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**BIBLE STUDY**

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**“ANOTHER DAY’S JOURNEY”**

**Numbers 33:1-56**

***Numbers 33:1-2***

***1 "These [are] the journeys of the children of Israel, which went forth out of the land of Egypt with their armies under the hand of Moses and Aaron."***

***2 "And Moses wrote their goings out according to their journeys by the commandment of the LORD: and these [are] their journeys according to their goings out."***

This section chronicles the itinerary of Israel from Egypt to the plains of Moab. This is a brief recap of their entire journey from Egypt to the promised land under the leadership of Moses and Aaron. The LORD had instructed Moses to keep a record of their journeys. Such a detailed itinerary may have been given at this point in the book of Numbers for several reasons: (1) Since Moses was about to be “gathered to his people” (31:2), the chronicling of all these place names where Moses led them may serve as a geographical eulogy to his leadership. One of Moses’ qualities once again being stressed here is that he often listened to the command of the LORD. (2) The record of the nation’s journeys also serves as a key theological lesson for the new generation. Since God faithfully led and provided for them for more than 40 different stops along the way, He could be trusted to continue to lead them in the conquest of Canaan. This journey of Israel out of Egypt {world} to their promised land is a type of the journey we Christians make in this life to our promised land {heaven}. It is true, it was much easier to get them out of Egypt, than it was to get Egypt out of them.

***Numbers 33:3-4***

***3 "And they departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the morrow after the passover the children of Israel went out with an high hand in the sight of all the Egyptians."***

***4 "For the Egyptians buried all [their] firstborn, which the LORD had smitten among them: upon their gods also the LORD executed judgments."***

Their first month was Abib, which is approximately our April. They left on the fifteenth day of the month. Their day begins in the evening. The Israelites left Egypt confidently the day after the Passover while the Egyptians were burying their firstborn who were struck down in the 10th plague. Death passed over the Hebrew's homes, who had the blood of the Lamb over their doors the night before the journey was begun. The ten plagues that came on Egypt defamed the false gods of Egypt. This gave them a head start on their journey. This journey covers a period of forty years. The exact details have taken several books to tell, but the synopsis takes only 49 verses here.

***Numbers 33:5-6***

***5 "And the children of Israel removed from Rameses, and pitched in Succoth."***

***6 "And they departed from Succoth, and pitched in Etham, which [is] in the edge of the wilderness."***

As we follow this journey, we will see the places mentioned as where something important happened. "Succoth" means booths. Ramses was in Goshen, where the Hebrews had dwelt. Succoth was their first place to stop and rest.

***Numbers 33:7 "And they removed from Etham, and turned again unto Pi- hahiroth, which [is] before Baal-zephon: and they pitched before Migdol."***

The Egyptians pursued them, and backed them up to the Red Sea, here at Pi-hahiroth. The great happening, here, is the parting of the Red Sea, and the children of Israel crossing on dry land.

***Numbers 33:8-14***

***8 "And they departed from before Pi-hahiroth, and passed through the midst of the sea into the wilderness, and went three days' journey in the wilderness of Etham, and pitched in Marah."***

***9 "And they removed from Marah, and came unto Elim: and in Elim [were] twelve fountains of water, and threescore and ten palm trees; and they pitched there."***

***10 "And they removed from Elim, and encamped by the Red sea."***

***11 "And they removed from the Red sea, and encamped in the wilderness of Sin."***

***12 "And they took their journey out of the wilderness of Sin, and encamped in Dophkah***."

***13 "And they departed from Dophkah, and encamped in Alush."***

***14 "And they removed from Alush, and encamped at Rephidim, where was no water for the people to drink."***

The wilderness of Etham is called the wilderness of Shur in Exodus 15:22. This had been a terrible disappointment, because they were back nearly to their starting point. The wilderness of Sin was the place, where they murmured against God, and he sent the quails. Dophkah was the eighth station, and it was located between Rephidim and the Red Sea. Alush was one of the places they camped, where there was no water. This is the location, where the people chided with Moses, because there was no water. Moses went to the LORD, and the LORD told him to smite the Rock with his rod. He did, and water gushed forth.

***Exodus 17:6 "Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel."***

***Numbers 33:15 "And they departed from Rephidim, and pitched in the wilderness of Sinai."***

Sinai is also sometimes called Horeb and is the place where Moses saw the burning bush. It is also where God spoke to him and sent him on a mission to Egypt to bring the Israelites out of slavery. Mt. Sinai was the mountain in the wilderness where, after the crossing the Red Sea, God met with Moses and delivered the law. So, Moses received the law and saw the presence of God in the same area as he originally encountered God in the burning bush.

***Numbers 33:16 "And they removed from the desert of Sinai, and pitched at Kibroth-hattaavah."***

“Kibroth-hattaavah” was the burial place of the people who had lusted. Despite the fact that God gave the people what they wanted, He was angry over their rebellion and grumbling and sent a severe plague among the people. The plague may have been a disease carried by the quail as a lesson to His people that often what they think they want is not good for them. When God rises up in anger against our sin, it is so that we learn to trust and obey Him. The Israelites named the place Kibroth Hattaavah (“The Grave of Lust”) to remind them of what happened when in their greed they had grumbled against the Lord. The Israelites had already been given [manna](https://www.gotquestions.org/what-was-manna.html) and were therefore well supplied with food. But they demanded meat in addition to the manna, and their insistence on having more than they needed displeased God.

***Numbers 33:17-18***

***17 "And they departed from Kibroth-hattaavah, and encamped at Hazeroth."***

***18 "And they departed from Hazeroth, and pitched in Rithmah."***

Hazeroth is where Miriam and Aaron spoke out about the marriage of Moses to an Ethiopian woman. Rithmah is one of the places the Israelites rested, after leaving Kadesh, where they would not go into the promised land. This was toward the beginning of their 37 years in the wilderness.

***Numbers 33:19-28***

***19 "And they departed from Rithmah, and pitched at Rimmon- parez."***

***20 "And they departed from Rimmon-parez, and pitched in Libnah."***

***21 "And they removed from Libnah, and pitched at Rissah."***

***22 "And they journeyed from Rissah, and pitched in Kehelathah***."

***23 "And they went from Kehelathah, and pitched in mount Shapher."***

***24 "And they removed from mount Shapher, and encamped in Haradah."***

***25 "And they removed from Haradah, and pitched in Makheloth."***

***26 "And they removed from Makheloth, and encamped at Tahath."***

***27 "And they departed from Tahath, and pitched at Tarah."***

***28 "And they removed from Tarah, and pitched in Mithcah."***

These verses list several unidentified places along Israel’s wilderness journeying that the pillar of cloud by day, and pillar of fire by night guided them to these stops. these here. Many times, our life’s journeys takes us to seemingly insignificant places as we are significantly obedient to God’s voice and guidance. These are places are a number of stops that are nothing more than a place to rest, until the next great happening.

***Numbers 33:29-30***

***29 "And they went from Mithcah, and pitched in Hashmonah."***

***30 "And they departed from Hashmonah, and encamped at Moseroth."***

Hashmonah was near Mount Hor.Moserath is the plural form of Moserah. This is where they were camped, when Aaron went to be with the Lord.

***Deuteronomy 10:6 "And the children of Israel took their journey from Beeroth of the children of Jaakan to Mosera: there Aaron died, and there he was buried; and Eleazar his son ministered in the priest's office in his stead."***

***Numbers 33:31-32***

***31 "And they departed from Moseroth, and pitched in Bene- jaakan."***

***32 "And they removed from Bene-jaakan, and encamped at Hor- hagidgad."***

Bene-jaakan was where the wells of Jaakan and Aakan were located. The only thing known of this, is that it was one place they stopped.

***Numbers 33:33-35***

***33 "And they went from Hor-hagidgad, and pitched in Jotbathah."***

***34 "And they removed from Jotbathah, and encamped at Ebronah."***

***35 "And they departed from Ebronah, and encamped at Ezion- gaber."***

In Deuteronomy, Jotbathah is spoken of as land of rivers and waters.The name indicates that Ebronah could have been a beach."Ezion-gaber" means the giant's backbone. This is a harbor. It is, probably, the one used by Solomon for his ships.

***Numbers 33:36-37***

***36 "And they removed from Ezion-gaber, and pitched in the wilderness of Zin, which [is] Kadesh."***

***37 "And they removed from Kadesh, and pitched in mount Hor, in the edge of the land of Edom."***

This is their second time to be here. Kadesh could really be thought of as the entrance to their promised land. Kadesh was known by other names but was called Kadesh when the tabernacle was there. The name "Kadesh" means fountain of judgement. Moses sent messengers to Edom from Kadesh. It was because of their rebellion there that the nation would wander in the wilderness for forty years. Edom refused the children of Israel passage to the promised land.

***Numbers 33:38-39***

***38 "And Aaron the priest went up into mount Hor at the commandment of the LORD, and died there, in the fortieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the first [day] of the fifth month."***

***39 "And Aaron [was] an hundred and twenty and three years old when he died in mount Hor***." This was the first day of Abib in the 40th year of their journeys, whenAaron died on mount Hor. This is the only place that tells when he died.Aaron was older than Moses. He was 123 years old when he died.

***Numbers 33:40-44***

***40"And king Arad the Canaanite, which dwelt in the south in the land of Canaan, heard of the coming of the children of Israel."***

***41 "And they departed from mount Hor, and pitched in Zalmonah."***

***42 "And they departed from Zalmonah, and pitched in Punon."***

***43 "And they departed from Punon, and pitched in Oboth."***

***44 "And they departed from Oboth, and pitched in Ije- abarim, in the border of Moab."***

Moses noted the opposition of the Canaanite king who tried to stop the people’s progress, only to be badly defeated. One of these two places was, possibly, where the brazen serpent was raised on the pole to cure the snake bites. Oboth is near Moab. Moab was founded by the son of Lot and his oldest daughter. The Moabites were enemies of Israel.

***Numbers 33:45-47***

***45 "And they departed from Iim, and pitched in Dibon-gad."***

***46 "And they removed from Dibon-gad, and encamped in Almon- diblathaim."***

***47 "And they removed from Almon-diblathaim, and pitched in the mountains of Abarim, before Nebo."***

There is nothing known of this place.All that is known of this place, is that it is Moabitish.The mountains of Abarim, before Nebo is, also, known as mount Pisgah. Nebo is the town in this mountain area. Moses also recorded the nation’s encampment in the Abarim range. There God allowed Moses to view the promised land from a distance after he was told he would not be permitted to enter.

***Numbers 33:48 "And they departed from the mountains of Abarim, and pitched in the plains of Moab by Jordan [near] Jericho."***

This is just before entering into the promised land. Jericho is the city, where the walls fall down. This has brought the people from Egypt to the very entrance of the promised land.

***Numbers 33:49 "And they pitched by Jordan, from Beth-jesimoth [even] unto Abel-shittim in the plains of Moab."***

"Beth-jesimoth" means house of the wastes. "Abel-shittim" means meadow of Acacias. It is, usually, called just Shittim.

***Numbers 33:50-52***

***50 "And the LORD spake unto Moses in the plains of Moab by Jordan [near] Jericho, saying,"***

***51 "Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye are passed over Jordan into the land of Canaan;"***

***52 "Then ye shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their pictures, and destroy all their molten images, and quite pluck down all their high places:"***

The remainder of this chapter includes Moses’s instructions and exhortation to God’s people about entering the promised land. He emphasized the total spiritual depravity of the Canaanites they would encounter, as well as the Lord’s command concerning them. The Israelites were to drive out all the inhabitants of the land. This instruction is to destroy everything associated with false gods and idol worship. The high places were where they had performed their worship of false gods. There could be no compromises. The nation had entered a covenant relationship with the Lord alone, and through their obedience he would judge the Canaanites for many years of extreme wickedness. The driving out of all the inhabitants leaves room for them to live, but they will have to flee to another land.

***Numbers 33:53-56***

***53 "And ye shall dispossess [the inhabitants of] the land, and dwell therein: for I have given you the land to possess it."***

***54 "And ye shall divide the land by lot for an inheritance among your families: [and] to the more ye shall give the more inheritance, and to the fewer ye shall give the less inheritance: every man's [inheritance] shall be in the place where his lot falleth; according to the tribes of your fathers ye shall inherit."***

***55 "But if ye will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you; then it shall come to pass, that those which ye let remain of them [shall be] pricks in your eyes, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land wherein ye dwell."***

***56 "Moreover it shall come to pass, [that] I shall do unto you, as I thought to do unto them."***

Since a major purpose of Numbers is to prepare the nation (especially the new generation) for settlement in the promised land, this last section of the book focuses on laws dealing with the conquest of Canaan. As in other places in the Pentateuch, whenever there is a narrative account that describes sin or rebellion on the part of the Israelites, a series of laws immediately follows. Whenever there was sin, more laws were given. They are to run all of the inhabitants out and take the land for themselves. This is their land that God promised to Abraham back in Genesis. This is the land promised to the twelve sons of Jacob, as their inheritance. Each family will get their own inheritance of land. The location of the land will be decided by casting lots, so there will be no cry of favoritism. The amount of land for each family will be determined by the number of members in the family. Those who have many members will get the most land. If they do not totally run the inhabitants out, those that remain will be a problem for them from then on. If they are disobedient to God, and do not run them off completely, Godwill run the Israelites, themselves, off later. In other words, if Israel were to disobey their covenant God and fail in their assignment, those inhabitants would prove to be a snare to them. Israel would ultimately adopt their idolatrous ways and fall under God’s judgment. If Israel didn’t drive out the nations, God would drive out Israel. Tragically, this warning would prove prophetic. The Israelites would indeed fail to fully dislodge the Canaanites and would suffer all manner of military and spiritual defeats in the centuries ahead. Eventually, after years of covenant unfaithfulness, and years of the Lord’s abundant patience, they would be cast from the land in stages.”

**Questions**

1. What is this journey to their promised land a type of?
2. It was much easier to get them out of Egypt, than to get \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ out of them.
3. Where did they begin the journey from?
4. What day did they leave Egypt?
5. The journey covers a period of \_\_\_\_\_\_ years.
6. Why did death pass over the Hebrew homes?
7. Who lost their firstborn?
8. Where did they find 12 wells of water?
9. Where did Miriam and Aaron speak out about Moses' Ethiopian wife?
10. What does "Kadesh" mean?
11. How old was Aaron when he died?
12. The mountains of Abarim are known as Mount \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
13. What is the name of the city, where the walls fall down?
14. What were the Israelites to destroy upon entering Canaan?
15. What would happen, if they did not obey God on this?