

Study 20: Moses, Part 7 Exodus 13-15

Last week, we read about the Passover, in which a lamb was to be sacrificed for each household in order to avert the death angel that was to go throughout the land of Egypt killing every firstborn of man and animal. Notice that there is no command to take the lambs to a priest to be killed. The sacrifice of the Passover lamb was to be performed by the heads of the households, perhaps the firstborn male. Thus, Israel was to be a *kingdom of priests* (cp. **Ex 19:5-6**¹. This was applied to the Church, e.g. **1 Pet 2:5**² and **Rev 1:5-6**³). Later on, the priests were given the responsibility (see: **2 Chron 30:17-18**⁴ & **35:5-6**⁵), though this was not God's original intent.

Ex 13 The Lord said to Moses, 2 “Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether human or animal.” [**Num 3:12**: “I have taken the Levites from among the Israelites in place of the first male offspring of every Israelite woman.”]

3 Then Moses said to the people, “Commemorate this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the Lord brought you out of it with a mighty hand. 4 Today, in the month of Aviv, you are leaving. 5 When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Hivites and Jebusites—the land he swore to your ancestors to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey—you are to observe this ceremony in this month: 6 For seven days eat bread made without yeast and on the seventh day hold a festival to the Lord. 7 Eat unleavened bread during those seven days; nothing with yeast in it is to be seen among you, nor shall any yeast be seen anywhere within your borders. 8 On that day tell your son, ‘I do this because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.’ 9 This observance will be for you like a sign on your hand and a reminder on your forehead that this law of the Lord is to be on your lips. For the Lord brought you out of Egypt with his mighty hand. 10 You must keep this ordinance at the appointed time year after year.

11 “After the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites and gives it to you, as he promised on oath to you and your ancestors, 12 you are to give over to the Lord the first offspring of every womb. All the firstborn males of your livestock belong to the Lord. 13 Redeem with a lamb every firstborn donkey, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. Redeem every firstborn among your sons.

14 “In days to come, when your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ say to him, ‘With a mighty hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 15 When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed the firstborn of both people and animals in Egypt. This is why I sacrifice to the Lord the first male offspring of every womb and redeem each of my firstborn sons.’ 16 And it will be like a sign on your hand and a symbol on your forehead that the Lord brought us out of Egypt with his mighty hand.”

[A literalistic interpretation of vs. 9 & 16 led the leaders of the people, later (probably during the Babylonian captivity) to create boxes of leather, in which they would place 4 strips of parchment. On two of these strips, they would write **Ex 13:1-6**⁶, and on the other 2, they would write **Deut 6:4-9**⁷ and **Deut 11:13-21**⁸ These leather boxes

¹ “Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession, for the whole earth is mine. 6 You will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”

² [Y]ou also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

³ To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, 6 and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

⁴ 7 Since many in the crowd had not consecrated themselves, the Levites had to kill the Passover lambs for all those who were not ceremonially clean and could not consecrate their lambs [or *themselves*] to the Lord. 18 Although most of the many people who came from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar and Zebulun had not purified themselves, yet they ate the Passover, contrary to what was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, “May the Lord, who is good, pardon everyone.”

⁵ “Stand in the holy place with a group of Levites for each subdivision of the families of your fellow Israelites, the lay people. 6 Slaughter the Passover lambs, consecrate yourselves and prepare the lambs for your fellow Israelites, doing what the Lord commanded through Moses.”

⁶ The Lord said to Moses, 2 “Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether human or animal.” 3 Then Moses said to the people, “Commemorate this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the Lord brought you out of it with a mighty hand. Eat nothing containing yeast. 4 Today, in the month of Aviv, you are leaving. 5 When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Hivites and Jebusites—the land he swore to your ancestors to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey—you are to observe this ceremony in this month: 6 For seven days eat bread made without yeast and on the seventh day hold a festival to the Lord.

⁷ Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you

would then be strapped to the forehead and the left arm. Of course, this totally missed the intention of this injunction. The Law of the Lord was to activate their speech (lips), heart and hands, not be trapped in a box and strapped to your body!]

17 When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, “If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.” 18 So God led the people around by the desert road toward the **Red Sea** [יַם סוּף *yam suph* – a sea having reeds or seaweed]. The Israelites went up out of Egypt ready for battle.

19 Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had made the Israelites swear an oath. He had said, “God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up with you from this place” [Gen. 50:25].

20 After leaving Sukkoth they camped at Etham on the edge of the desert. 21 By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. 22 Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

Ex 14 Then the Lord said to Moses, 2 “Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon. 3 Pharaoh will think, ‘The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.’ 4 And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord.” So the Israelites did this.

5 When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them and said, “What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!” 6 So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him. 7 He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them. 8 The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly. 9 The Egyptians—all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots, horsemen [or *charioteers*] and troops—pursued the Israelites and overtook them as they camped by the sea near Pi Hahiroth, opposite Baal Zephon.

10 As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord. 11 They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? 12 Didn’t we say to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians’? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!”

13 Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. 14 The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

15 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. 16 Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. 17 I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. 18 The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen.”

19 Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel’s army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, 20 coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel.

sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

⁸ So if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today—to love the Lord your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul— 14 then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and olive oil. 15 I will provide grass in the fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied. 16 Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them. 17 Then the Lord’s anger will burn against you, and he will shut up the heavens so that it will not rain and the ground will yield no produce, and you will soon perish from the good land the Lord is giving you. 18 Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 19 Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 20 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, 21 so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.

Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, 22 and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

23 The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. 24 During the last watch of the night the Lord looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. 25 He jammed [or *removed*] the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

26 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." 27 Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward [or *from*] it, and the Lord swept them into the sea. 28 The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

29 But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. [Heb 11:29 says, "By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned."] 30 That day the Lord saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. 31 And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

Ex 15 Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord:

"I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted.
Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea.

2 "The Lord is my strength and my defense [or *song*]; he has become my salvation.
He is my God, and I will praise him,
my father's God, and I will exalt him.

3 The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name.

4 Pharaoh's chariots and his army
he has hurled into the sea.

The best of Pharaoh's officers
are drowned in the Red Sea.

5 The deep waters have covered them;
they sank to the depths like a stone.

6 Your right hand, Lord, was majestic in power.
Your right hand, Lord, shattered the enemy.

7 "In the greatness of your majesty
you threw down those who opposed you.
You unleashed your burning anger;
it consumed them like stubble.

8 By the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up.
The surging waters stood up like a wall;
the deep waters congealed in the heart of the sea.

9 The enemy boasted, 'I will pursue, I will overtake
them. I will divide the spoils; I will gorge myself on
them. I will draw my sword and my hand will
destroy them.'

19 When Pharaoh's horses, chariots and horsemen [or *charioteers*] went into the sea, the Lord brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground. 20 Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing. 21 Miriam sang to them:

10 But you blew with your breath, and the sea
covered them. They sank like lead in the mighty
waters.

11 Who among the gods is like you, Lord?
Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in
glory, working wonders?

12 "You stretch out your right hand,
and the earth swallows your enemies.

13 In your unfailing love you will lead the people
you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide
them to your holy dwelling.

14 The nations will hear and tremble; anguish will
grip the people of Philistia.

15 The chiefs of Edom will be terrified, the leaders
of Moab will be seized with trembling, the people
[or *rulers*] of Canaan will melt away;

16 terror and dread will fall on them. By the power
of your arm they will be as still as a stone—until
your people pass by, Lord, until the people you
bought [*created*] pass by.

17 You will bring them in and plant them on the
mountain of your inheritance—the place, Lord, you
made for your dwelling, the sanctuary, Lord, your
hands established.

18 "The Lord reigns for ever and ever."

“Sing to the Lord,
for he is highly exalted.
Both horse and driver
he has hurled into the sea.”

22 Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. 23 When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah [*bitter*]). 24 So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “What are we to drink?”

25 Then Moses cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became fit to drink.

There the Lord issued a ruling and instruction for them and put them to the test. 26 He said, “If you listen carefully to the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you.”

27 Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees, and they camped there near the water.

Discussion / Prayer requests

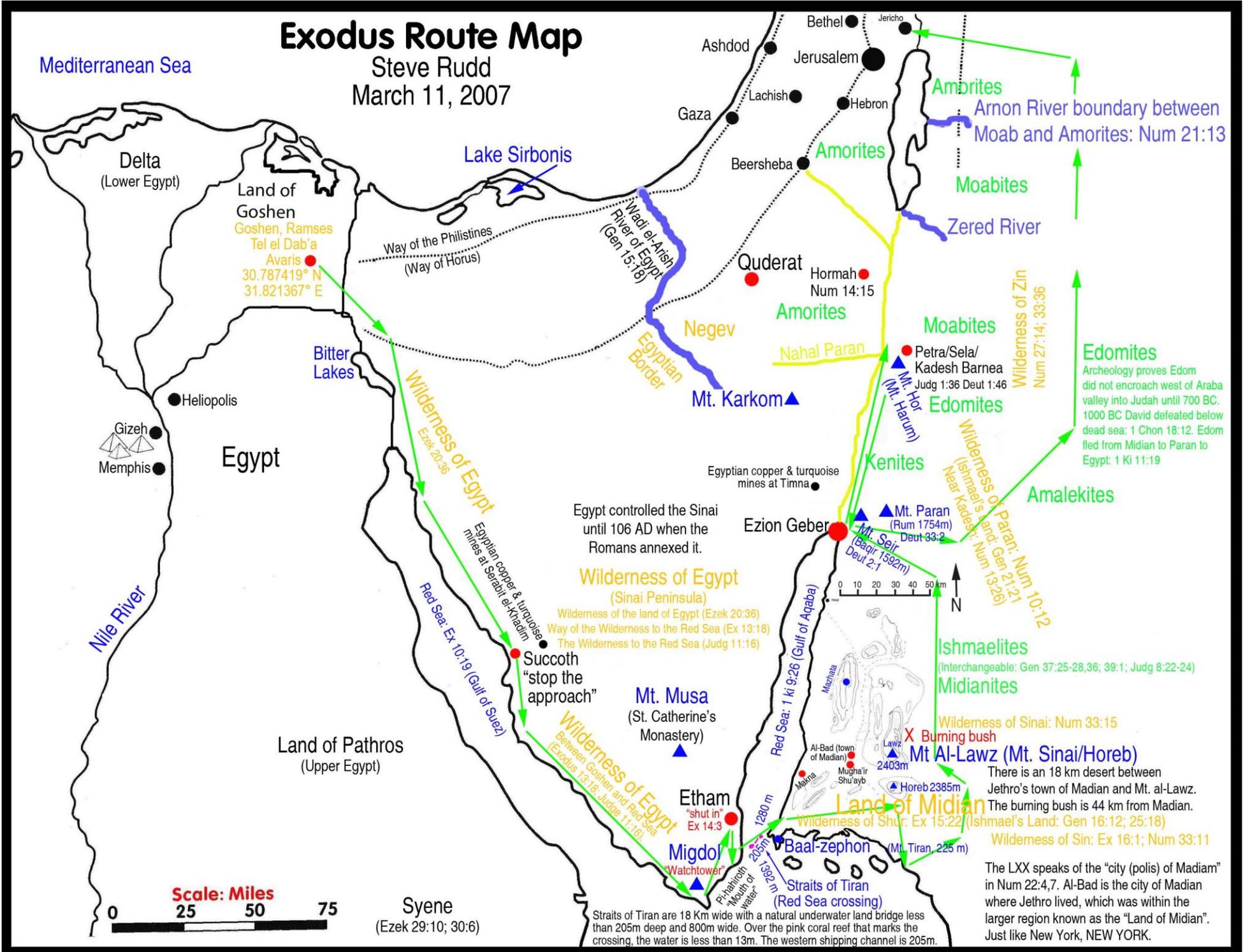
Aaron means *a teacher; lofty; mountain of strength*

List of Plagues:

1. Water to blood
2. Frogs
3. Biting insects (gnats/lice/fleas?)
4. Flies (scarabs?)
5. Livestock disease
6. Boils
7. Hail & Lightning
8. Locusts
9. Darkness
10. Death of the Firstborn

Exodus Route Map

Steve Rudd
March 11, 2007



Mediterranean Sea

Delta
(Lower Egypt)

Land of Goshen
Goshen, Ramses
Tel el Dab'a
Avaris
30.787419° N
31.821367° E

Lake Sirbonis

Way of the Philistines
(Way of Horus)

Madi el-Arish
River of Egypt
(Gen 15:18)

Quderat
Hormah
Num 14:15

Amorites
Arnon River boundary between
Moab and Amorites: Num 21:13

Moabites
Zered River

Wilderness of Zin
Num 27:14; 33:36

Edomites
Archeology proves Edom
did not encroach west of Araba
valley into Judah until 700 BC.
1000 BC David defeated below
dead sea: 1 Chron 18:12. Edom
fled from Midian to Paran to
Egypt: 1 Ki 11:19

Heliopolis
Gizeh
Memphis

Egypt

Bitter
Lakes

Wilderness of Egypt
Ezek 20:36

Negev
Mt. Karkom

Amorites
Moabites
Edomites
Kenites
Petra/Sela/
Kadesh Barnea
Judg 1:36 Deut 1:46
Mt. Hor
(Mt. Harum)

Wilderness of Paran: Num 10:12
Wilderness of Paran: Num 13:26
(Ismael's Land: Gen 21:21)

Amalekites

Egypt controlled the Sinai
until 106 AD when the
Romans annexed it.

Wilderness of Egypt
(Sinai Peninsula)
Wilderness of the land of Egypt (Ezek 20:36)
Way of the Wilderness to the Red Sea (Ex 13:18)
The Wilderness to the Red Sea (Judg 11:16)

Ezion Geber
Mt. Paran
(Rum 1754m)
Deut 33:2
Mt. Seir
(Baqir 1592m)
Deut 2:1

0 10 20 30 40 50 km

Ishmaelites
(Interchangeable: Gen 37:25-28,36; 39:1; Judg 8:22-24)
Midianites

Nile River

Red Sea: Ex 10:19 (Gulf of Suez)

Succoth
"stop the
approach"

Mt. Musa
(St. Catherine's
Monastery)

Wilderness of Sinai: Num 33:15
X Burning bush
Mt. Al-Lawz (Mt. Sinai/Horeb)
There is an 18 km desert between
Jethro's town of Madian and Mt. al-Lawz.
The burning bush is 44 km from Madian.
Land of Midian
Wilderness of Shur: Ex 15:22 (Ishmael's Land: Gen 16:12; 25:18)
Wilderness of Sin: Ex 16:1; Num 33:11

Land of Pathros
(Upper Egypt)

Etham
"shut in"
Ex 14:3

Migdol
"Watchtower"

Baal-zephon
(Mt. Tiran, 225 m)

Straits of Tiran
(Red Sea crossing)

Scale: Miles
0 25 50 75

Syene
(Ezek 29:10; 30:6)

Straits of Tiran are 18 Km wide with a natural underwater land bridge less
than 205m deep and 800m wide. Over the pink coral reef that marks the
crossing, the water is less than 13m. The western shipping channel is 205m.

The LXX speaks of the "city (polis) of Madian"
in Num 22:4,7. Al-Bad is the city of Madian
where Jethro lived, which was within the
larger region known as the "Land of Midian".
Just like New York, NEW YORK.