

Deuteronomy 10

Verses 1 - 5

“At that time the Lord said to me, ‘Cut out for yourself two tablets of stone like the first *two*, and come up to Me on the mountain, and make an ark of wood for yourself. ² Then I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you smashed to pieces, and you shall put them in the ark.’ ³ So I made an ark of acacia wood and cut out two tablets of stone like the first *two*, and I went up on the mountain with the two tablets in my hand. ⁴ Then He wrote on the tablets, like the first writing, the Ten Commandments which the Lord had spoken to you on the mountain from the midst of the fire on the day of the assembly; and the Lord gave them to me. ⁵ Then I turned and came down from the mountain, and I put the tablets in the ark which I had made; and they are there, just as the Lord commanded me.”

“At that time the Lord said to me, ‘Cut out for yourself two tablets of stone like the first *two*, and come up to Me on the mountain, and make an ark of wood for yourself.’

This was good news for Moses and Israel. God had accepted Moses plea to forgive Israel for their sin and their covenant with God would continue.

Since the tabernacle and its furniture had not been made at this point Moses prepared a temporary ark until the more elaborate ark was constructed.

See timeline 1005

Exodus	Event	Year 1 - 1446	Place
19:1	Camped in front of the mountain	4th month	The Desert of Sinai
20	The ten commandments		The Desert of Sinai
21-23	Laws and regulations		The Desert of Sinai
24	Covenant confirmed	40 days and nights	The Desert of Sinai
25-31	Tabernacle envisioned		The Desert of Sinai
32	Golden Calf	Month 5 or 6	The Desert of Sinai
34	New stone tablets	Month 6 or 7	The Desert of Sinai
36-39	Building the Tabernacle	5 to 6 months	The Desert of Sinai
40:1	Set up the Tabernacle	1-1-02	The Desert of Sinai

Then I turned and came down from the mountain, and I put the tablets in the ark which I had made; and they are there, just as the Lord commanded me.”

The following is a summary of the events that took place:

1. Moses made an ark of acacia wood and cut out two stone tablets before he went up to meet with God.
2. Then Moses went up the mountain with the two tablets and God wrote the 10 Commandments on them.
3. Moses came down from the mountain with the tablets and put them in the ark that he had left at the base of the mountain.

Verses 6 – 7

⁶(Now the sons of Israel set out from Beeroth Bene-jaakan to Moserah. There Aaron died and there he was buried, and his son Eleazar served as priest in his place. ⁷From there they set out to Gudgodah and from Gudgodah to Jotbathah, a land of streams of water.

The time frame just changed by 39 years

See timeline 1010

Exodus time line			
Exodus	Event	Year 1 - 1446	Place
19:1	Camped in front of the mountain	4th month	The Desert of Sinai
20	The ten commandments		The Desert of Sinai
32	Golden Calf	Month 5 or 6	The Desert of Sinai
34	New stone tablets	Month 6 or 7	The Desert of Sinai
36-39	Building the Tabernacle	5 to 6 months	The Desert of Sinai

Numbers time line			
Numbers	Event	Year 40 - 1407	Place
20:1	Miriam dies	1st month	At Kadesh
20:12	Moses & Aaron sin	1st month	At Kadesh
20:14	Do not Harass them	4th Month	Seir (Edom)
20:22	Aaron dies	5-1-40	Mount Hor
21:1-3	King of Arad attacks Israel	6th Month	Hormah

During the 40 years in the wilderness only 2½ years are covered.

All of year 1

The first 4 months of year 2

3 events during years 3 thru 39

And all of year 40

⁶(Now the sons of Israel set out from Beeroth Bene-jaakan to Moserah. There Aaron died and there he was buried

The problem here is the statement that Aaron died at Moserah whereas Numbers states that he died at Mount Hor.

See Numbers 20:27-28

²⁷ So Moses did just as the Lord had commanded, and they went up to Mount Hor in the sight of all the congregation. ²⁸ And after Moses stripped Aaron of his garments and put them on his son Eleazar, Aaron died there on the mountain top.

Several commentaries suggested that Moserah was close to Mt. Hor but that doesn't solve the time problem.

See timeline 1015

40 years of wondering		Numbers 33			
#	Scripture	Event	Place	In the Septuagint	Years 3 - 39
15	15 - 19		Rithmah	Rathama	1444 - 1408
25	15 - 19		Mithkah	Mathecca	1444 - 1408
26	15 - 19		Hashmonah	Selmona	1444 - 1408
27	15 - 19		Moseroth	Masuruth	1444 - 1408
28	15 - 19		Bene-jaakan	Banaea	1444 - 1408
29	15 - 19		Hor-haggidgad	The mountain Gadgad	1444 - 1408
30	15 - 19		Jotbathah	Etebatha	1444 - 1408
31	15 - 19		Abronah	Ebrona	1444 - 1408
32	15 - 19		Ezion-geber	Gesion Gaber	1444 - 1408
#	Scripture	Event	Place	In the Septuagint	Year 40 - 1407
33	20:01	Miriam dies	Kadesh	The wilderness of Sin	1st Month
34	20:22	Aaron dies	Mount Hor	Mount Or	5-1-40
35			Zalmonah	Selmona	
36	21:10		Punon	Phino	
37	21:10	Opposite Moab to the east	Oboth	Oboth	
38			Iye-abarim, (Iyim)	Gai	
39			Dibon-gad	Daebon Gad	
40		before Nebo	Almon-diblathaim	Gelmon Deblathaim	
41	22-36	by the Jordan opposite Jericho	The Mts of Abarim	The mountains of Abarim	months 6-9
42			The plains of Moab	The west of Moab	

Aaron dies in the 5th month of year 40.

See Numbers 33:38

Even if their stays at Moserah and Bene-jaakan took place in the latter part of 1408 that time frame would have been at least 5 months prior to his death on 5-1-40 (1407).

So what is the solution to this issue?

It would be nice to say there is a simple solution to this issue but that is not an option at this point in time, and it is better to admit that we don't know what the solution to a given problem is, than to volunteer solutions that don't stand the test of good biblical hermeneutics.

Verses 8 – 11

⁸ At that time the Lord singled out the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the covenant of the Lord, to stand before the Lord to serve Him and to bless in His name, until this day. ⁹ Therefore, Levi does not have a portion or inheritance with his brothers; the Lord is his inheritance, just as the Lord your God spoke to him.) ¹⁰ “I, moreover, stayed on the mountain for forty days and forty nights like the first time, and the Lord listened to me that time also; the Lord was not willing to destroy you. ¹¹ Then the Lord said to me, ‘Arise, proceed on your journey ahead of the people, so that they may go in and take possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.’

⁸ At that time the Lord singled out the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the covenant of the Lord, to stand before the Lord to serve Him and to bless in His name, until this day.

We can tell from this that Moses has returned to the previous time frame that he was at in verses 1 thru 5 of this chapter because God singled out the tribe of Levi in Exodus 32:25-29.

¹⁰ I stayed on the mountain for forty days and forty nights like the first time

The 1st time Moses spent 40 days on the mountain was in Exodus 24. The 2nd time was in chapter 34.

See chart 1020

Exodus time line

Exodus	Event	Year 1 - 1446	Place
16:1	Manna and quail	3-15-01	The Desert of Sin
17:1	no water, Amalekites defeated		Rephidim
18	Judges appointed		Near the Mountain of God
19:1	Camped in front of the mountain	4th month	The Desert of Sinai
20	The ten commandments		The Desert of Sinai
21-23	Laws and regulations		The Desert of Sinai
24	Covenant confirmed	40 days and nights	The Desert of Sinai
25-31	Tabernacle envisioned		The Desert of Sinai
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Then the Lord said to me, ‘Arise, proceed on your journey ahead of the people, so that they may go in and take possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.’

If Moses had not interceded for the people and convinced God not to destroy them for worshipping the golden calf this story would have ended badly. But things were back on track after a near disaster.

Verses 12 - 17

¹² “And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³ *and* to keep the Lord’s commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good? ¹⁴ Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that is in it. ¹⁵ Yet the Lord set His affection on your fathers, to love them, and He chose their descendants after them, you over all the *other* peoples, as *it is* this day. ¹⁶ So circumcise your heart, and do not stiffen your neck any longer. ¹⁷ For the Lord your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who does not show partiality, nor take a bribe.

What does the Lord your God require of you

To fear the Lord your God

To walk in all His ways and love Him

To serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul

To keep the Lord's commandments and His statutes

Moses sums up the requirements of the law:

Reverence, obedience, and service to God

So circumcise your heart, and do not stiffen your neck any longer

Circumcision of the heart requires a new spirit.

See Romans 2:28-29

Verses 18 – 22

¹⁸ He executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and shows His love for the stranger by giving him food and clothing. ¹⁹ So show your love for the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. ²⁰ You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him, and cling to Him, and you shall swear by His name. ²¹ He is your glory and He is your God, who has done these great and awesome things for you which your eyes have seen. ²² Your fathers went down to Egypt seventy persons *in all*, and now the Lord your God has made you as numerous as the stars of heaven.

¹⁸ He executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and shows His love for the stranger by giving him food and clothing.

The word for strangers here means foreigners.

How were the Jews supposed to treat foreigners?

Show them love by giving them food and clothing.

¹⁹ So show your love for the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

The Jews were supposed to show love to a stranger because they knew how it felt to be treated poorly in a foreign land.

Treat others like you want to be treated.

And if that goes against our strongly held political beliefs, which belief should win out?

Hopefully the answer to that question is God's will.

Your fathers went down to Egypt seventy persons *in all*, and now the Lord your God has made you as numerous as the stars of heaven.

See timeline 1030

Genesis 47:9	1706	Jacob is 130	70 go to Egypt
		Joseph is 39	
Exodus 1:6-11	1635	Joseph is 110	Joseph dies
	1606	30 years later	slavery begins
Exodus 12	1446	Moses is 80	The Exodus
Deut. 10	1407	Moses is 120	His speech to the people

This covers a period of 300 years

They had reached the same population size 40 years earlier but the older generation died prematurely in the wilderness because of their rebellion.