

# Moses — Part 1: Life with the Israelites

## Part 2 Next Week: What other Bible texts say about Moses

Dale Siegelin, September 4, 2022

1

<sup>1</sup> *Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho. And the Lord showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan,*

<sup>2</sup> *all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the western sea,*

<sup>3</sup> *the Negeb, and the Plain, that is, the Valley of Jericho the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar.*

<sup>4</sup> *And the Lord said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, 'I will give it to your offspring.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there."*

<sup>5</sup> *So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord,*

<sup>6</sup> *and he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day.*

<sup>7</sup> ***Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was undimmed, and his vigor unabated.***

<sup>8</sup> *And the people of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. Then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended.*

<sup>9</sup> *And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the Lord had commanded Moses.*

<sup>10</sup> ***And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face,***

<sup>11</sup> ***none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the Lord sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land,***

<sup>12</sup> ***and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel."***

**Deuteronomy 34:1–12, (ESV)**

2

# Lesson Overview

- Overview of Israelites Travel from Egypt to Canaan
  - Skipping Moses' birth through confrontations with Pharaoh
  - Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy
  - Geography & Dates
  - Significant Events
  - Observations & Applications
- Moses' Life – Jeopardy Game (time permitting)

3

## Middle East

Today  
Macro View



4

# Middle East

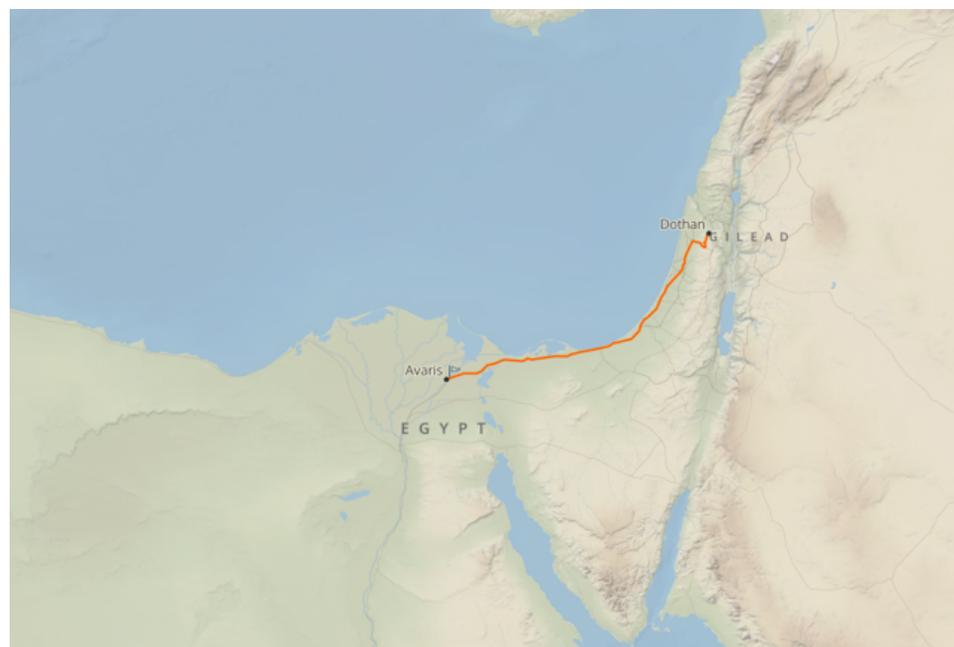
Today  
Close-Up View



5

# Joseph

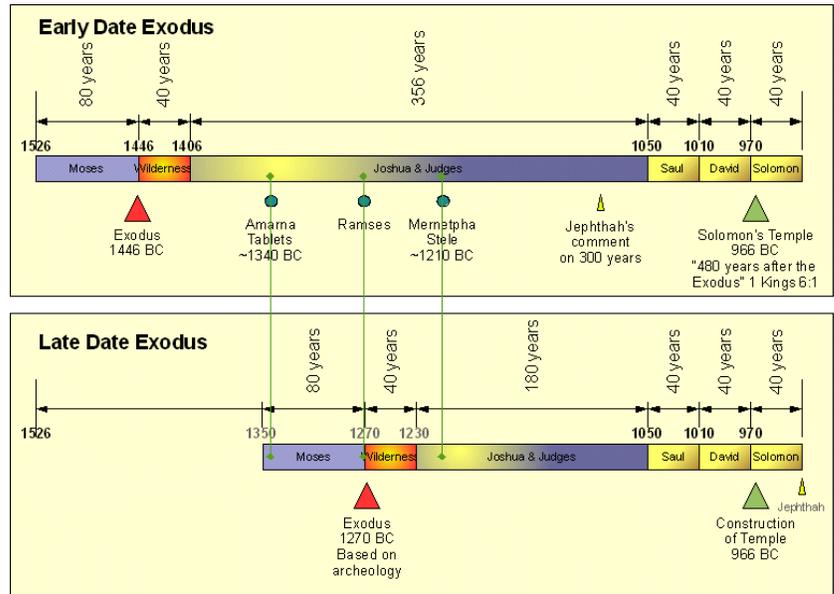
Sold into Captivity  
to Egypt



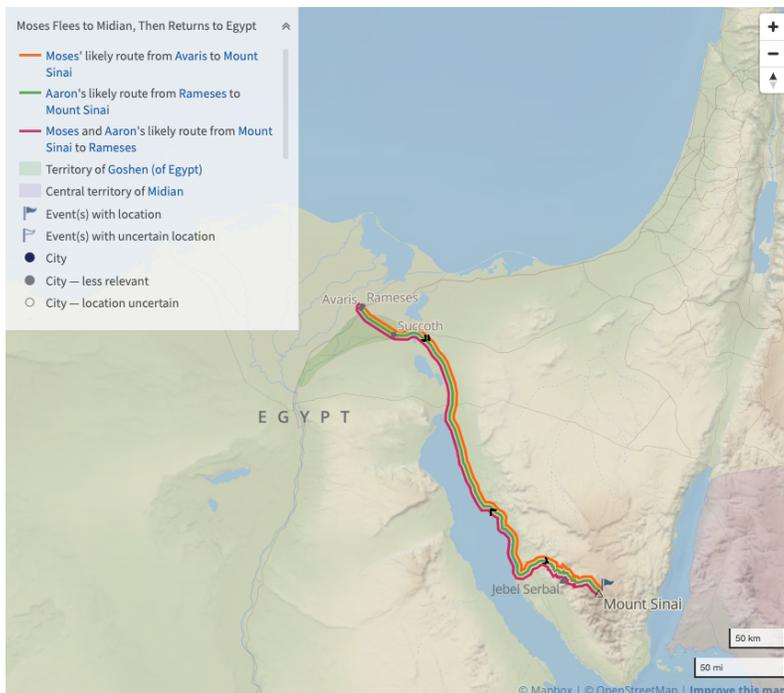
6

# Background

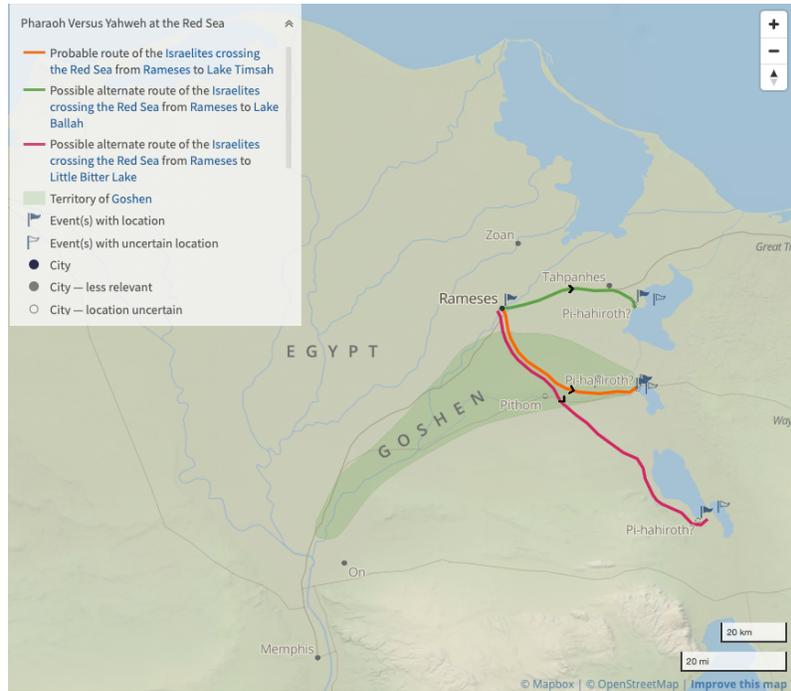
- Israelites in Egypt for 430 years (Ex 12:40-41)
- Most evangelical scholars accept the “Early Date” for the Exodus



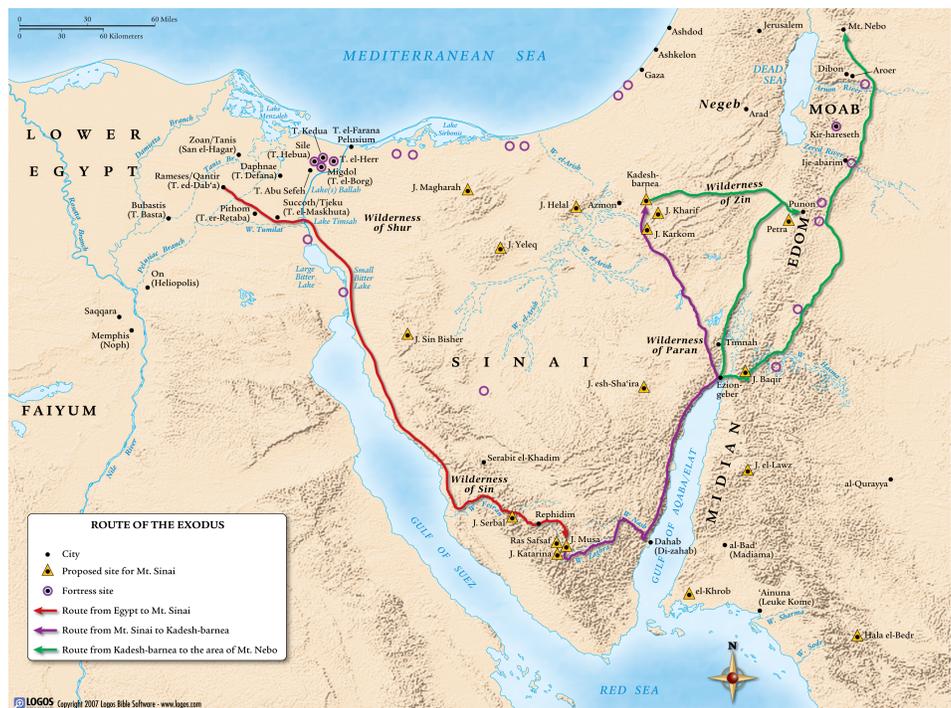
# Moses Flees To Midian



# Leaving Egypt Crossing the Red Sea

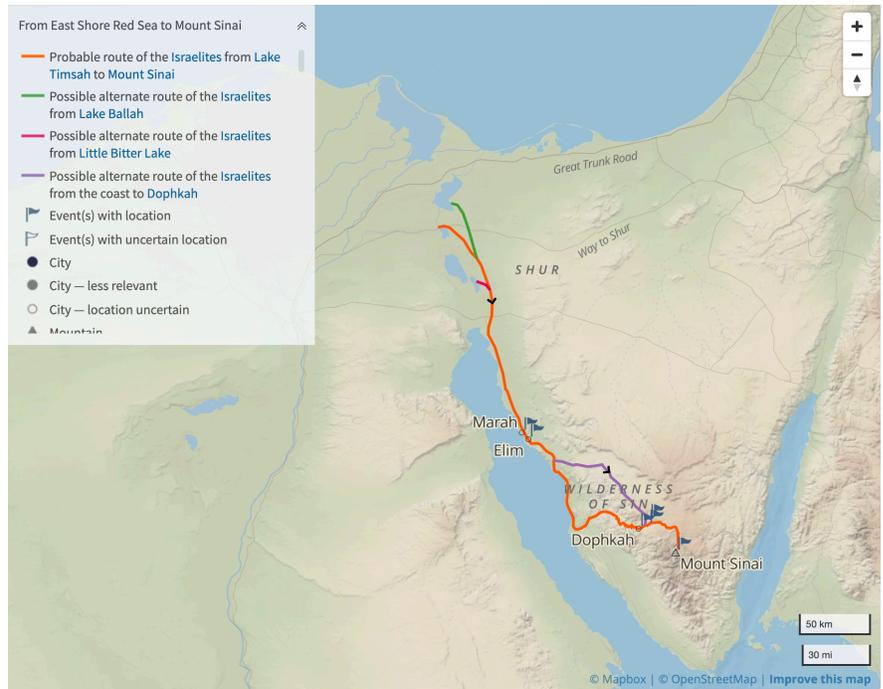


# Egypt to Canaan Israelite Wonderings



# Leaving Egypt

## From Red Sea to Mt Sinai



11

## Egypt to Mt Sinai

- Significant events
  - Israelites celebrate after crossing Red Sea and seeing Pharaoh's army drowned (Ex 15)
  - Moses makes water sweet by throwing a log into the bitter water (Ex 15)
  - God provides daily manna (Ex 16)
  - At Rephidim, Moses strikes a rock to produce water (Ex 17)
  - Amalek attacks. Israelites win as long as Moses' staff and arms are held up (Ex 17)
  - God commands Moses to write a book for Joshua (Ex 17:14)
  - Jethro reunites Moses with his family (Ex 18:2-5)
  - Jethro suggests Moses delegate the judging of disputes to other leaders (Ex 18:13-23)
- Time since leaving Egypt: 3 months (Ex 19:1)

12

# Observations & Applications

## Cycle of celebration, grumbling & judgement

- Observations
  - Here begins a pattern that is repeated throughout the story
    - “We’d be better off back in Egypt where we had...”
    - “Others” criticize Moses
    - God provides a solution (e.g. manna, water, etc)
    - Often there is punishment
- Applications
  - What is your perspective on the “grumbling” Israelites?
  - Are we ever tempted to go back to the “old” ways?
  - What should this teach us about criticizing leadership?

13

## At Mt Sinai (1 of 3)

- Significant events
  - Moses ascends the mountain three times to speak with God (Ex 19)
  - Mosaic Covenant is given (Ex 19:5-6)
    - <sup>5</sup> “Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; <sup>6</sup> and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”
  - Ten Commandments given to Moses (Ex 20:1-17)
  - Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu and 70 elders partially ascend the mountain where they see and dine with God (Ex 24:9-11)
  - Moses ascends higher and spends 40 days with God (Ex 24:12-18)
  - Moses receives instructions on building and furnishing the tabernacle (Ex 26-32)
  - God gives Moses the two tablets of stone, written with His own finger (Ex 31:18)

14

# At Mt Sinai (2 of 3)

- Significant events – the Golden Calf
  - While Moses is on the mountain (40 days), the Israelites, with Aaron’s aid, construct the golden calf to worship (Ex 32)
  - God becomes angry and wants to consume them and make a great nation out of Moses instead. (Ex 32:10)
    - Moses convinces God to relent by appealing to His reputation in Egypt and His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Israel (Ex 32:10)
  - Moses is enraged when he sees the calf (Ex 32:16)
    - Moses smashes the tablets of testimony (Ex 32:16)
    - Moses burn, grinds the calf and throws the dust into the water, and makes the Israelites drink it (Ex 32:20)
    - Moses confronts Aaron (Ex 32:22-24)
  - Moses asks “Who is on the Lord’s side? Come to me.” (Ex 32:26)
    - The sons of Levi come forward
    - 3,000 men are killed
  - Moses intercedes with God (Ex 32-30-35)
    - God decides to “blot out” the sinners from His book and “visit their sin upon them” by sending a plague upon the people”

15

## Learning from Events in Moses’ Life

### Interceding with God – after the Golden Calf Incident

“Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you.”

But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against **your** people, whom **you** have brought out of the land of Egypt with **great power** and with a **mighty hand**? **Why should the Egyptians say**, ‘With evil intent did he bring them out, to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your burning anger and relent from this disaster against **your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants**, to whom you swore by your own self, and said to them, ‘I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your offspring, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” And the Lord relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people.”

(Exodus 32:10–14, ESV)

- Observation – Did Moses attempt to defend the Israelites? What was his approach with God?
- Application – How might this insight change the way we plead with God?

16

# At Mt Sinai (3 of 3)

- Significant events – after the Golden Calf
  - Moses develops even closer relationship with God (Ex 33)
    - Tent of meeting constructed outside the camp (Ex 33:7-11)
    - Moses asks to see God's glory (Ex 33:18-23)
    - God commands Moses to make two tablets and bring them to Mt Sinai (Ex 34:1-2)
      - Moses descends and places the stone covenants in the Ark of the Covenant (Dt 10:1-5)
    - The tabernacle is constructed and furnished (Ex 25-31, 35-39)
    - The Law and the consecration of Aaron's line (Lev 8:1-13, 14:30, Num 8)
      - God's fire consumes Nadab and Abihu, Aaron's sons, who mishandle the fire upon the altar. Moses (Lev 10:1-20)
    - Preparations and departure from Sinai
      - God commands that a census be taken (Num 1-4; 10:11-36)
      - In the 13th month after leaving Egypt, they depart and travel for three days (Num 10:29-34)

17

# Observations & Applications

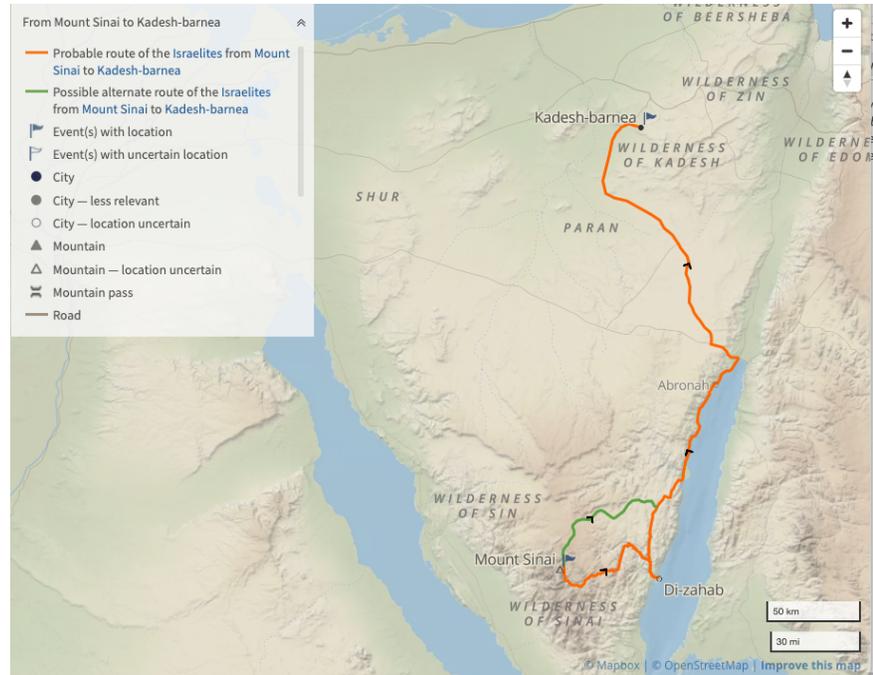
## Moses' Special Relationship with God

- Observations
  - Moses had a unique relationship with God
    - Able to have direct communications
  - Moses routinely interceded for the sins of the people
    - Often there was forgiveness, but still there was punishment
- Applications
  - Who else in Scripture does this sound like?

18

# Leaving Egypt

## From Mt Sinai to Kadesh-barnea



19

# Sinai to Kadesh-barnea

- Significant events
  - Aaronic blessing (Num 6:24-26)
  - 13 months after leaving Egypt, they celebrate first Passover (1st month, 14th day) (Num 9:1)
  - More grumbling – this time about food (Num 11)
  - Miriam & Aaron oppose Moses (Num 12)
    - <sup>2</sup> And they said, “Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also?” And the Lord heard it. <sup>3</sup> Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth. <sup>4</sup> And suddenly the Lord said to Moses and to Aaron and Miriam, “Come out, you three, to the tent of meeting.” And the three of them came out. <sup>5</sup> And the Lord came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the tent and called Aaron and Miriam, and they both came forward. <sup>6</sup> And he said, “Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I the Lord make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream. <sup>7</sup> Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house. <sup>8</sup> With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?” <sup>9</sup> And the anger of the Lord was kindled against them, and he departed.

20

# Learning from Events in Moses' Life

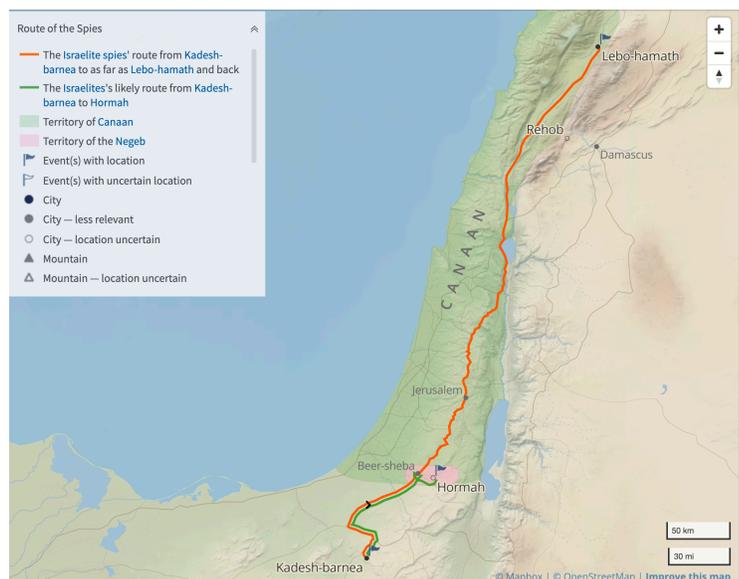
## After Criticism by Miriam and Aaron

- Miriam & Aaron speak against Moses (Num 12:1-2)
- Moses was a Meek person
  - "...more than all people who were on the face of the earth."
  - Would that have been the word you used to describe him? (Num 12:3-4)
- God rebukes Miriam & Aaron and describes the very special relationship He had with Moses.
- Moses intercedes for Miriam
- Observations
  - Sometimes opposition comes from those who are closest to us
  - Moses had a unique relationship with God – not one that we can expect to replicate, but we can learn from his leadership and emulate his character

21

# At Kadesh-barnea – 12 Spies

- Israelites leave Azeroth and settle in Paran (Kadesh-barnea) (Num 12:16)
- 12 men sent out to spy the land
  - 40 days
  - Report to people
    - 10 negative reports
    - Positive reports by Joshua & Caleb
- People rebel
  - The Lord responds
  - Moses intercedes
  - God's judgement
    - 40 more years
    - 10 unfaithful spies die of plague
- People take matter in their own hands and initiate battle with Amelikitites and Canaanites
  - Loose badly



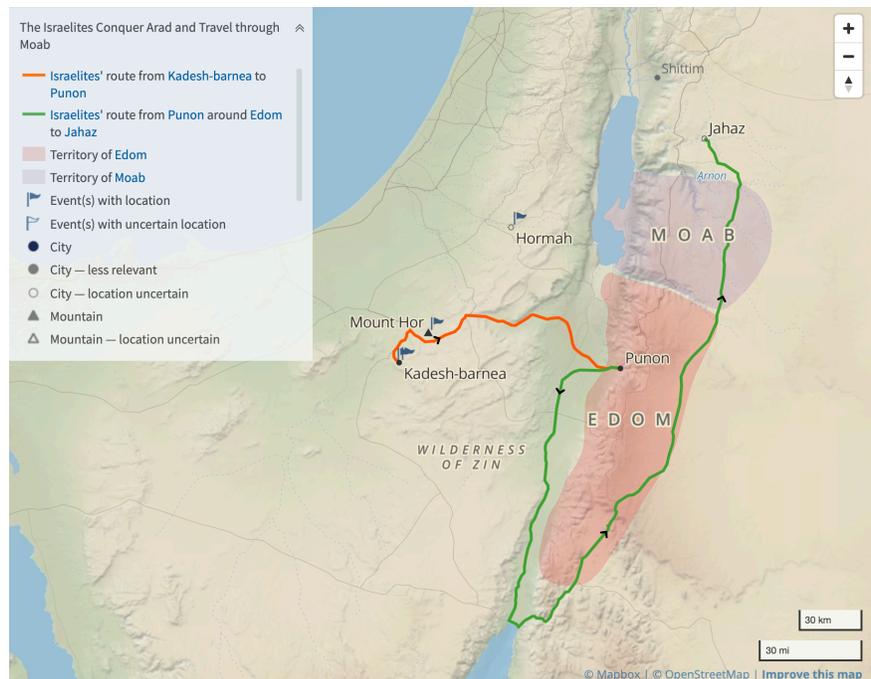
22

# At Kadesh-barnea

- Significant events
  - The Israelites complain about provisions and reminisce about Egypt for the third time. (Num 20:2-9)
    - God commands Moses to call water forth from a rock. (Num 20:2-9)
    - Moses hits it with his staff twice out of frustration. The rock supplies water for the people and their livestock, but God promises Moses and Aaron that He will not allow them to bring the people into the land because they did not believe God and uphold Him as holy on that day. (Num 20:10-13)
      - The waters are called Meribah because the people quarreled with God there.
  - Korah leads an unsuccessful rebellion (Num 16)
    - Ground splits and swallow Korah, Dathan, Abiram & their families (Num 16:31-35)
  - Aaron's staff buds (Num 17)
  - The bronze serpent (Num 21:4-9)
  - Death of Miriam & Aaron (Num 20)
  - King of Edom refuses to let Israelites pass through (Num 20:14)
    - Who are the Edomites?

23

## From Kadesh-barnea to the East side to the Jordan



24

## From Kadesh-barnea to East Side of Jordan River (1 of 2)

- Significant events
  - Conflicts with Edom, Arad, King Sihon, King Og, Balak & Balaam and the Midianites. (Num 20-25)
  - At Moab, Moses commands another census (Num 26)
    - Only Moses, Joshua & Caleb remain from the prior census (over age 20)
  - Moses commissions Joshua as next leader (Num 27)
  - In the 40th year after coming out of Egypt, on the first day of the 11th month, Moses announces that it is time for the Israelites to leave Moab and take possession of the land God swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. (Dt 1:1-8)

25

## Learning from Events in Moses' Life

### Writing Deuteronomy – Preparing the Israelites Entry Into the Promised Land

- Contains three major speeches delivered by Moses (and written) shortly before the Israelites entry into the Promised Land
  - Learning from History (Dt 1:6 - 4:40)
  - Explaining the Law of God (Dt 4:40 - 28:68)
  - Renewing the Covenant (Dt 29:1 - 30:20)
- Oft Quoted in the New Testament
  - “When Jesus was tempted by the evil one, He three times appealed to the words of Deuteronomy as His authoritative response (8:3; 6:16; 6:13). Deuteronomy is quoted or alluded to almost 200 times elsewhere in the New Testament.”  
Jr. Walter C. Kaiser, “Deuteronomy, Book of,” ed. John D. Barry et al., The Lexham Bible Dictionary
- Introduction to Deuteronomy (ESV)

“Deuteronomy, which means “second law,” is a retelling by Moses of the teachings and events of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers. It includes an extended review of the Ten Commandments (4:44–5:33) and Moses’ farewell address to a new generation of Israelites as they stand ready to take possession of the Promised Land.

Moses reminds them of God’s faithfulness and love, but also of God’s wrath on the previous generation of Israelites because of their rebellion. Repeatedly he charges Israel to keep the Law.

Deuteronomy is a solemn call to love and obey the one true God. There are blessings for faithfulness and curses for unfaithfulness.

The book closes with the selection of Joshua as Israel’s new leader and the death of Moses.”

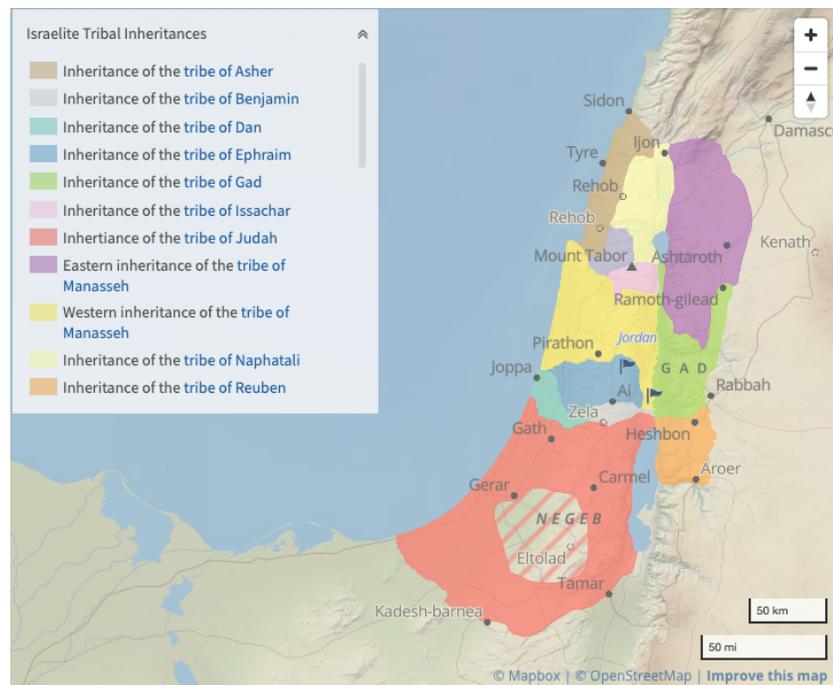
26

# From Kadesh-barnea to East Side of Jordan River (2 of 2)

- Significant events – Moses’ **last words** to the Israelites
  - Moses recounts the years spent wandering and speaks “all that the Lord had given him in commandment to them” (Dt 1:6 - 30:20)
    - It includes the promise that God will raise up a prophet like Moses from among the Israelites, one who will speak whatever God puts in his mouth (Deut 18:15–19; see also Acts 3:22)
  - Moses publicly names Joshua as his successor (Dt 31:1-13)
  - Moses warns the people to take all of his words to heart, saying, “For it is no empty word for you, but your very life, and by this word you shall live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess” (Dt 32:47)
  - God instructs Moses to ascend Mount Nebo, where he will see the land God is giving to Israel, die, and be gathered to his people. (Dt 32:48-52)
    - Before Moses leaves the people, he attests to God’s deeds, blesses the entire assembly, and blesses each individual tribe. (Dt 33:1-29)
  - Moses ascends Mount Nebo and dies (Dt 34:1-4)
  - God buries Moses “in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-Peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day” (Dt 34:6)
  - The people mourn for 30 days and obey Joshua in Moses’ absence. (Dt 34:8)



## Israel Tribal Inheritance



# Summary of Moses' Life

- First 40 Years
  - Living in Pharaoh's Palace
  - Receiving Best Possible Education
- Second 40 Years
  - Shepherd in Midian
- Third 40 Years
  - Confrontations with Pharaoh
  - Led the Exodus of the Hebrews from Egypt
  - Received the 10 Commandments
  - Built the Tabernacle
  - Experienced Multiple Confrontations with the Israelites
  - Wrote the Books of the Pentateuch
  - Died Before the Israelites Crossed the Jordan into Canaan

29

# Summary of Moses' Life

## Observations & Application

- Observations
  - Moses' Life is divided into three 40-year segments
  - The first two were preparation for the last 40 years
  - Moses **finished strong**
- Application
  - What are we doing for the Lord in the last segment of our lives?

30

# Final Observations & Application

- Observations
  - Moses was near death, and well beyond the age of retirement
  - For 40 years, he had dealt with the masses that “grumbled” and “complained”
    - He endured all the negativism and criticism
    - He interceded for the sinful people on many occasions
  - Because of one failure, he was forbidden by God to enter the promised land – to enjoy the fruits of his “service”
    - No record of bitterness toward, or frustration with, God
  - He “finished strong” and challenges the people to the last minute
- Application
  - How would you have responded in Moses’ situation?