the food back in Egypt
- At the Tabernacle, God tells Moses and Aaron to SPEAK to the rock to yield up water
- Instead, Moses spoke harshly to the people and then twice hit the rock with Aaron's staff, asking if the people expected Moses and Aaron to provide the water

GOD'S SANCTITY DISREGARDED



- Neither Moses nor Aaron will be permitted to enter into the Promised Land
- Why such a harsh decree?
- The Lord says Moses and Aaron showed distrust
- They took personal credit for the miracle
- ***Notsi'*** = shall WE draw forth
- ***Yotsi'*** = shall HE draw forth
- ***Kadash*** = separate, distinct, holy

SECOND ATTEMPT TO ENTER THE LAND

- *Meribah* = quarrelling
- Kadesh is same place Israelites were 38 years earlier
- They want to enter from the east, by crossing the Jordan
- Meant going through Edom



EDOM “MY BROTHER”

500 YEARS EARLIER

- Jacob = Israel
- Esau = Edom
- Israelites indeed brothers of the Edomites
- Edom had no walled cities
- Nomads, Bedouin-like
- King of Edom says NO!
- Edom makes a show of force and Israel turns away



MOUNT HOR

- A generic name
- Means “Mount Mountain”
- Aaron is to die on Mt. Hor
- “...gathered to his kin...”
- Israelites believed a deceased person lived on with their relatives
- Is NOT the same thing as “living with the Lord”



DOCTRINES IN THE CONTEXT OF SOCIETY

- Hebrews always on the edge of idolatry
- Humans think OUR views and doctrines are THE views and doctrines, all else are false
- American Church and the prosperity doctrine:
- Material prosperity is a hoped for/expected blessing from God
- Lack of the material often seen as result of lack of faith
- European and Eastern Church's prosperity doctrine:
- Material prosperity is to be avoided
- Is against Christ's teachings
- Materially well-off Christian is in error and is suspect

AMERICAN PROSPERITY DOCTRINE = MORE EASTERN PROSPERITY DOCTRINE = LESS

- These doctrines developed based on their respective societies
- Hebrews did the same thing
- The new Laws and Commands of God were incrementally ADDED to their existing societal system and theological beliefs
- Therefore, they believed that when Aaron died, he went to “be with his fathers”, which was the typical understanding of that era

AARON DIES ON MT. HOR



- Aaron could not enter the land due to his high-handed sin
- Eleazar, Aaron's son, is new High Priest of Israel
- No eulogy, no comment, just as with Miriam
- Aaron fortunate to live to see his son become High Priest
- Israel mourns 30 days for Aaron
- *El Shaddai* = God of the Mountain
- Aaron could not die at Tabernacle, since death would defile it

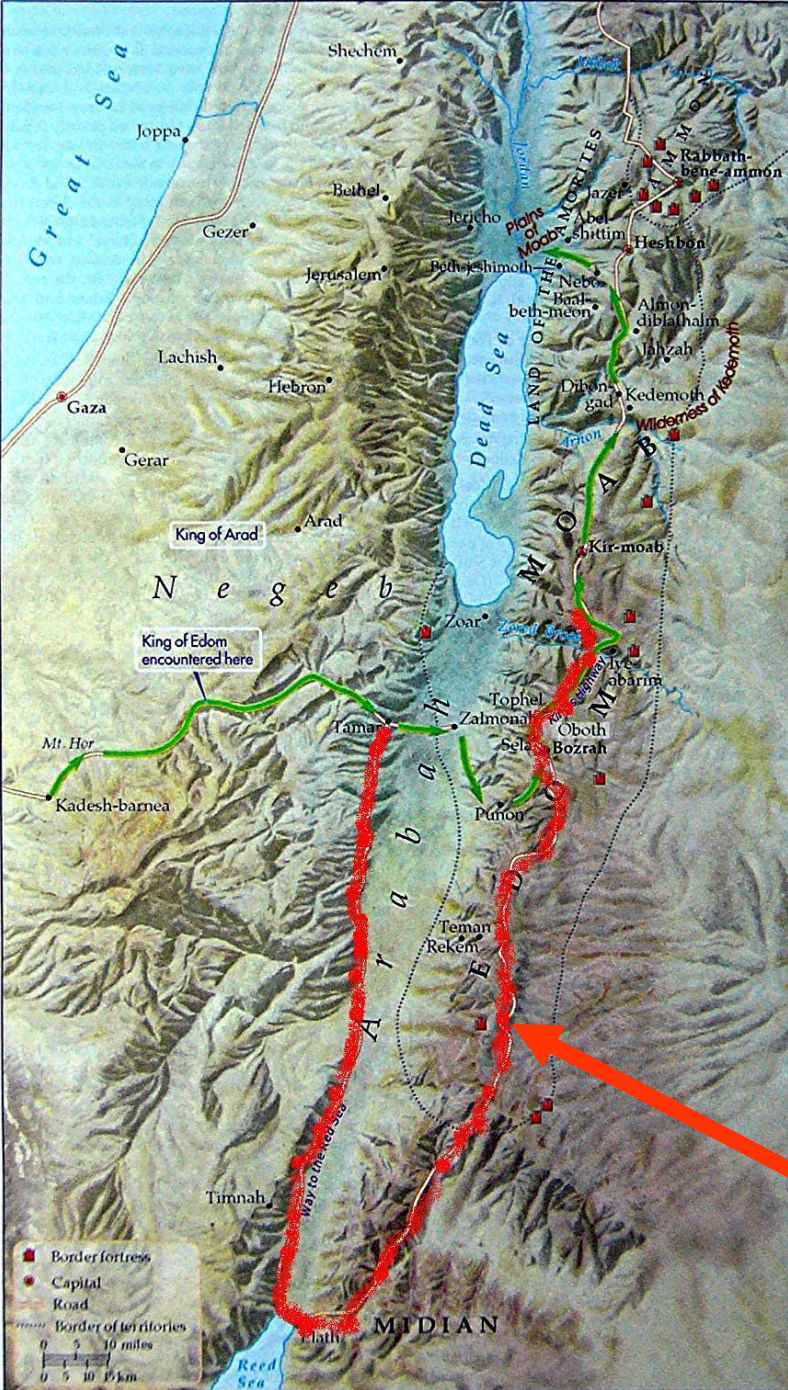
NUMBERS 21



- 3 Million people are impossible to hide!
- All the nations of Canaan were keeping track of Israel's movements
- King of Arad makes preemptive strike on Israel
- At first, Arad is winning
- Israel turns to God and makes a vow to give the spoils of war to Him

ISRAEL MAKES A VOW

- The vow is: If God will lead them to victory, ALL the spoils will be given to Him
- Herem = put under a ban
- This was an act of self-denial for Israel
- Militia was always compensated by being able to keep the things they looted from the enemy
- Each soldier had to arm and feed himself
- The vow was NOT to destroy, but to give to God all the booty
- Destruction was just part of the process



- Israel right at the border of Canaan
- Edom refused passage
- King of Arad attacked, but ultimately lost
- BUT.....Israel turned south and went completely around Edom before turning back north
- Why did they not just go north through Arad?
- They would have faced the Philistines
- Why not just go through Edom with Israel's superior forces?
- Edom was a brother and Israel did not want to annihilate them
- Detour took Israel WAY out of their way, terrible desert terrain, and the people complained