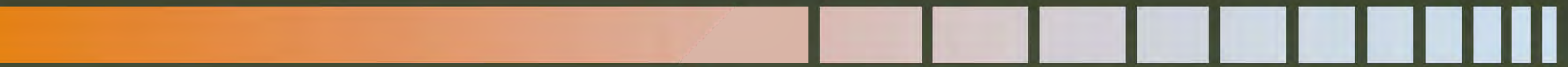


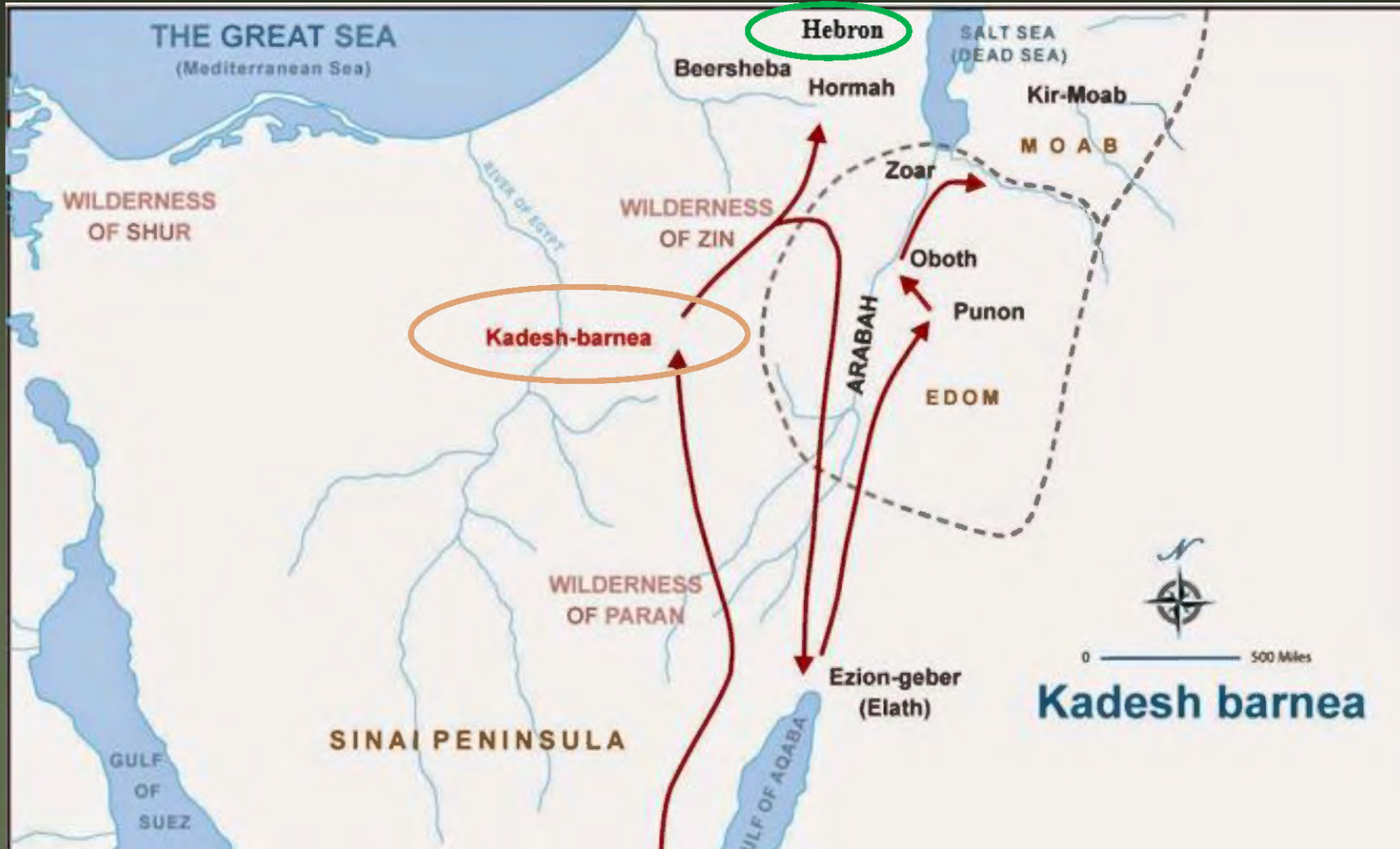
Unit Five

The Wilderness Sojourn



IN THE WILDERNESS
Numbers - Deuteronomy

Refusal to Enter the Land Numbers 13 – 14



Reports of the 12 “Spies”

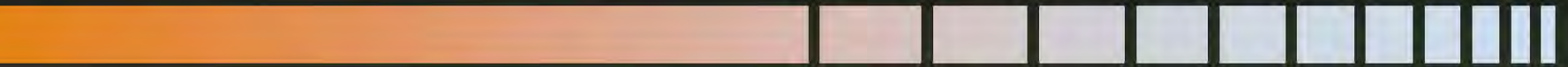
Numbers 13

- 40-day reconnoitering
- Findings
 - Great fruits; “milk and honey”
 - People are strong (e.g., Anakim)
 - Cities are fortified
 - Caleb gave positive report, asserting that God would give the victory
 - Ten gave pessimistic report: the land devours its inhabitants

Response of the people

[Looking back to Egypt]

(Numbers 14)



1. Crying, weeping, grumbling
- Would that we died in Egypt/wilderness
 - Let us go back to Egypt with a new leader

- Joshua laments the rebellion and appeals for fear of the LORD
- People take up stones to stone Joshua and Caleb (and Moses/Aaron?)

LORD's response



- I will annihilate the people and make a new nation from Moses
- Moses pleads on their behalf
 - Based on the LORD's reputation
 - Recalling that the LORD is slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness

God recalls 'ten' acts of rebellion

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1. Red Sea
 2. Marah (bitter waters)
 3. Wilderness of Sin (→ manna)
 4. Manna kept overnight
 5. Collected manna on the Sabbath
 6. Rephidim (water from rock)
 7. Horeb (golden bull)
 8. Taberah (fire)
 9. Kibroth-hattaavah (quail for 1 month)
 10. Kadesh-Barnea

Punishment



- The people (20 years and up) will not go into the land
- Excepted were Joshua and Caleb
- One year in wilderness for each of the 40 days the spies were in the land (40)
 - 40 seems to be a number of testing in the Old Testament
- The ten spies die by a plague

Punishment

- Israel turns and decides to go against the land; they are defeated by Amalekites and Canaanites
- ~ 37.5 years spent wandering in the wilderness
 - 18 months had passed on arrival to Kadesh-Barnea
 - The events beginning at Num 20 with Israel back at Kadesh occur *in the 40th year*, leaving 37.5 years in between

Further Wilderness Events

Numbers 16 – 19

Authority Crisis (16 – 18)

- ▣ The Challenge by Korah (16.1-14)
 - Korah of the tribe of Levi
 - Dathan and Abiram, Reubenites
 - Claimed that all Jews were holy and had direct access to the LORD
 - 250 others join them

Authority Crisis

- God's Response in Judgment (16.15-50): Moses and Aaron vindicated
 - Earth opens and swallows the three rebel leaders; fire destroys the 250
 - People grumbled at the harsh judgment and 14,700 killed by a plague

Red Heifer Offering (19)

- Occasion
 - Unclean b/c an encounter with dead body
 - Much death in the wilderness
 - Repeated need for cleansing
 - Rather than repeated killing of animals, a red heifer killed and burned and its ashes kept and used to ceremonially cleanse the unclean

Red Heifer Offering (19)

- Significance as *a type*
 - Ashes evidence of the animal's death
 - Jesus died once and his death continues to apply

Preparations to Leave Kadesh-
Barnea in the 40th year

Numbers 20

Preparations to Leave Kadesh-Barnea

- Back at Kadesh-Barnea (20.1-13)
- Death of Miriam
- Grumbling of people re water

[Looking back to Egypt]

Grumbling of people re water

- ❑ Water from the rock
- ❑ Moses and Aaron rejected from going into the land
- ❑ Meribah: 'quarrelling'

Preparations to Leave Kadesh-Barnea

- Refusal of Edom to allow Israel's passage (20.14-22)
 - Deuteronomy informs us that God instructed Israel not to provoke Edom, Moab, Ammon
- Death of Aaron on Mount Hor (20.23-29)



Travel to Transjordan

Numbers 21

Preliminary Events Numbers 21.1-9



- First Victory: Attacked by King of Arad at Hormah (1-4)
- Another complaint about manna (5-9)
[Looking back to Egypt] – after 40 years!
- Avoiding Moab (at first!)

Victories over Sihon & Og





Pre-emptive Strike in Moab

Numbers 22 – 25

Balak and Balaam

- Recruitment of Mesopotamian diviner-prophet, Balaam (22)
- Balaam's Prophecies/God's Power (23 – 24)
- Balaam's Counsel (25; Cf 31.16)



Balak and Balaam

- Fervor of Phinehas halts the plague (24,000 died)
 - God conquered both physically (Sihon, Og) and spiritually (Shittim)

Final Preparations before Entering the Land

Numbers 26 – 36

Events across the Jordan

- Numbering the New Generation (26)
 - Some gains, some losses
 - Used in allotting the land proportionally
- Joshua to Succeed Moses (27.12-23)
- Instructions Concerning Offerings (28 – 30)
- Judgment on Midianites re Shittim (Balaam) (31.1-17)
- Reuben, Gad and Half of Manasseh Occupy Transjordan (32)

Events across the Jordan

- Preparation to Possess the Land (33 – 35)
- Cities of Refuge (35)
 - Cities of Levites (with their pasture lands)
 - 48 Levitical cities, 6 of which were cities of refuge
 - Cities of refuge for unintentional killing (manslaughter)
- Levites also received the tithes
- Inheritance of Land (36)

Contents of Deuteronomy

Chapters 1 – 4

- Review of events of preceding 38 years (1 – 3)
 - Joshua charged to lead the people, to give them an inheritance in the land (3.28)
 - Moses forbidden to enter the land (3.23-29)
- Instructions on possession of the land (4)

Chapters 5 – 11

- Mosaic Covenant reviewed (5, 6)
 - Teach the children! (6.1, 2, 7)
- Israel a separated (holy) people (7, 8)
- Exhortation (9 – 11)

Statutes and judgments (12 – 26)

1. Apostasy (12, 13)

2. Diet (14)

3. Sabbatical year
(15)

4. Three main
feasts (16)

5. Authority and
kings (17)

6. Priests, prophets
and cities of
refuge (18, 19)

7. Warfare and
death (20, 21)

8. Domestic and
civil regulations
(22 – 26)

Chapters 27 – 30

- The mandate: Blessings and Cursings (27, 28)
- The issue: *Disobedience would forfeit Israel's presence in the land* (28.36-68)
 - There are consequences to our actions!
- Covenantal reaffirmation: The Palestinian Covenant (29 – 30)

THE PALESTINIAN COVENANT

1. Promise that God would bless them if they obeyed his commandments and curse them if they disobeyed
2. Special promises to Israel (to be completely fulfilled on the return of Jesus Christ)

Special promises to Israel

- 1) to gather the scattered Israelites from all over the world and to bring them back into the Promised Land (30.3-5)
- 2) to regenerate the Israelites of that time and their descendants by circumcising their hearts so that they would love him totally (30.6)
- 3) to judge Israel's enemies (30.7)
- 4) that the Israelites would obey God and that God would prosper them in their obedience (30.8-9)

Chapters 31 – 34

Moses' Last Words (31 – 33)

- Counsel to Joshua and other leaders (31; v. 3)
- Predictions (32, 33)
 - Song of Moses (32)
 - Cycles of defeat and restoration
 - The final words of Moses (33.26-29)
- Death of Moses (34)