

**INTRODUCTION:**

This portion of our Exodus Bible study will focus on the events which followed the crossing of the Red Sea and lead up to God appearing to His people on Mt. Sinai (also called Mt. Horeb). Our primary focus will be on the significance of each event and what it can teach us in helping us to be better Christians. We will discover together that after leading His people out of Egypt, God provided for both their physical and spiritual needs. Through a series of events, God taught His people to depend and trust in Him for all their needs. God provided water, food, rest, defense and wisdom. He promises the same to us. Attention will also be given to the potential locations of these events and how newly discovered archeological evidence might strengthen our faith by verifying the accuracy of the biblical account. Ultimately, the truth to be discovered does not depend on archeological evidence that might prove or shed doubt on the accuracy of the biblical event, but our faith in God’s Word and His promise to provide for us as we follow Him.

***(The Lord Provides Water)*****Exodus 15:22-27**

(22) Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. (23) When they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter; therefore it was named Marah. (24) So the people grumbled at Moses, saying, *"What shall we drink?"* (25) Then he cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree; and he threw it into the waters, and the waters became sweet. There He made for them a statute and regulation, and there He tested them. (26) And He said, ***"If you will give earnest heed to the voice of the LORD your God, and do what is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, the LORD, am your healer."*** (27) Then they came to Elim where there were twelve springs of water and seventy date palms, and they camped there beside the waters.

**Comments:**

It can be assumed that up until this point that God’s people have been living off of the unleavened bread that God has previously stated that they would be eating for seven days. Regarding water, they have either been drinking water they brought with them or

that they have found along the way. But it is clear that upon crossing of the Red Sea they have either run out of water they were carrying and/or have entered a new wilderness where water is now scarce. After crossing the Red Sea they don't find water until after three days of travel and the water they find is bitter. The question here is which was more bitter, the water or the people? The people's complaints were very "bitter" towards Moses due to their lack of fresh drinking water. When Moses cries out, God directs him to throw a tree into the water and they then become sweet. Even if the tree simply caused some form of chemical reaction which made the water drinkable, this is still a miracle in that God has provided the means and instruction to render the water sweet. Likewise, God can turn what is "bitter" in our lives into something "sweet" if we will trust in Him for the means and instruction. This is consistent with God's proclamation that if we will trust and obey Him, then He will be our Healer.

### **Numbers 33:8-9**

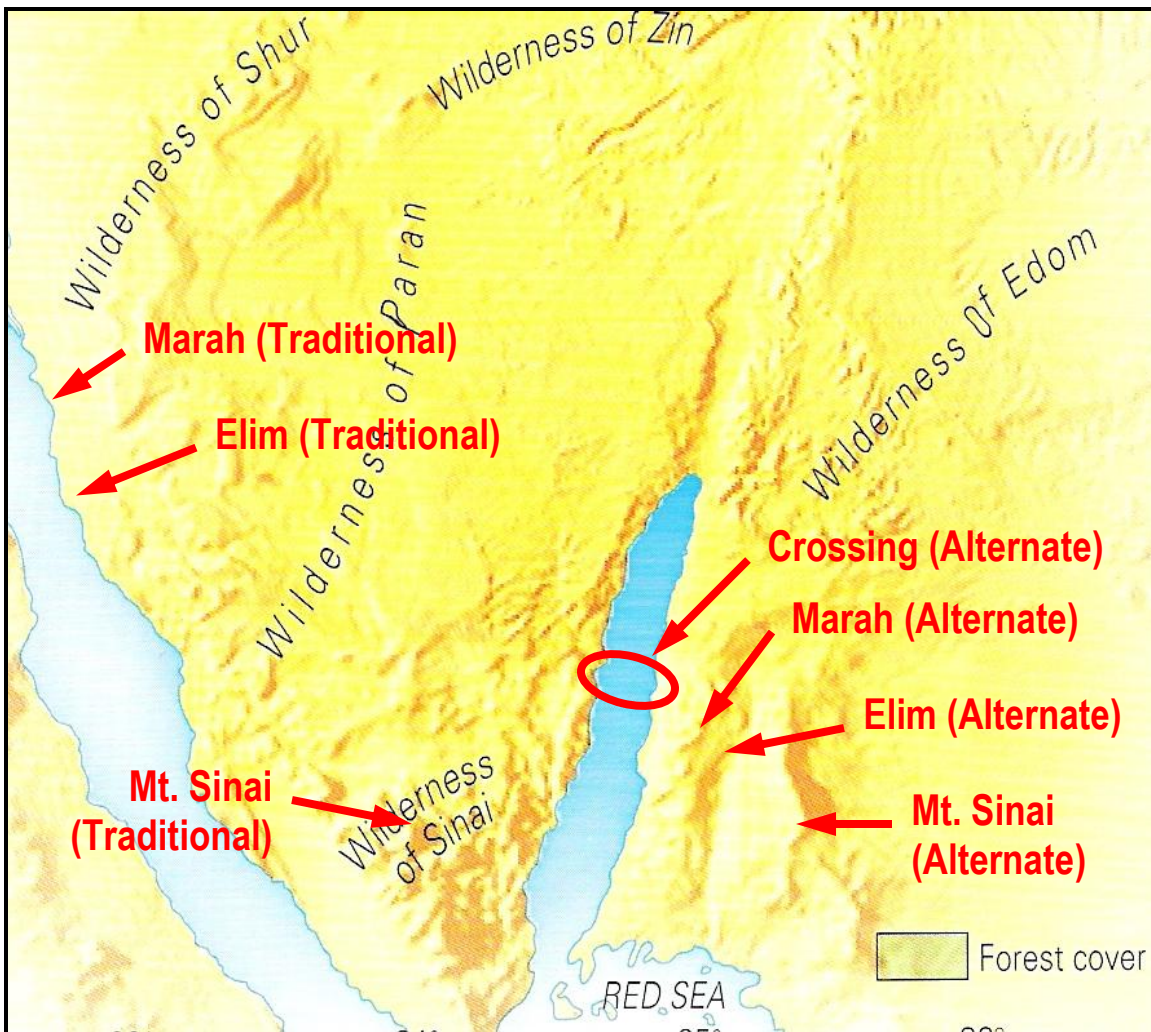
(8) They journeyed from before Hahiroth and passed through the midst of the sea into the wilderness; and they went three days' journey in the wilderness of Etham and camped at Marah. (9) They journeyed from Marah and came to Elim; and in Elim there were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees, and they camped there.

### **Comments:**

Regarding the location of the wilderness of Shur (Exodus 15:22), Etham and the bitter spring which would be named Marah, the actual locations of these places is not known but their locations have been speculated to be in the northwestern part of the Sinai Peninsula east of the marshlands that have been presumed to be the location of the Red Sea crossing. Traditionally, Marah has been assumed to be a well about 20 feet across and 25 feet deep located 47 miles southeast of the Suez and several miles inland from the shore of the Gulf of Suez (western finger at the north end of the Red Sea). The soil of the region abounds in soda, and the water of the well is consequently salty and bitter. If the location of the Red Sea crossing actually occurred at Nuweiba Beach (in Egypt) and God's people crossed over to Pi-Hahiroth (in Midian), then all of these places would be in Midian (northwestern Saudi Arabia today) rather than on the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt. About 30 kilometers, or about a three days journey, inland from this alternative crossing site is a cluster of bitter springs, which also support the biblical account. Obviously the

presence of the bitter well on the Sinai Peninsula or the bitter springs in Saudi Arabia do not provide evidence in themselves of which crossing site is more probably. But continuing inland from the bitter springs in Saudi Arabia toward Jabal al Lawz (the Saudi Arabian mountain that has been held by generations of Bedouins to be the mountain of Moses), one encounters a group of clear water springs, with a grove of palm trees adjacent to them. Could this be Elim, where Exodus 15:21 and Numbers 33:9 say there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees? It is impossible to know for certain but it is claimed that Saudi archaeologists have found writings in caves near the springs indicating that Moses had traveled through this area. See Map-1 below for both traditional and alternate locations of Marah and Elim.

**MAP-1**



Locations on the above map are approximate and not to scale.

**MARAH (Alternate Site in Midian)****ELIM (Alternate Site in Midian)**

The above photos were presented as part of a PAX television special as the possible locations of Marah and Elim. Both photos were taken east of the Gulf of Aqaba in what is today northwestern Saudi Arabia but was once part of the land of Midian.

***(The Lord Provides Manna)*****Exodus 16:1-7**

(1) Then they set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the sons of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departure from the land of Egypt. (2) The whole congregation of the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. (3) The sons of Israel said to them, *"Would that we had died by the LORD'S hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat, when we ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."* (4) Then the LORD said to Moses, *"Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether or not they will walk in My instruction.* (5) *On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily."* (6) So Moses and Aaron said to all the sons of Israel, *"At evening you will know that the LORD has brought you out of the land of Egypt; (7) and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, for He hears your grumbings against the LORD; and what are we, that you grumble against us?"*

**Comments:**

Exactly 30 days after they began their journey on the morning after the Passover the people arrive at the edge of the wilderness of Sin at a point between Elim and Mt. Sinai.

God has provided for their thirst but now they complain of hunger as they long for the bread and meat they enjoyed while in Egypt. Their complaints express evidence that they still have not learned to trust in God's provision. God responds instructing that He will rain down food from heaven, which will again be a test to see if they will follow His instructions. During difficult times in our lives how often are we tempted to look back at better days and doubt the Lord's provision? Yet, God tells us that if we will follow His instructions He will provide for our daily bread.

### ***(The Lord Provides Meat)***

#### **Exodus 16:11-20**

(11) And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, (12) *"I have heard the grumbings of the sons of Israel; speak to them, saying, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread; and you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"* (13) So it came about at evening that the quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. (14) When the layer of dew evaporated, behold, on the surface of the wilderness there was a fine flake-like thing, fine as the frost on the ground. (15) When the sons of Israel saw it, they said to one another, *"What is it?"* For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, *"It is the bread which the LORD has given you to eat.* (16) *This is what the LORD has commanded, 'Gather of it every man as much as he should eat; you shall take an omer apiece according to the number of persons each of you has in his tent.'"* (17) The sons of Israel did so, and some gathered much and some little. (18) When they measured it with an omer, he who had gathered much had no excess, and he who had gathered little had no lack; every man gathered as much as he should eat. (19) Moses said to them, *"Let no man leave any of it until morning."* (20) But they did not listen to Moses, and some left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and became foul; and Moses was angry with them.

#### **Comments:**

God provided meat in the evening in the form of quails that covered the camp and bread each morning in the form of a flake-like substance left behind when the dew evaporated. Moses instructed the people to gather an omer (about two quarts) apiece to use for making bread. We are told that some gathered much and some gathered little but when

measured the one who gathered much had no excess and the one who gathered little was not lacking. Somehow God made sure everyone had exactly what they needed regardless of their varying abilities to gather. Thus, God was teaching that He can and will provide for all of His children regardless of their individual abilities and resources.

Unfortunately, the people did not follow the Lord’s instructions and attempted to save or “horde” a portion of what they had gathered—a continuing reflection of their lack of trust in God to provide for their daily needs (bread). But God will not allow them to horde the resources He is providing, so it became foul and full of worms when they attempt to save for the next day.

### ***(The Lord Provides for the Sabbath)***

#### **Exodus 16:22-30**

(22) Now on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for each one. When all the leaders of the congregation came and told Moses, (23) then he said to them, *"This is what the LORD meant: Tomorrow is a sabbath observance, a holy sabbath to the LORD. Bake what you will bake and boil what you will boil, and all that is left over put aside to be kept until morning."* (24) So they put it aside until morning, as Moses had ordered, and it did not become foul nor was there any worm in it. (25) Moses said, *"Eat it today, for today is a sabbath to the LORD; today you will not find it in the field."* (26) *Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, the sabbath, there will be none."* (27) It came about on the seventh day that some of the people went out to gather, but they found none. (28) Then the LORD said to Moses, *"How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My instructions?"* (29) *See, the LORD has given you the Sabbath; therefore He gives you bread for two days on the sixth day. Remain every man in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day."* (30) So the people rested on the seventh day.

#### **Comments:**

While we are aware from the Creation account in Genesis that God rested on the seventh day and declared it holy, but Exodus 16:23 is the first time in the Bible that the word Sabbath is used. It is not clear if God’s people were aware of or ever honored the Sabbath before this point. God is now providing more than water and food, but also a time of rest that is to be kept holy. God promises to provide enough food on the sixth day

that no gathering will be necessary on the seventh in order that the people may honor His instruction that they rest and keep the day holy. God instructs them to gather two omers (twice as much) and this time the food that is left over will not become foul or filled with worms. God will both provide and preserve the resources to sustain His people through their Sabbath rest. Yet some of the people continue to doubt God and attempt to gather more food on the Sabbath. How often do we think we must work on Sunday in order to have all we need or get everything done that needs to be done? Is this not also an expression of our lack of trust in God to provide for us completely?

### ***(Water in the Rock)***

#### **Exodus 17:1-7**

(1) Then all the congregation of the sons of Israel journeyed by stages from the wilderness of Sin, according to the command of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, and there was no water for the people to drink. (2) 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?"* (3) 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?"* (4) So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, *"What shall I do to this people? A little more and they will stone me."* (5) 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. (6) 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, that the people may drink."* And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. (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?"*

#### **Comments:**

Again God's people express their doubt in God's provision, arriving at a new location which lacks water and complaining that they may die of thirst. Moses expresses his frustration and fear of the people he has been called to lead. God instructs Moses to take some of the elders of Israel (witnesses) and go to Mt. Horeb where he will strike a stone from which water will flow to the people and relieve their thirst. Moses gives the place

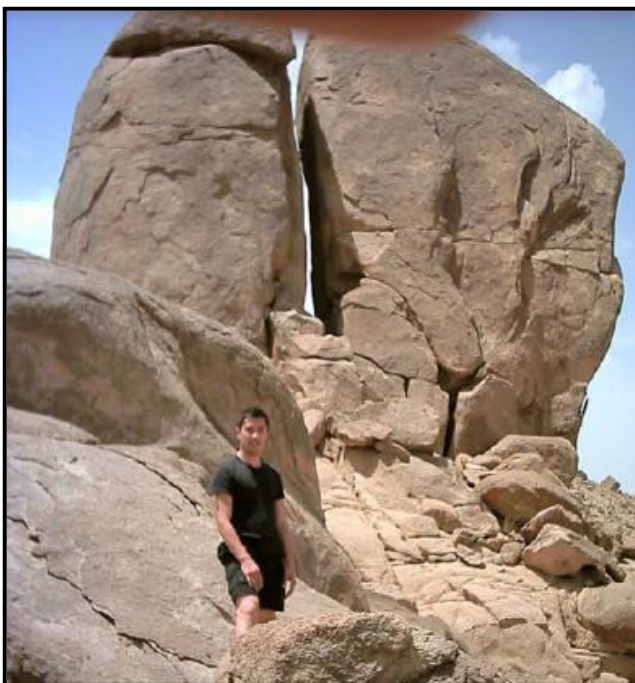


two names, Massah and Meribah, which respectively mean “test” and “quarrel” because it is here that they tested God and quarreled regarding the Lord being with them. The reference to quarrel may indicate that some of the people were expressing belief that God would provide for them and were quarreling with others who were expressing doubt.

Regarding location, God’s people are slowly being lead closer to Mt. Sinai, moving from the wilderness of Sin to Rephidem. We do not know the actual locations of any of these places. We do know that Rephidem must have been below and very close to Mt. Sinai (Mt. Horeb) because the rock Moses struck at Horeb gushed water that flowed down to where the people were camped. Further evidence that Mt. Sinai (Mt. Horeb) may be Jabal al Lawz (mountain in Saudi Arabia) is a massive, prominent, split rock on the west side of the mountain, which shows evidence of gushing water from within—jagged rocks that had been smoothed off by an abundant flow of water. Could it be that this split stone is the one Moses named Massah and Meribah? See photos below.

### **Numbers 33:12**

(12) They journeyed from the wilderness of Sin and camped at Dophkah. (13) They journeyed from Dophkah and camped at Alush. (14) They journeyed from Alush and camped at Rephidim;



now it was there that the people had no water to drink.

### **Comments:**

In Exodus 17:1 it is stated that the people journeyed by stages from the wilderness of Sin to Rephidim. Numbers 33:12-14 provides the locations of these stages as being Dophkah and Alush but there is no way to determine where they were.



**(Amalek Fought)****Exodus 17:8-13**

(8) Then Amalek came and fought against Israel at Rephidim. (9) 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."* (10) Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought against Amalek; and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. (11) So it came about when Moses held his hand up, that Israel prevailed, and when he let his hand down, Amalek prevailed. (12) 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. (13) So Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

**Comments:**

Amalek was a descendant of Esau (Genesis 36:12) and the people of Amalek were the Amalekites. Scripture does not give the location from which the Amalekites came to fight against Israel or the reason for their coming to fight. Numbers 24:20 would indicate that the Amalekites were one of the strongest peoples of the time, yet, Israel prevailed against them near Mt. Horeb. Their attack against Israel so angered God that He vowed to “utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven” (Exodus 17:14). In any case, the key point made in this passage is that as long as Moses held his hands up they prevailed against Amalek, but if he rested his hands, Amalek prevailed against Israel. We cannot rest from our being oriented toward God for it is by His strength that we prevail against all adversaries.

Regarding the location of the Amalekites, about a year later (Numbers 10:11) after the tabernacle had been built and God led His people away from Mt. Sinai, Israelite spies sent to explore the promised land would place the Amalek (the Amalekites) as living in the land of the Negev (Numbers 13:29). Negev is in the southern part of Canaan southwest of the Dead Sea and Kadesh is located in the Negev. When Israel had reached Kadesh and attempted to push north into Canaan in defiance of God, the Amalekites opposed and repulsed them (Numbers 14:43-45). It would seem that God used the Amalekites in both an attempt teach the Israelites that when they trusted God they would prevail and when they opposed God they would certainly fail.

**(Jethro's Visits and Counsels Moses)****Exodus 18:5, 13-23, 27**

(5) Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, came with his sons and his wife to Moses in the wilderness where he was camped, at the mount of God...

(13) It came about the next day that Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood about Moses from the morning until the evening. (14) Now when Moses' father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, *"What is this thing that you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge and all the people stand about you from morning until evening?"* (15) Moses said to his father-in-law, *"Because the people come to me to inquire of God. (16) When they have a dispute, it comes to me, and I judge between a man and his neighbor and make known the statutes of God and His laws."*

(17) Moses' father-in-law said to him, *"The thing that you are doing is not good. (18) You will surely wear out, both yourself and these people who are with you, for the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone. (19) Now listen to me: I will give you counsel, and God be with you. You be the people's representative before God, and you bring the disputes to God, (20) then teach them the statutes and the laws, and make known to them the way in which they are to walk and the work they are to do. (21) Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place these over them as leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens. (22) Let them judge the people at all times; and let it be that every major dispute they will bring to you, but every minor dispute they themselves will judge. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you. (23) If you do this thing and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all these people also will go to their place in peace."*

(27) Then Moses bade his father-in-law farewell, and he went his way into his own land.

**Comments:**

This passage holds a great lesson for all of us who think we can do everything ourselves. Moses found the task of teaching and judging over God's people overwhelming until Jethro, his father-in-law, helped him to see that he should delegate this task to other competent and capable people. We must share the work in our service to God or we will

find it overwhelming and we will limit what can be done to only what we can do. Likewise, Jethro made it clear that those who would teach and judge must be able, God fearing and honest. In other words, those who teach and judge according to God's will must have a right relationship with God. Scripture consistently teaches that a righteous judgment can only be derived when those doing the judging are righteous.

### ***(Moses on Sinai)***

#### **Exodus 19:1-6**

(1) In the third month after the sons of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. (2) When they set out from Rephidim, they came to the wilderness of Sinai and camped in the wilderness; and there Israel camped in front of the mountain. (3) Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, *"Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel: (4) 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself. (5) Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; (6) and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'* These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel."

#### **Comments:**

Israel has finally arrived at Mt. Sinai where they will remain for about a year. Some of the high and low points of their history will occur here, from the receiving of the Ten Commandments to the rebellion and building of the golden calf. In verses 5 and 6 God makes a conditional promise to Israel that if they would obey Him and keep His covenant, He would regard and treat them in a special way. The people chose, instead, to make a golden calf and forsake the God who had rescued them from Egyptian slavery. This and persistent infidelity throughout most of her history greatly limited the extent to which Israel could realize these promises. Peter will apply these verses to Christians in 1 Peter 2:9-10, calling the followers of Christ *"a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession."* The lesson of history should not be lost on us. Let us not forsake God for our own golden calves but let us be loyal and obedient to the only One who can deliver us out of bondage and into eternal life.

***(Preparations for God's visit on Sinai)*****Exodus 19:9-12**

(9) The LORD said to Moses, *"Behold, I will come to you in a thick cloud, so that the people may hear when I speak with you and may also believe in you forever."* Then Moses told the words of the people to the LORD. (10) The LORD also said to Moses, *"Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments; (11) and let them be ready for the third day, for on the third day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. (12) You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, 'Beware that you do not go up on the mountain or touch the border of it; whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death.'"*

**Comments:**

Here we receive the first understanding that in our sinful state we cannot come into direct contact with God. The people are instructed to prepare themselves by washing, which is symbolic for the removal of sin. They are also warned to keep a safe distance or die. Sin cannot stand in the presence of God without being destroyed. Until the blood of Christ has washed a sinner clean they cannot boldly approach the throne of God.

God instructs Moses to set bounds for the people all around the mountain as a border. Around the base of Jabal al Lawz (the proposed site of Mt. Horeb in Saudi Arabia) have been found large piles of rocks arranged in a semicircle around the front of the mountain, spaced about every 400 yards. The piles measure about five feet high and twenty feet across. These piles could possibly be the boundary markers set up by Moses, as instructed by God.

***(God visits Sinai)*****Exodus 19:16-20**

(16) So it came about on the third day, when it was morning, that there were thunder and lightning flashes and a thick cloud upon the mountain and a very loud trumpet sound, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. (17) And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. (18) Now Mount Sinai was all in smoke because the LORD descended upon it in fire; and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked violently. (19)

When the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and God answered him with thunder. (20) The LORD came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain; and the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

**Comments:**

The mountain Jabal al Lawz in Saudi Arabia is reported to have a charred peak with melted rocks. The top of the mountain is said to be thoroughly blackened, as if the rocks had been severely scorched from without. When rocks have been broken open they were found to be granite rocks with a blackened “rind” and an untouched core of pure granite inside. There is no evidence of volcanism or any natural explanation for the blackened mountain top. Could this be further evidence that God descended upon this mountain? Photos of the mountain showing the blackened summit and a detailed photo of the summit are shown below.

**Charred top of Mount Jabal al Lawz**



**Detailed Photo of Mountain Summit**



**ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE THAT JABAL AL LAWZ IS MT. HOREB:**

***(Altar and Twelve Pillars at Mount Horeb)***

**Exodus 24:3-5**

(3) Then Moses came and recounted to the people all the words of the LORD and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice and said, "*All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do!*" (4) Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. Then he arose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain with twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel. (5) And he sent young men of the sons of

Israel, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as peace offerings to the LORD.

**Comments:**

Moses built the altar and pillars to commemorate the people's affirmation of their covenant with God. The altar was built that they may demonstrate their commitment through sacrifices and the pillars were built to represent the twelve tribes of Israel who had committed themselves to God.

Regarding location, it has been reported that at the foot of Mt. Jabal al Lawz has been found a V-shaped altar, with each arm approximately sixty feet long and twenty feet wide. Next to it were several toppled pillars in sections measuring about twenty-two inches in diameter and twenty inches in length. There is no way of knowing if this is the altar and a portion of the pillars described in Exodus, but given everything else that has been found, they add to the circumstantial evidence that this is Mt. Horeb.

***(Altar of the Golden Calf Altar)***

**Exodus 32:1-7**

(1) Now when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people assembled about Aaron and said to him, *"Come, make us a god who will go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."* (2) Aaron said to them, *"Tear off the gold rings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me."* (3) Then all the people tore off the gold rings which were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. (4) He took this from their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool and made it into a molten calf; and they said, *"This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt."* (5) Now when Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made a proclamation and said, *"Tomorrow shall be a feast to the LORD."* (6) So the next day they rose early and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play. (7) Then the LORD spoke to Moses, *"Go down at once, for your people, whom you brought up from the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves."*



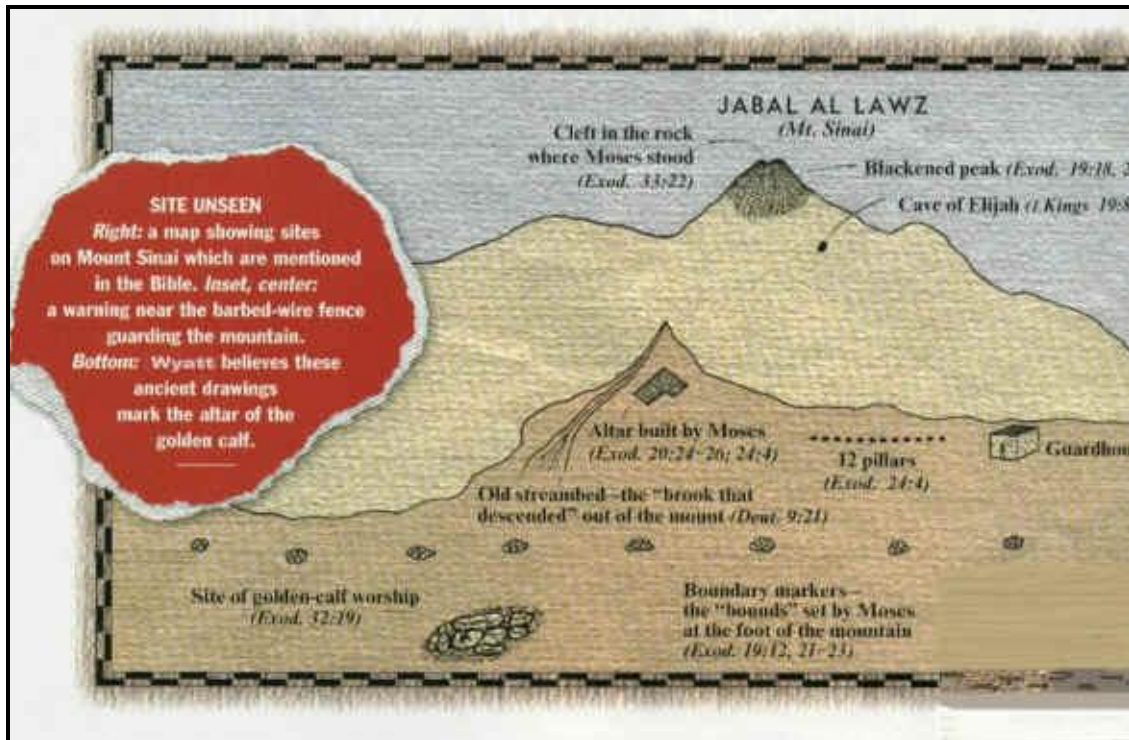
**Comments:**

The people were able to honor their commitment to God as long as God and/or Moses were present, but their commitment was shallow and while Moses was absent on the mountain, quickly fall apart. We too have a problem with commitment when we wander from the church and those who help us keep our faith alive. And because we seem to inherently need something to worship, we replace God with things of our own creation which we often given even higher honor than God. God calls us to turn back to Him.

Regarding location, in a flat area at the base of Mount Jabal al Lawz large boulders have been discovered which have been placed together, creating an altar like formation thirty feet high and thirty feet across. On the rocks are etched ancient drawings of an Egyptian styled bull god. Again, it cannot be verified if this was the altar Aaron built for the golden calf, but given the etchings it contains and its location relative to the mountain, it seems to fit the biblical account. See photos below.

**Possible Golden Calf Altar****Bull-god Images Etched on Stones**

The drawing on the following page illustrates the many archeological findings discovered at Mount Jabal al Lawz in Saudi Arabia. None of the discoveries in themselves provide any proof that this is the actual Mount Sinai (Mount Horeb) depicted as God's mountain in Exodus, but the collectively they provide compelling evidence for consideration. The Saudi government has restricted access to the mountain and the archeological sites at its base with fencing, warning signs and a guard post, making it difficult to further investigate these sites for more evidence. Ultimately, our faith cannot be based on physical evidence but on our belief that God's Word is true and trustworthy.



The B.A.S.E. Institute, which was a primary source for the photos and archeological findings described above, provides on their website the following closing message. I thought it worth sharing and is as follows:

*“God descended on Mount Sinai in flames like a furnace. He spoke to Moses and gave him the Ten Commandments as the laws for the life of Israel. He communicated His love and mercy through the laws for sacrifice and atonement. And though we are unworthy, He gave us the opportunity to enter into a personal, caring relationship with the Eternal Father. The exploits of the BASE Institute team may sound like a treasure hunt to others, but a more important adventure awaits those who would seek out the treasures of the Word of God. The Bible reveals His plan for reconciliation—and the most important discovery any of us can ever make is how to begin a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This is the best adventure.”*

#### **References:**

**Scriptures** from the New American Standard Bible.

**Maps** were taken from “The Macmillan Bible Atlas,” “The Atlas of the Bible and Christianity,” “The HarperCollins Concise Atlas of the Bible,” and “Holman Book of Biblical Charts, Maps, and Reconstructions.”

**Websites** references include: [www.arkdiscovery.com/mt\\_sinai\\_found.htm](http://www.arkdiscovery.com/mt_sinai_found.htm), [www.arkdiscovery.com/rMtSinaiPAX.htm](http://www.arkdiscovery.com/rMtSinaiPAX.htm), [www.baseinstitute.org/Sinai\\_1.html](http://www.baseinstitute.org/Sinai_1.html), [www.baseinstitute.org/Sinai\\_2.html](http://www.baseinstitute.org/Sinai_2.html), and [www.baseinstitute.org/Sinai\\_3.html](http://www.baseinstitute.org/Sinai_3.html).