

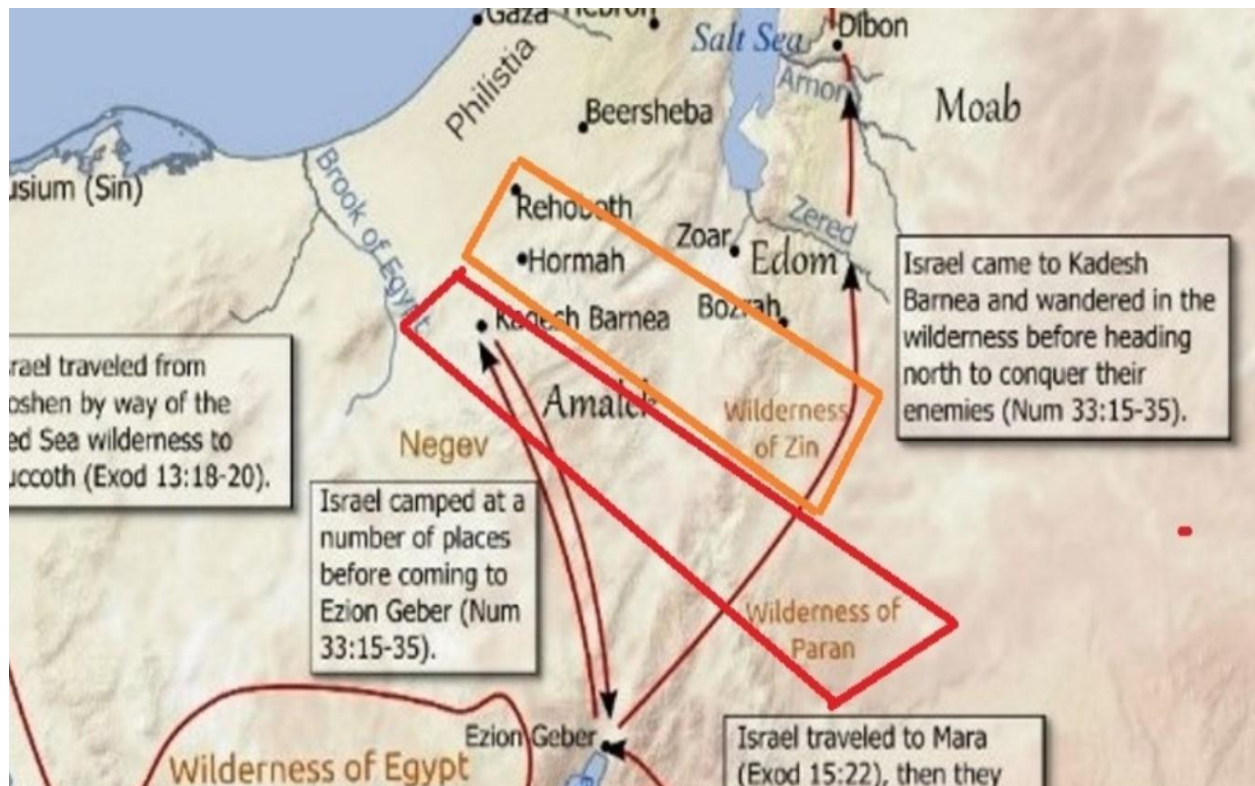
## Numbers 20

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.**

The wilderness of Paran is outlined in red and the wilderness of Zin just to the north is outlined in orange.

See map 2005 Wilderness of Paran and wilderness of Zin



Kadesh is located on the border of these two desert areas which explains why it says the wilderness of Paran in chapter 13 verse 25 but here it is called the wilderness of Zin.

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

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

See chart 2015

### 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	months 6-10	Hormah
21:12	Sothern border of Moab	months 6-10	Zered Valley
21:13	Northern border of Moab	months 6-10	Arnon
Deut 2:19	Do not Harass them	months 6-10	Ammon (Lot)
21:21	Sihon king of the Amorites	months 6-10	Gilead
21:33	Og king of Bashan	months 6-10	Bashan
22:1	Israel occupies this area	months 6-10	Plains of Moab
22-25	Balaam	months 6-10	Plains of Moab
26	2nd Census	months 6-10	Plains of Moab
31	Vengeance on Midian	months 6-10	Plains of Moab
32	2 1/2 tribes given land	months 6-10	Plains of Moab

In this chapter Miriam dies and is buried. Aaron will die in 4 months (Later in this chapter) and Moses will die in the 11<sup>th</sup> month (Deut. 34). The only two people of the older generation to make into the Promised Land will be Joshua & Caleb.

Verses 2 – 8

<sup>2</sup> There was no water for the congregation, and they assembled against Moses and Aaron. <sup>3</sup> Then the people argued with Moses and spoke, saying, “If only we had perished when our brothers perished before the Lord! <sup>4</sup> Why then have you brought the Lord’s assembly into this wilderness, for us and our livestock to die here? <sup>5</sup> 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!” <sup>6</sup> 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; <sup>7</sup> then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>8</sup> “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.”

**<sup>2</sup> There was no water for the congregation, and they assembled against Moses and Aaron. <sup>3</sup> 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 younger generation (19 and under) that God said would enter the Promised Land. However, it has been 38 years since that time and they are now 38 to 57 years old and some of them are in a leadership role within the community.

Does this generation sound much better than the previous one? Not at this moment, but we know they possess more faith than their parents. We know this because they will choose to enter the Promised Land

**<sup>4</sup> Why then have you brought the Lord’s assembly into this wilderness, for us and our livestock to die here? <sup>5</sup> 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!”**

They sound a lot like their parents but God does not seem bothered by their grumbling.

**<sup>7</sup> Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>8</sup> “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

**<sup>9</sup> So Moses took the staff from before the Lord, just as He had commanded him; <sup>10</sup> 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?” <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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.” <sup>13</sup> Those *were called* the waters of Meribah, because the sons of Israel argued with the Lord, and He proved Himself holy among them.**

<sup>10</sup> 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?”

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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”.

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

<sup>12</sup> 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.

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. When a leader becomes petulant with those he is leading it's probably time to step aside and let another person take the lead.

<sup>13</sup> 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 appeared in Exodus 17:7

<sup>7</sup> 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





Verses 14 – 21

<sup>14</sup> 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; <sup>15</sup> that our fathers went down to Egypt, and we stayed in Egypt a long time, and the Egyptians treated us and our fathers badly. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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.’”

<sup>14</sup> 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;

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

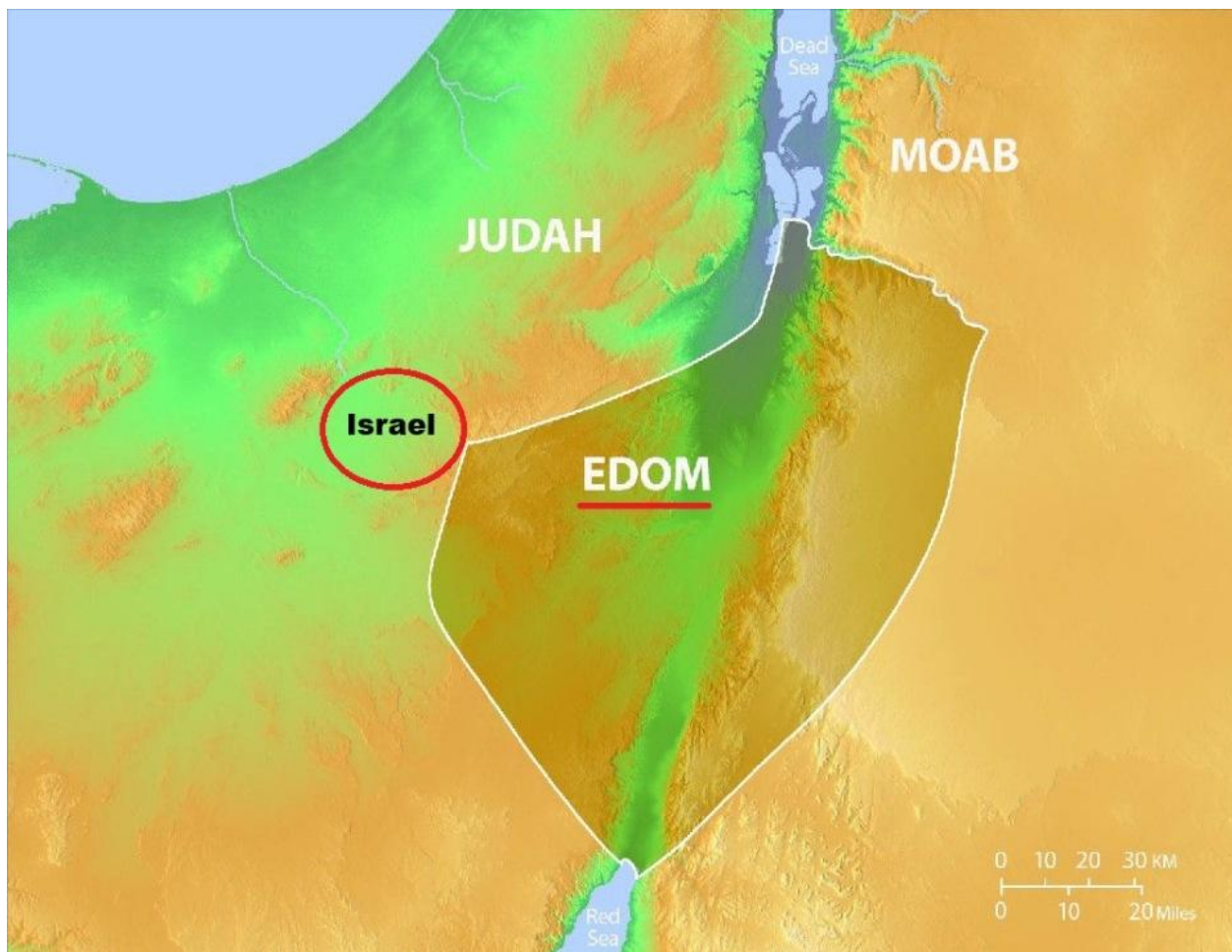
**Then the chiefs of Edom were terrified;  
The leaders of Moab, trembling grips them;  
All the inhabitants of Canaan have despaired.**

Now Edom is 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. However that was over 400 years ago (1836 – 1407) and the two countries had not had any contact with one another since that time.

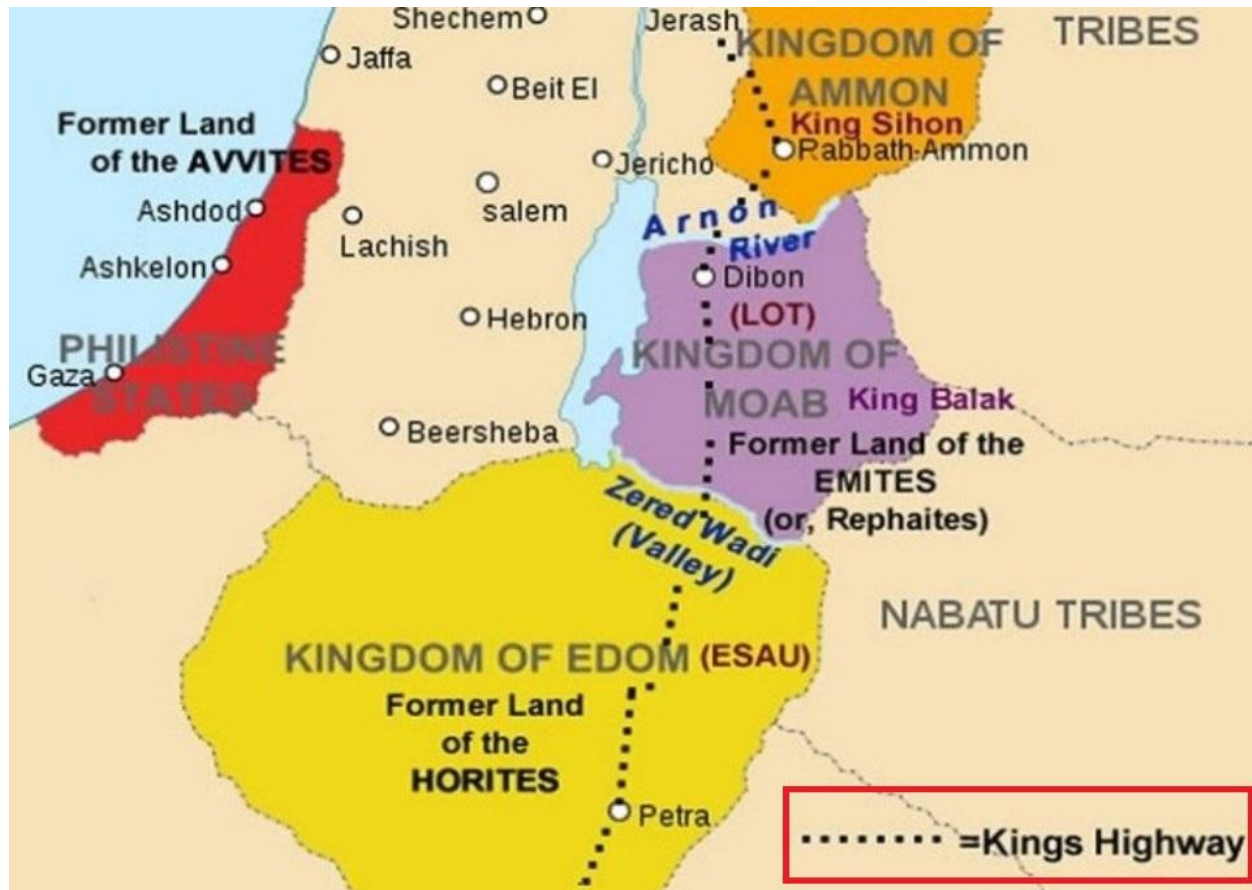
<sup>16</sup> **But when we cried out to the Lord, He heard our voice and sent an angel, and brought us out from Egypt; now behold, we are at Kadesh, a town on the edge of your territory.**

See map 2025



<sup>17</sup> 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.”

See Pic 2030



The King's Highway was a well establish road and would provide a well-defined boundary for Israel to stay in.

Verses 18 – 21

<sup>18</sup> Edom, however, said to him, “You shall not pass through us, or I will come out with the sword against you.” <sup>19</sup> 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*.” <sup>20</sup> But he said, “You shall not pass through.” And Edom came out against him with a heavy force and a strong hand. <sup>21</sup> So Edom refused to allow Israel to pass through his territory; then Israel turned away from him.



**<sup>18</sup> Edom, however, said to him, you shall not pass through us, or I will come out with the sword against you**

Jacob and Esau had made peace with each other in the past but that was more than 300 years ago (1739 BC to 1407 BC).

**<sup>19</sup> 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**

The king's highway had been used for ages by many nations and Israel made specific promises to the king of Edom but in the end, that was not good enough.

**<sup>20</sup> But he said, “You shall not pass through.” And Edom came out against him with a heavy force and a strong hand. <sup>21</sup> So Edom refused to allow Israel to pass through his territory; then Israel turned away from him.**

Israel headed southward and skirted the border of Edom. There is a city named Petra in the land of Edom that is somewhat famous.

See Pic 2035





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

<sup>22</sup> Now when they set out from Kadesh, the sons of Israel, the whole congregation, came to Mount Hor. <sup>23</sup> Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron at Mount Hor by the border of the land of Edom, saying, <sup>24</sup> “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. <sup>25</sup> Take Aaron and his son Eleazar, and bring them up to Mount Hor. <sup>26</sup> 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.” <sup>27</sup> So Moses did just as the Lord had commanded, and they went up to Mount Hor in the sight of all the congregation. <sup>28</sup> 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. <sup>29</sup> When all the congregation saw that Aaron had died, the whole house of Israel wept for Aaron for thirty days.

<sup>22</sup> Now when they set out from Kadesh, the sons of Israel, the whole congregation, came to Mount Hor. <sup>23</sup> Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron at Mount Hor by the border of the land of Edom, saying,

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



<sup>25</sup> Take Aaron and his son Eleazar, and bring them up to Mount Hor. <sup>26</sup> 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.”

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 have had two names.

<sup>26</sup> 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

<sup>38</sup> Then Aaron the priest went up to Mount Hor at the command of the Lord, and died there in the fortieth year after the sons of Israel had come from the land of Egypt, on the first day in the fifth month. <sup>39</sup> Aaron was 123 years old when he died on Mount Hor.

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

<sup>29</sup> When all the congregation saw that Aaron had died, the whole house of Israel wept for Aaron for thirty days.

This would have been from 5-1-40 to 6-1-40 because in the Jewish calendar the month of Av has 30 days in it.