

## Exodus 17

Verse 1

**The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.**

**Traveling from place to place as the Lord commanded**

Their next two stops after leaving the Desert of Sin would be Dophkah and Alush

However, these stops are not mentioned here

See Numbers 33:12-14

**They camped at Rephidim, and there was no water for the people to drink.**

Rephidim means resting place

See map 1705



Verses 2-3

**<sup>2</sup>Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water that we may drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water; and they grumbled against Moses and said, “Why, now, have you brought us up from Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?”**

### **Give us water that we may drink**

Was this a request for water or were they demanding it?

This is the second time that the lack of water had become an issue

The first time was at Marah in Exodus 15

### **Why do you quarrel with me?**

God was leading them with the pillar of cloud and He decided where they would rest

So if God is making all the decisions why are they quarreling with Moses?

They should have realized that God was testing them

### **Why, now, have you brought us up from Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?”**

This was another example of their exaggeration.

Verses 4-6

**So Moses cried out to the Lord, saying, “What shall I do to this people? A little more and they will stone me.” <sup>5</sup>Then the Lord said to Moses, “Pass before the people and take with you some of the elders of Israel; and take in your hand your staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>Behold, I will stand before you thereon the rock at Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink.” And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.**

**Pass before the people and take with you some of the elders of Israel**

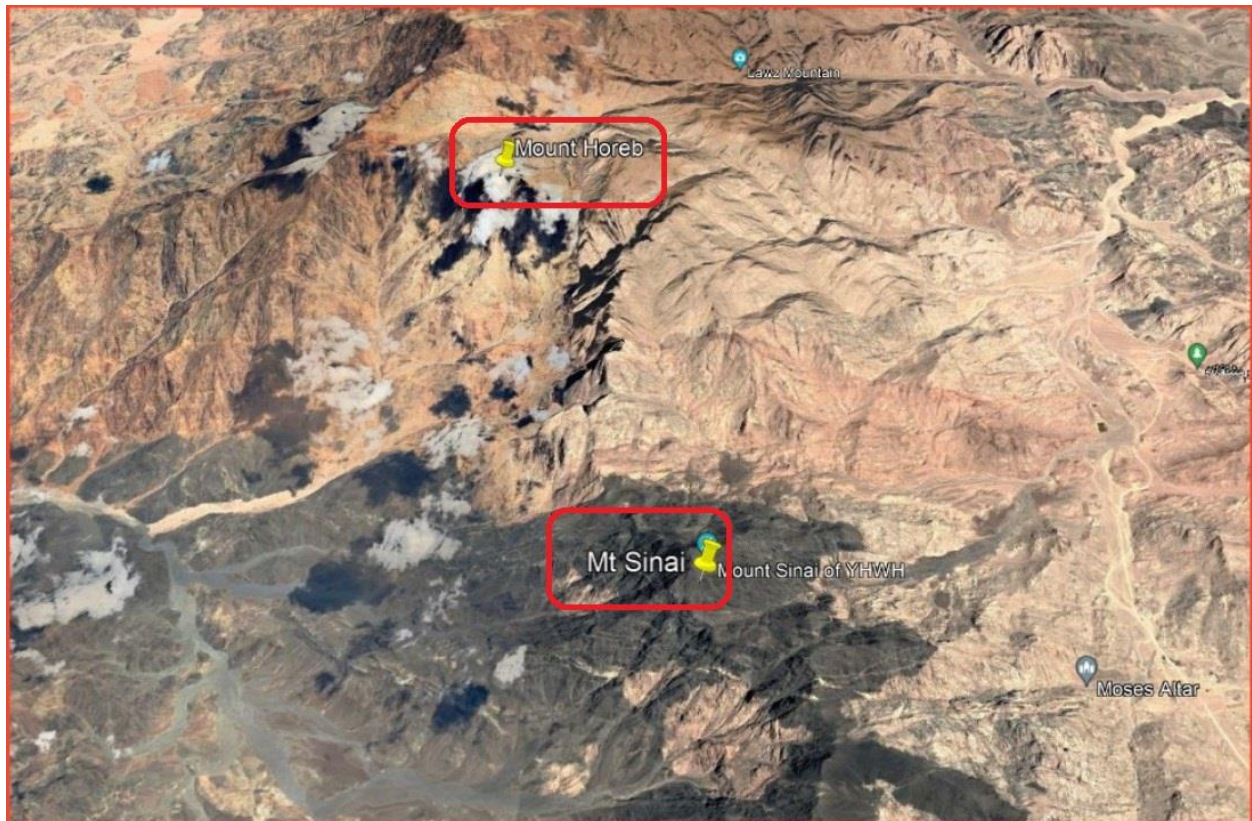
God wanted the people to see that the elders had a role in meeting their needs

This way the people would learn that they could go to the elders to be heard

This would shift some of the burden from Moses onto the elders

**I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb**

See Pic 1710

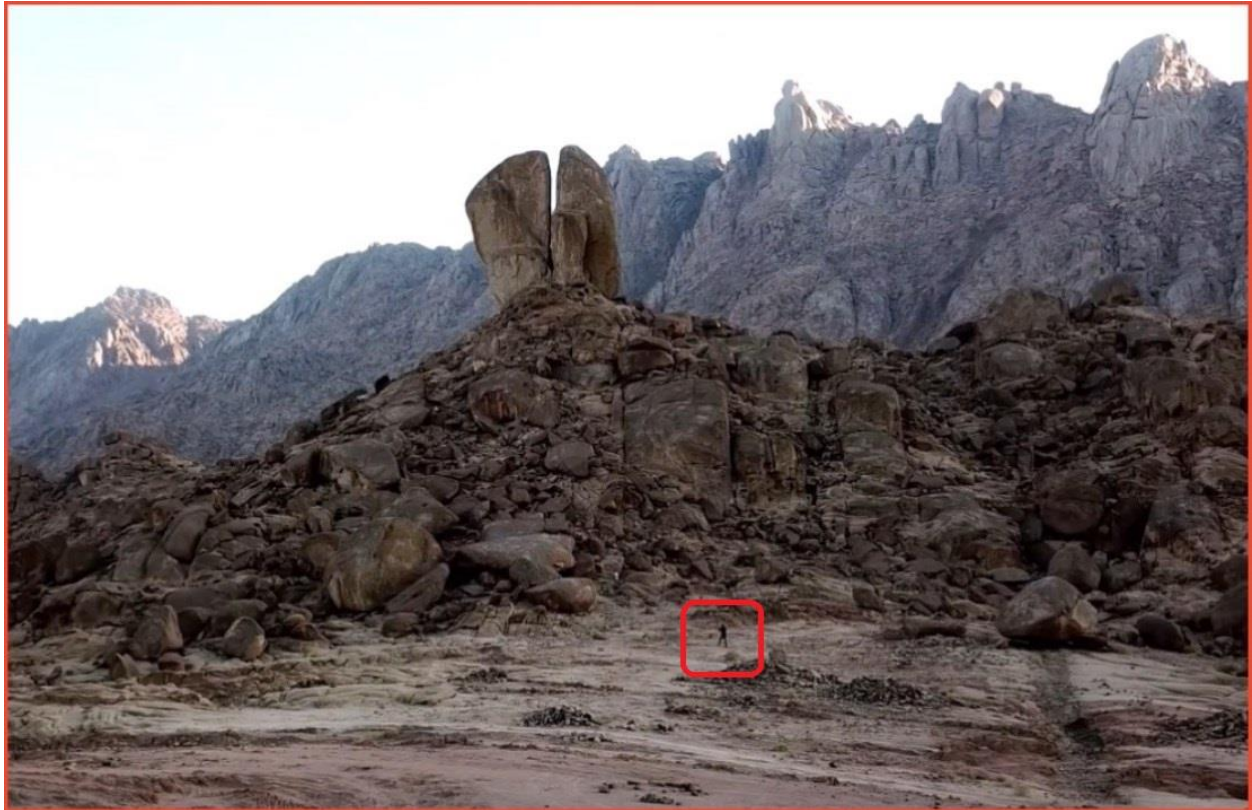


Horeb and Sinai are used interchangeably in scripture because they are within the same mountain range (4 to 5 miles apart) but they are separate peaks

We know this is true because God will shortly lead the people from Rephidim where the rock at Horeb was located to Mount Sinai where the law will be given.

**And you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it**

See pic 1715



This rock is believed to be the one referred to in this passage

Notice the size of this rock by comparing the man at the bottom of the hill

See Video 1720 The rock at Rephidim

<http://www.levickfamily.com/8.14.html>

Previously, we talked about how events in the Old Testament were a physical representation of a spiritual reality in the New Testament

The 1<sup>st</sup> one was in chapter 12.....the blood of the lamb

The 2<sup>nd</sup> one was in chapter 16.....the bread of life

The 3<sup>rd</sup> one is here in Exodus 17:6.....the water of life

Exodus 17:6

**<sup>6</sup> Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.**

Here God gives the people water from a rock so they can drink, but in the New Testament God gave us Christ, the one who gives us a fountain of spiritual water

John 4:13-14

**<sup>13</sup> Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again; <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never be thirsty; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up to eternal life.”**

The physical comes first and then the spiritual

See 1 Cor. 15:42-49

Verse 7

**He named the place Massah and Meribah because of the quarrel of the sons of Israel, and because they tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us, or not?”**

Massah means to test or prove

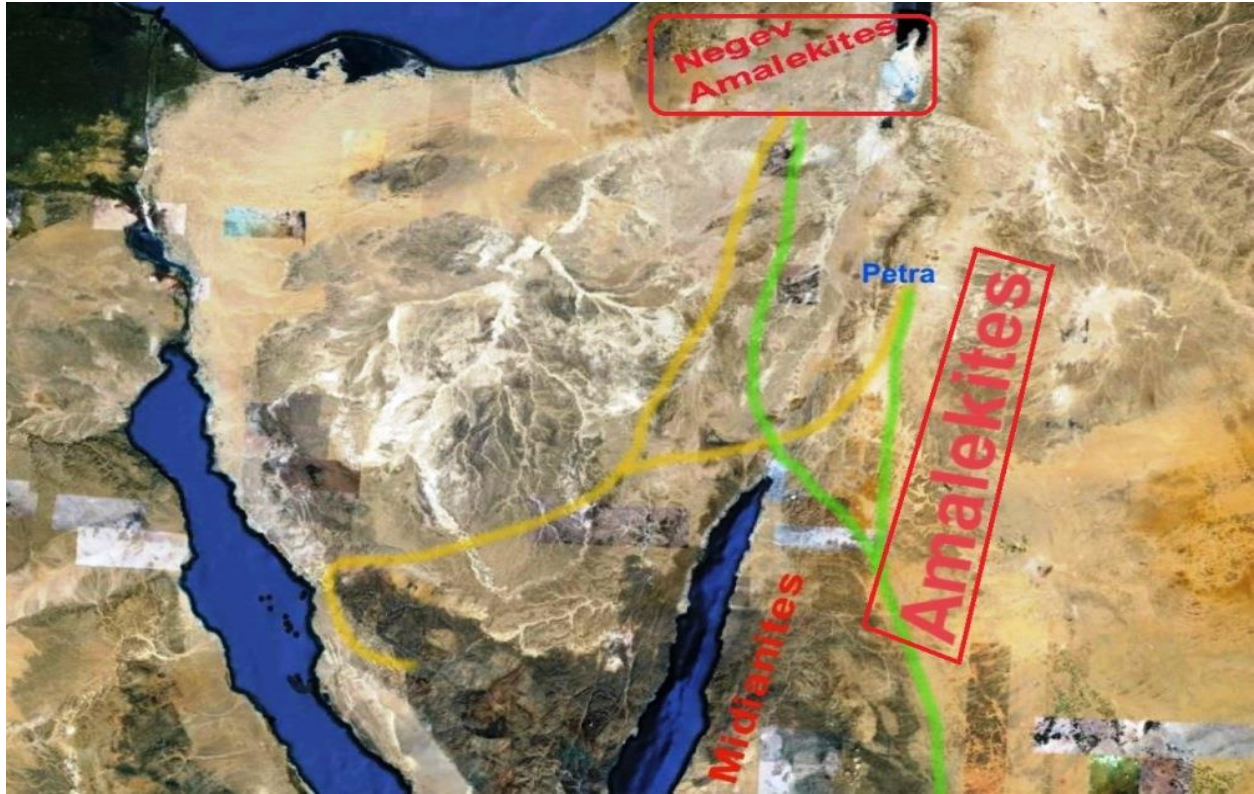
Meribah means quarreling or dissension

Verses 8-10

**<sup>8</sup> Then Amalek came and fought against Israel at Rephidim. <sup>9</sup> So Moses said to Joshua, “Choose men for us and go out, fight against Amalek. Tomorrow I will station myself on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.” <sup>10</sup> Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought against Amalek; and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.**

**Then Amalek came and fought against Israel at Rephidim**

See Map 1725 below

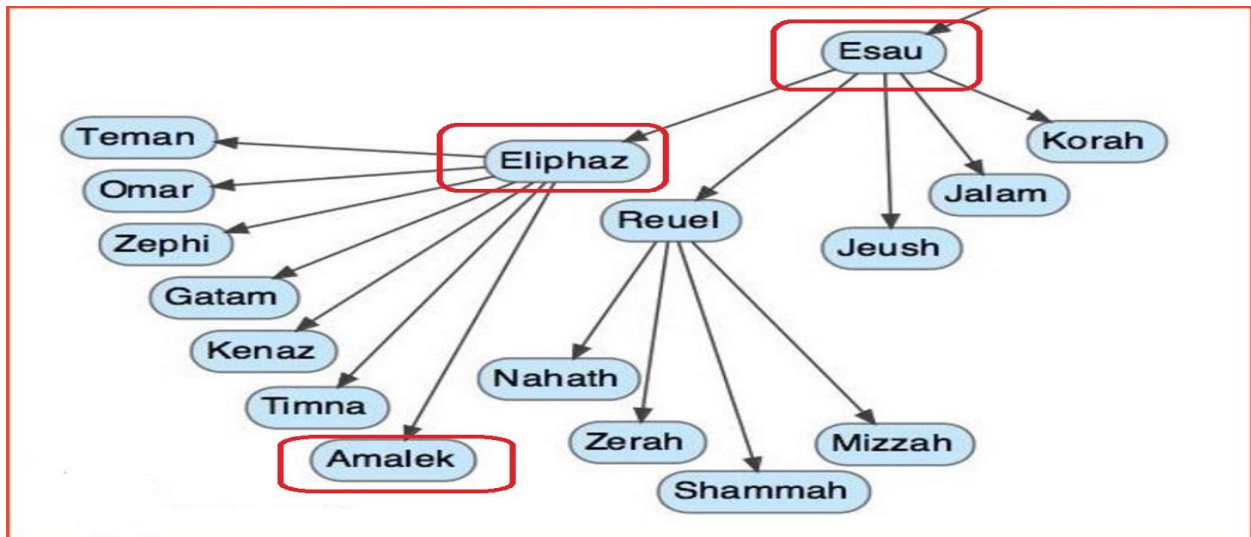


There were Amalekites in southern Canaan and near Midian in Arabia

Israel had just crossed over into Arabia and the Amalekites in that area attacked them

Amalek was the son of Eliphaz and the grandson of Esau (Genesis 36:12)

See pic 1730



The Amalekites were a kindred race to Israel but instead of showing some pity, they attacked the weak and weary

See Deuteronomy 25:17-18

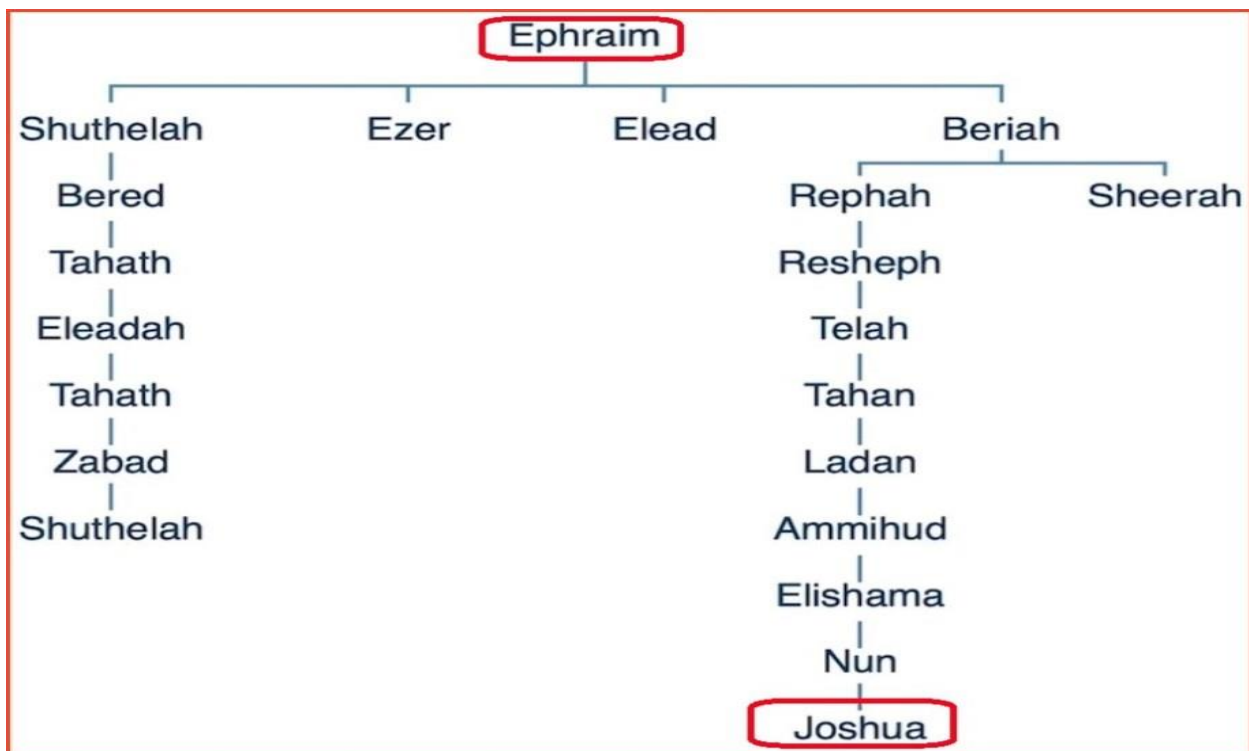
**So Moses said to Joshua, “Choose men for us and go out, fight against Amalek**

Joshua was from the tribe of Ephraim

He was the son of Nun, "and the tenth generation from Ephraim

See 1 Chronicles 7:23-27

See Chart 1735



This is the first appearance of Joshua in the biblical narrative

Joshua did **not** have a father because he was the son of Nun. 😊😊

Come on.....Didn't that bring a smile for at least a second

**Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.**

Josephus states that Hur was the husband of Miriam

If that is true, it was a family gathering on the top of the hill

We do know that Hur was the grandfather of Bezaleel, the craftsman of the tabernacle

See Exodus 31:2-5

The picture below may be the hill mentioned in verse 10

See pic 1740



Verses 11-12

**<sup>11</sup> So it came about when Moses held his hand up, that Israel prevailed, and when he let his hand down, Amalek prevailed. <sup>12</sup> But Moses' hands were heavy. Then they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it; and Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other. Thus his hands were steady until the sun set.**



## **When Moses held his hand up, Israel prevailed, and when he let his hand down, Amalek prevailed**

Moses had told Joshua that he would station himself on the top of the hill with the staff of God in his hand

The same staff that has been used to perform miracles and bring the plagues that destroyed the nation of Egypt

But holding the staff up all day would be impossible so Aaron and Hur found a stone for Moses to sit on and each of them supported one of his hands

The staff had a definite effect, good and bad, on the progress of the fight

Verses 13-16

**<sup>13</sup> So Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.**

**<sup>14</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write this in a book as a memorial and recite it to Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven."**

**<sup>15</sup> Moses built an altar and named it The Lord is My Banner; <sup>16</sup> and he said, "The Lord has sworn; the Lord will have war against Amalek from generation to generation."**

### **So Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword**

Did these slaves bring swords with them from Egypt?

Would the Egyptian slave masters have allowed the slaves to have swords?

Were the places they came to, Marah, Elim, Dophkah, Alush or Rephidim, places with tribes or were they simply uninhabited places that were suitable to rest at?

We know they had the gold and silver to pay for the swords but we have no record of any interaction with any people from these places

It is possible they bought some swords from the people of Midian since they were close to them during their travels from Marah to Rephidim

Moses had spent 40 years there and was related to Jethro who was the tribal leader.

It's fun to speculate on matters like this but we should always remember it is only speculation.

### **Write this in a book as a memorial and recite it to Joshua**

There is some debate as to whether this should be translated a book or the book

Some scholars believe that Moses had already started writing the Pentateuch while others argue that Moses didn't write the Pentateuch until the end of the wilderness wanderings 40 years later

However, there is another possibility that is also likely.

It is possible that this battle was written down in a book that only recorded this event and then this account was also added to the Pentateuch when Moses wrote it.

### **Moses built an altar and named it The Lord is My Banner**

There is some debate over the actual name of the altar

Most Modern translations render it, The Lord is my banner

The Septuagint rendered it, The Lord is My Refuge

And Josephus translated it, The Lord the Conqueror

### **I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven**

This sounds quite definitive, but Moses gives an explanation of what God meant by this in verse 16

**The Lord has sworn; the Lord will have war against Amalek from generation to generation."**

This will not be one battle where the Amalekites are totally wipe out, but rather will be a series of judgments that will take place over time.