

**How God Leads:
The Exodus and Escape
through the Red Sea**

Exodus 13:17 – 14:31

Introduction

- In our last two messages we learned of the inauguration and significance of the first Passover with the accompanying Feast of Unleavened Bread.

- In our message today we follow Israel as they leave Egypt and escape from Pharaoh through the Red Sea.

The Route of the Exodus

Exodus 13:17 When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near. For God said, "Lest the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt."



Egypt Proper

Israelites Leaving

Way of Philistines

(Future Israel)

Egyptian Domain

Wilderness of the Red Sea

Arabia

Gulf of Suez

Nuweiba

Gulf of Aqaba

Mt Sinai?

Mt. Sinai

Midian

Exodus of Moses & Israelites

Red Sea

¹⁸ But God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. And the people of Israel went up out of the land of Egypt equipped for battle. ¹⁹ Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for Joseph had made the sons of Israel solemnly swear, saying, "God will surely visit you, and

you shall carry up my bones with you from here."

²⁰ And they moved on from **Succoth** and encamped at **Etham**, on the edge of the wilderness. ²¹ And **the LORD** **went before them** by day in **a pillar of cloud** to lead them along the way, and **by night in a pillar of fire** to give them light, that they might travel by day and

by night. ²² The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Dead Sea

ISRAEL



JORDAN

THE EXODUS

Negev Desert

Great Sinai Desert

PATH OF MOSES & THE HEBREWS

Judah's Negev
1400-1000 BC

Sea of Reeds

Rameses II

Succoth

Etham

Eilat

Wilderness of Paran

Wilderness of the Red Sea

Wilderness of Sin(ai)

Wilderness of Etham

SINAI PENINSULA

Baal Zephon

Mount Sinai
(Jebel al-Lawz)

Horeb

SAUDI ARABIA
(Midian)

Traditional Mount Sinai

St. Catherine's Monastery



EGYPT
(MIZRIAM)

NILE DELTA

Goshen

Cairo

Memphis





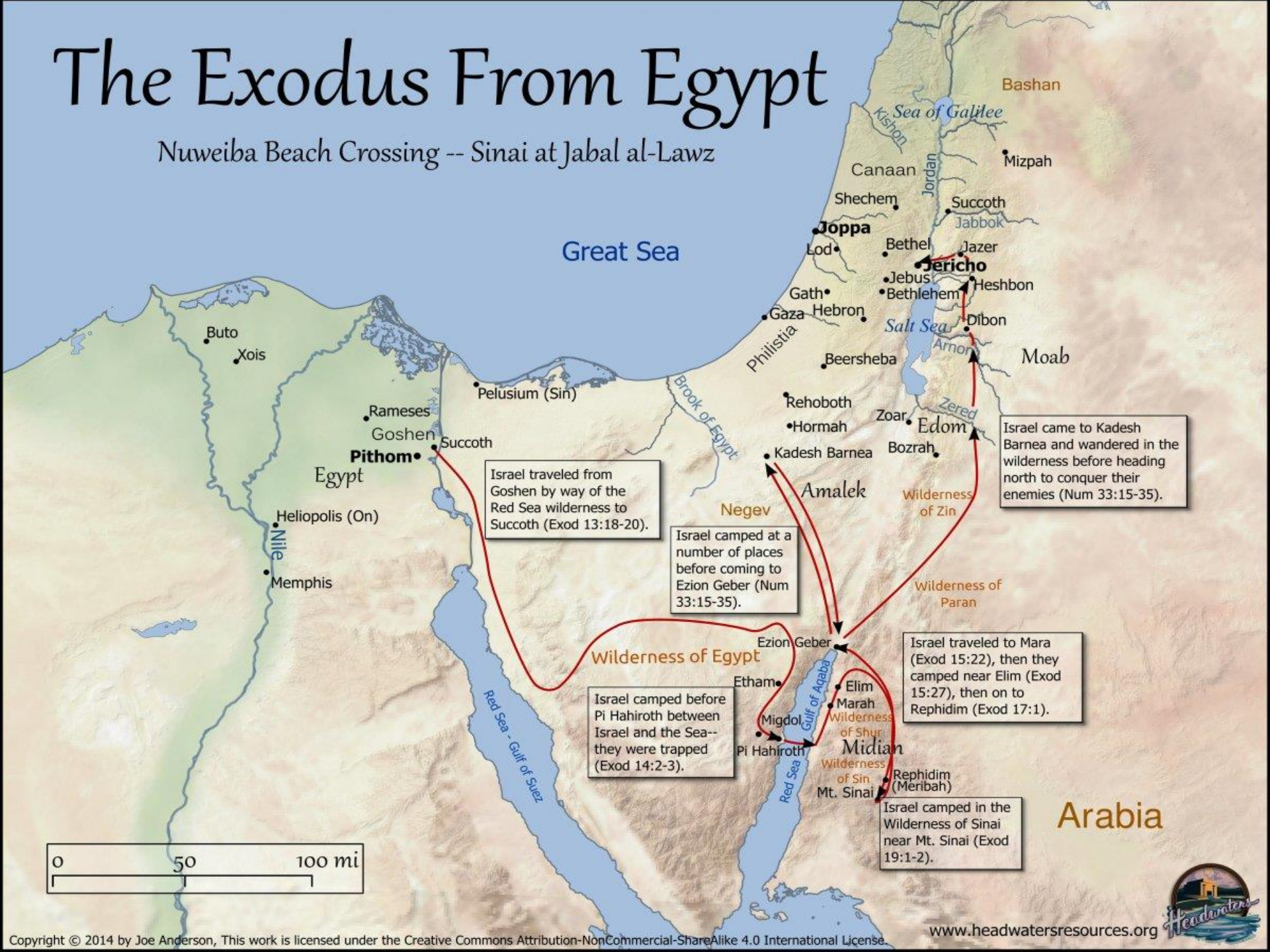


Exodus 14:1 Then the LORD said to Moses, ² "Tell the people of Israel to turn back and encamp in front of Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, in front of Baal-zephon; you shall encamp facing it, by the sea. ³ For Pharaoh will say of the people of Israel, 'They are wandering in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.'

⁴ And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, and the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD." And they did so.

The Exodus From Egypt

Nuweiba Beach Crossing -- Sinai at Jabal al-Lawz



Israel traveled from Goshen by way of the Red Sea wilderness to Succoth (Exod 13:18-20).

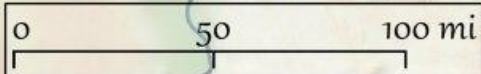
Israel camped at a number of places before coming to Ezion Geber (Num 33:15-35).

Israel came to Kadesh Barnea and wandered in the wilderness before heading north to conquer their enemies (Num 33:15-35).

Israel camped before Pi Hahiroth between Israel and the Sea--they were trapped (Exod 14:2-3).

Israel traveled to Mara (Exod 15:22), then they camped near Elim (Exod 15:27), then on to Rephidim (Exod 17:1).

Israel camped in the Wilderness of Sinai near Mt. Sinai (Exod 19:1-2).



5 When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the mind of Pharaoh and his servants was changed toward the people, and they said, "What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?" 6 So he made ready his chariot and took his army with him, 7 and took six hundred chosen chariots and all the

other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them. ⁸ And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the people of Israel while the people of Israel were going out defiantly.

⁹ The Egyptians pursued them, all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and his

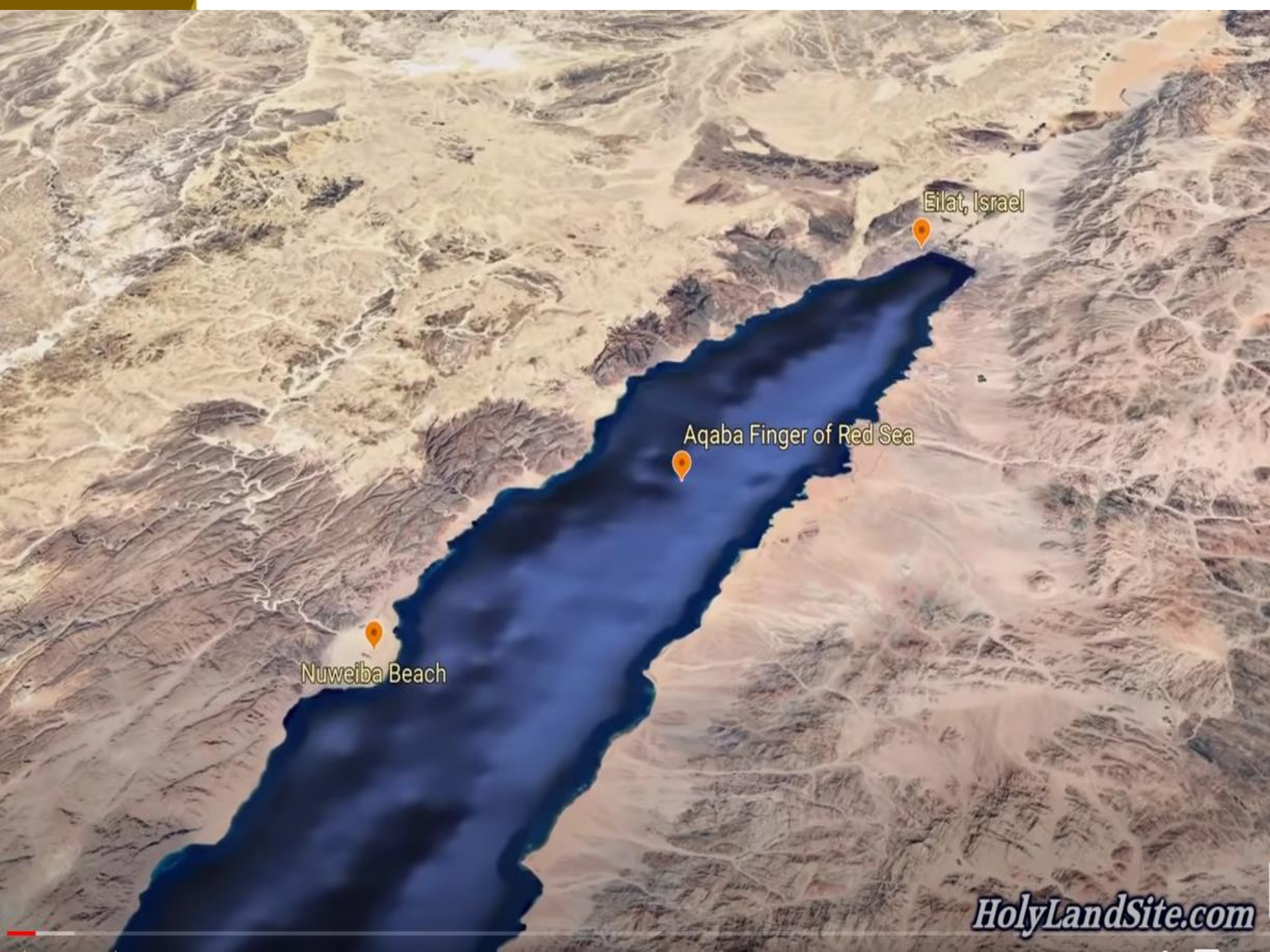
horsemen and his army, and overtook them encamped at the sea, by **Pi-hahiroth**, in front of **Baal-zephon**.¹⁰

When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly.

And the people of Israel cried out to the

LORD. ¹¹ They said to Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians

than to die in the wilderness." ¹³ And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."



Eilat, Israel

Aqaba Finger of Red Sea

Nuweiba Beach





¹⁵ The LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. ¹⁶ Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷ And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh

and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. ¹⁸ And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.” ¹⁹ Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them,

²⁰ coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night. ²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were

divided. ²² And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ²³

The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. ²⁴ And in the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and of

cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, ²⁵ clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from before Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians." ²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water

may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen." ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the LORD threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the

chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained.

²⁹ But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ³⁰ Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the

Egyptians dead on the seashore.



Nuweiba Beach

Saudi Arabia Side

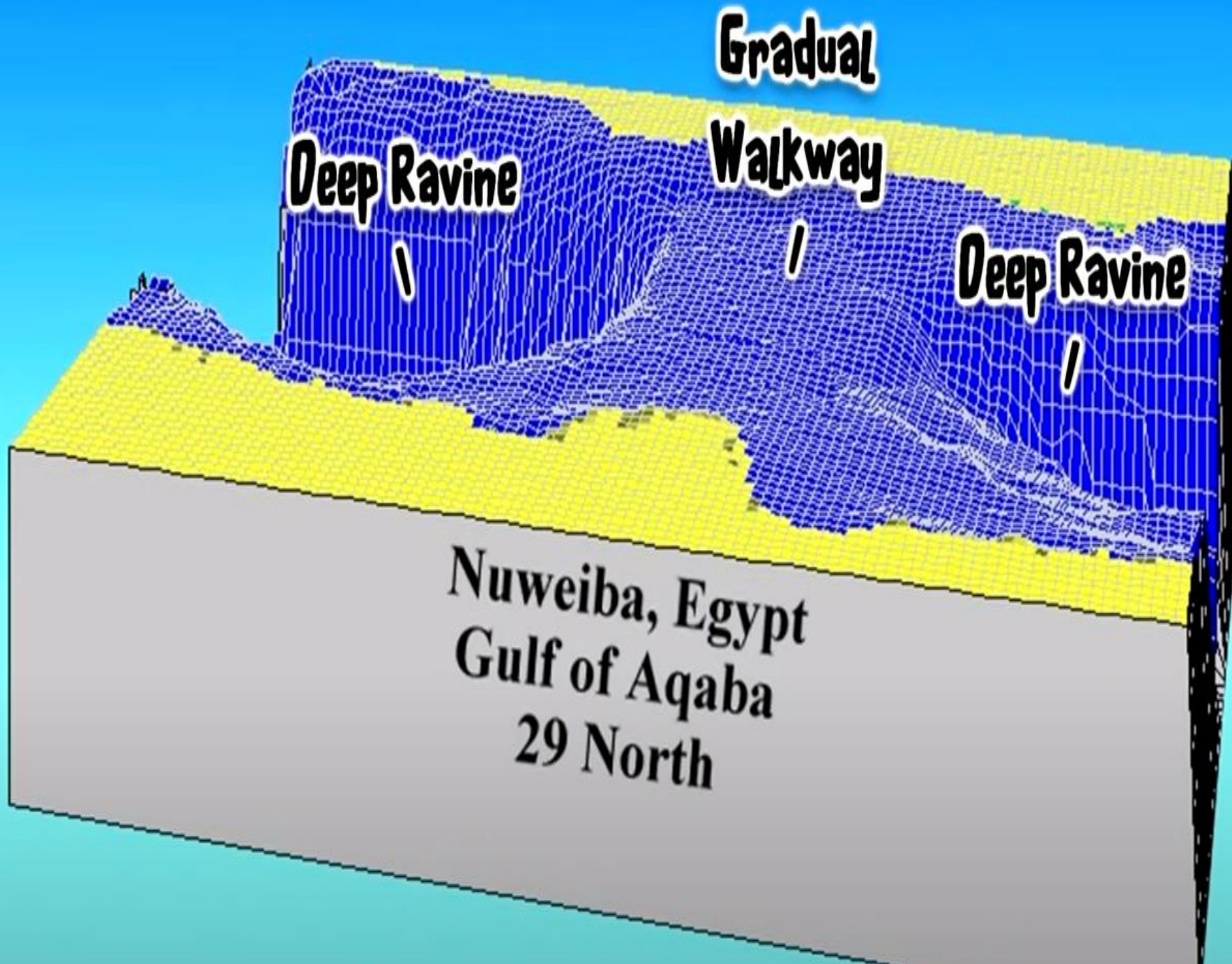
Looking South

Saudi Arabia Beach

Nuweiba Beach

10 1/2 Miles

5% Gradual grade going down to 2,500 feet below sea level, and then back up.



Deep Ravine

**Gradual
Walkway**

Deep Ravine

**Nuweiba, Egypt
Gulf of Aqaba
29 North**

Review of Data

- The Newiba port (beach) is huge and would easily accommodate 2.5 million people.
- 8 - 10 ½ miles across the water
- 5% gradual slope down to the bottom of the sea bed down to 2,500 feet below sea level.

- Just north and south of the Neweiba port are deep crevices in the bottom of the sea bed and would have made trying to cross impossible.
- Isaiah 51:10 speaks of the crossing of the “**great deep**”: “Was it not you who dried up the sea, the waters of the great deep, who made the depths of the sea a way for the redeemed to pass over?” (Isaiah 51:10).













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**Chariot wheel discovered in 1978 in the sea bed of
the “Red Sea” (Gulf of Aqaba off Nuweiba Beach)**

Conclusion

Exodus 14:31: Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

- From beginning to end the defeat of Pharaoh's army is an event planned by God to be a testimony to his power, bringing glory to him alone (14:4).
- God does not cause Pharaoh to act in a way that is contrary to what the Egyptian king desires. Rather, God gives Pharaoh the courage to fulfill his own wishes.

- The Israelites also appear to have only a partial understanding of God. Their fearful reaction to the arrival of the Egyptian army reveals that they have not fully recognized the magnitude of God's authority and power.
- If God has the power to control the wind and the water, this should

- create confidence in his people that he has the power to care for them in all circumstances.
- The knowledge of God's sovereignty, for Christians, should be a source of reassurance and comfort, even in the face of persecution and death.

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