

Numbers 20

Verse 1

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.

Then the sons of Israel, the whole congregation, came to the wilderness of Zin in the first month; and the people stayed at Kadesh.

Here is the map that was used in chapter 13 to show the approximate area of the wilderness of Paran. It is outlined in red. The wilderness of Zin is on the northeast border. It is outlined in orange.

See map 2005

Wilderness of Paran and wilderness of Zin

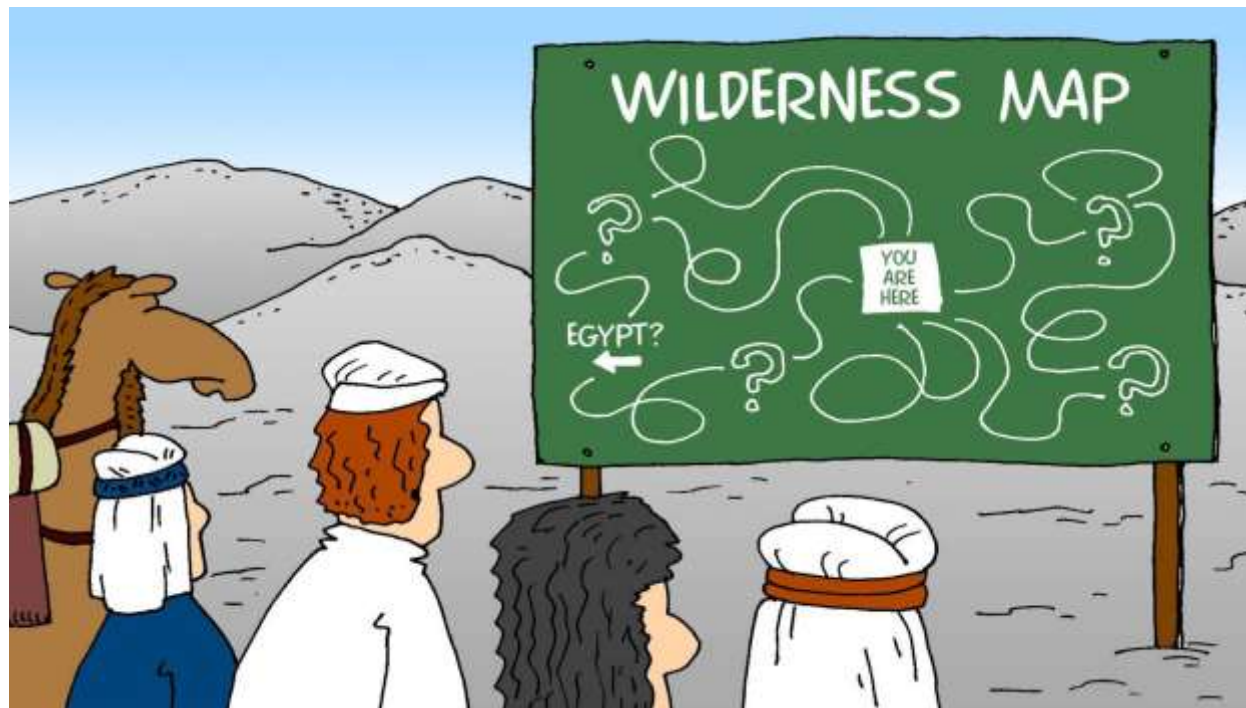


Kadesh is on the border of the wilderness of Zin and the wilderness of Paran.

This explains why in chapter 13 it says the wilderness of Paran and here in chapter 20 it says the wilderness of Zin.

The people were in Kadesh when they refused to enter Canaan. Now, after 37 years of wandering in the wilderness they are back at Kadesh.

See Map 2010 below



We know this picture summarizes a harsh reality but it is still humorous. 😊

It says here that it was the first month. We also know it was year 40 in the wilderness.

See chart 2015

The 40th year in the wilderness				
Campsite #	Place	Scripture	Event	Year 40 - 1407
33	Kadesh	20:01	Miriam dies	1st Month
34	Mount Hor	20:22	Aaron dies	5-1-40
35	Zalmonah			
36	Punon			
37	Oboth	21:10		
38	Iye-abarim, (Iyim)	21:10	Opposite Moab to the east	
39	Dibon-gad			
40	Almon-diblathaim			
41	The Mts of Abarim		before Nebo	
42	The plains of Moab	22-36	by the Jordan opposite Jericho	months 6-9

Now Miriam died there and was buried there.

The only two people of the older generation to make into the Promised Land will be Joshua & Caleb.

In this chapter Miriam dies and is buried.

Aaron will die in 4 months. (Later in this chapter)

And Moses will die 6 months after Aaron in the 11th month. (Deut. 34)

Verses 2 – 8

² There was no water for the congregation, and they assembled against Moses and Aaron. ³ Then the people argued with Moses and spoke, saying, “If only we had perished when our brothers perished before the Lord! ⁴ Why then have you brought the Lord’s assembly into this wilderness, for us and our livestock to die here? ⁵ Why did you make us come up from Egypt, to bring us into this wretched place? It is not a place of grain or figs or vines or pomegranates, nor is there water to drink!” ⁶ Then Moses and Aaron came in from the presence of the assembly to the entrance of the tent of meeting and fell on their faces. And the glory of the Lord appeared to them; ⁷ then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ⁸ “Take the staff; and you and your brother Aaron assemble the congregation and speak to the rock before their eyes, that it shall yield its water. So you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and have the congregation and their livestock drink.”

² There was no water for the congregation, and they assembled against Moses and Aaron. ³ Then the people argued with Moses and spoke, saying, “If only we had perished when our brothers perished before the Lord!

The generation that had rejected God is almost entirely gone, so this is the 20 and under group that will enter the Promised Land.

They are now 40 to 60 years old and in a leadership role within the community.

Does this generation sound much better than the previous one?

Not at this moment in time, but we know they possess more faith than their parents.

We know this because they will choose to enter the Promised Land

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ⁸ “Take the staff; and you and your brother Aaron assemble the congregation and speak to the rock before their eyes, that it shall yield its water. So you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and have the congregation and their livestock drink.”

What was Moses supposed to do? Speak to the rock

Verses 9 – 13

⁹ So Moses took the staff from before the Lord, just as He had commanded him; ¹⁰ and Moses and Aaron summoned the assembly in front of the rock. And he said to them, “Listen now, you rebels; shall we bring water for you out of this rock?” ¹¹ Then Moses raised his hand and struck the rock twice with his staff; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their livestock drank. ¹² But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “Since you did not trust in Me, to treat Me as holy in the sight of the sons of Israel, for that reason you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.” ¹³ Those *were called* the waters of Meribah, because the sons of Israel argued with the Lord, and He proved Himself holy among them.

Listen now, you rebels; shall we bring water for you out of this rock?” ¹¹ Then Moses raised his hand and struck the rock twice with his staff; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their livestock drank

Moses is angry and petulant at this point and it comes out in his speech and actions.

1. He rebuked the people?

Listen now, you rebels

2. He took credit for the miracle

Shall we bring water for you out of this rock?

3. He struck the rock twice

God told him to “**Speak to the rock**” before their eyes

What had happened to the most humble guy on the face of the earth?

See Numbers 12:3

Since you did not trust in me, to treat me as holy in the sight of the sons of Israel, for that reason you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.

Moses had been very loyal to God and very patient with the people of Israel over these 40 years but this sin was dealt with quickly and sternly.

Those *were called* the waters of Meribah, because the sons of Israel argued with the Lord, and He proved Himself holy among them.

This same name appears in Exodus 17:7

⁷ Then 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?”

However, that event took place 38 years ago at Rephidim.

See map 2020



It is interesting how they rename places based on events that take place at that location. Star Trek had an episode based on this concept.

Verses 14 – 21

14 From Kadesh Moses then sent messengers to the king of Edom to say, “This is what your brother Israel has said: ‘You know all the hardship that has overtaken us; 15 that our fathers went down to Egypt, and we stayed in Egypt a long time, and the Egyptians treated us and our fathers badly. 16 But when we cried out to the Lord, He heard our voice and sent an angel, and brought us out from Egypt; now behold, we are at Kadesh, a town on the edge of your territory. 17 Please let us pass through your land. We will not pass through field or vineyard; we will not even drink water from a well. We will go along the king’s road, not turning to the right or left, until we pass through your territory.’”

From Kadesh Moses then sent messengers to the king of Edom to say, “This is what your brother Israel has said:

39 years earlier, just after the Exodus from Egypt, the government of Edom was still in the hands of various chiefs. See Exodus 15:15

Now they are ruled by a king.

Moses appealed to Edom as Israel’s brother. Isaac had twin boys, Esau and Jacob and Esau became the father of the Edomite’s.

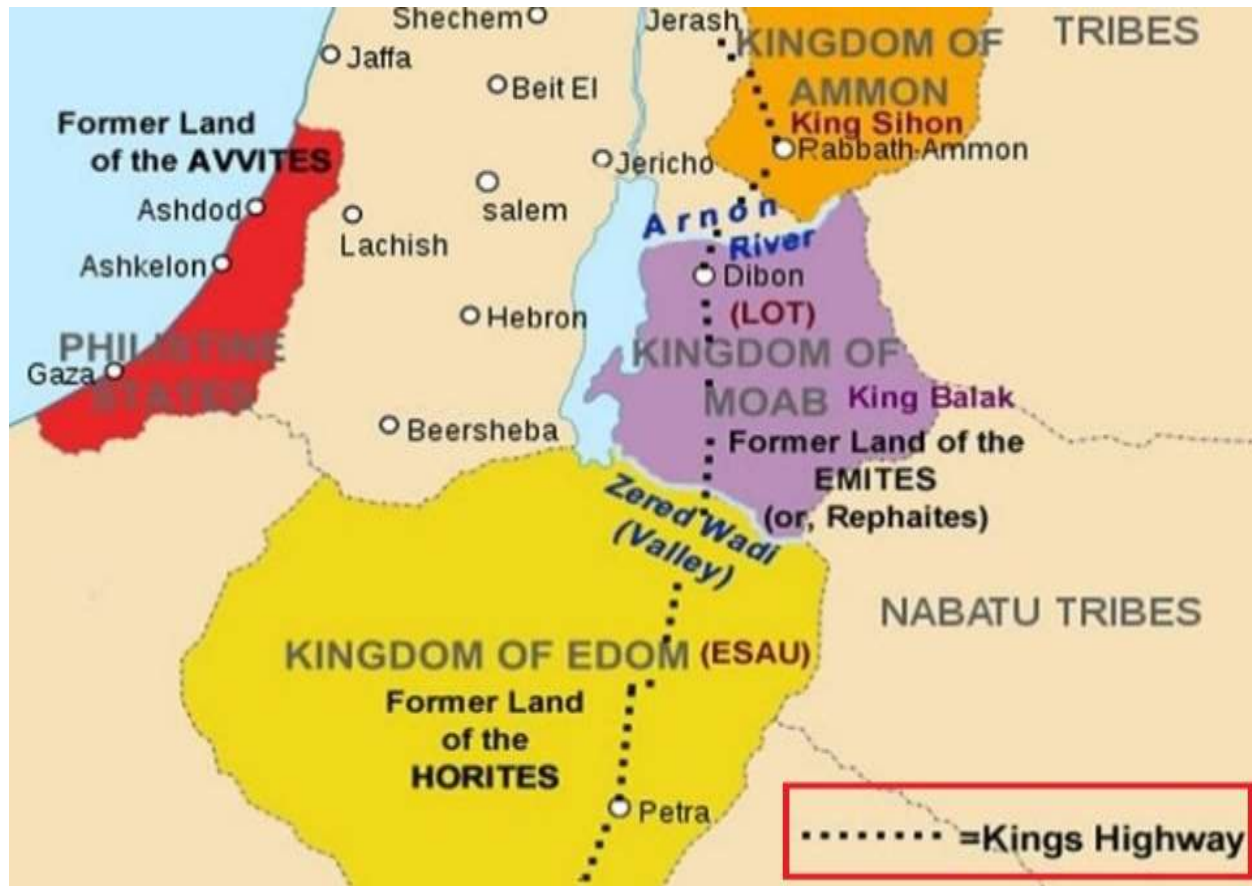
Please let us pass through your land

See map 2025



We will go along the king's highway, not turning to the right or left, until we pass through your territory

See Pic 2030



Moses tried to assure Edom that Israel just wanted to pass thru their land.

The King's Highway (marked as a black dotted line) was a well establish road and would provide a well-defined boundary for Israel to stay in.

Verses 18 – 21

¹⁸ Edom, however, said to him, “You shall not pass through us, or I will come out with the sword against you.” ¹⁹ Again, the sons of Israel said to him, “We will go up by the road, and if I and my livestock do drink any of your water, then I will pay its price. Let me only pass through on my feet, nothing *more*.” ²⁰ But he said, “You shall not pass through.” And Edom came out against him with a heavy force and a strong hand. ²¹ So Edom refused to allow Israel to pass through his territory; then Israel turned away from him.

This area has become a great tourist attraction because there is a city in the mountains that was hewed out of stone.

See video 2040 Petra 1

<https://www.levickfamily.com/8.22.html>

See video 2045 Petra 2

<https://www.levickfamily.com/8.23.html>

When you consider the scope of this project does it not rival what the Egyptians did in making some of the pyramids? Considering mankind's short history (about 7200 years) it is amazing what has been accomplished.

Here is a pic of the Treasury that was made famous in the movie Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade.

See pic 2050

The Treasury



Verses 22 - 29

²² Now when they set out from Kadesh, the sons of Israel, the whole congregation, came to Mount Hor. ²³ Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron at Mount Hor by the border of the land of Edom, saying, ²⁴ “Aaron will be gathered to his people; for he shall not enter the land which I have given to the sons of Israel, because you rebelled against My command at the waters of Meribah. ²⁵ Take Aaron and his son Eleazar, and bring them up to Mount Hor. ²⁶ Then strip Aaron of his garments and put them on his son Eleazar. So Aaron will be gathered to *his people* and will die there.” 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. Then Moses and Eleazar came down from the mountain. ²⁹ When all the congregation saw that Aaron had died, the whole house of Israel wept for Aaron for thirty days.

Now when they set out from Kadesh, the whole congregation, came to Mount Hor by the border of the land of Edom

Mount Hor is south of Edom

See Pic 2055



Mount Hor reaches a height of 4235 feet.

See pic 2060



The Arabs have a mosque at the top of Mount Hor. Allegedly over the grave of Aaron

See Pics 2065



This pic is from google earth.

See pic 2065



²⁵ Take Aaron and his son Eleazar, and bring them up to Mount Hor.

See Deut. 10:6

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.

Both sites, Kadesh and Mount Hor, must of had two names.

²⁶ Then strip Aaron of his garments and put them on his son Eleazar. So Aaron will be gathered to his people and will die there.

Aaron died at the age of 123

See Numbers 33:38 - 39

This is how we know that Aaron was 3 years older than his brother Moses.