

Journey Through the Wilderness

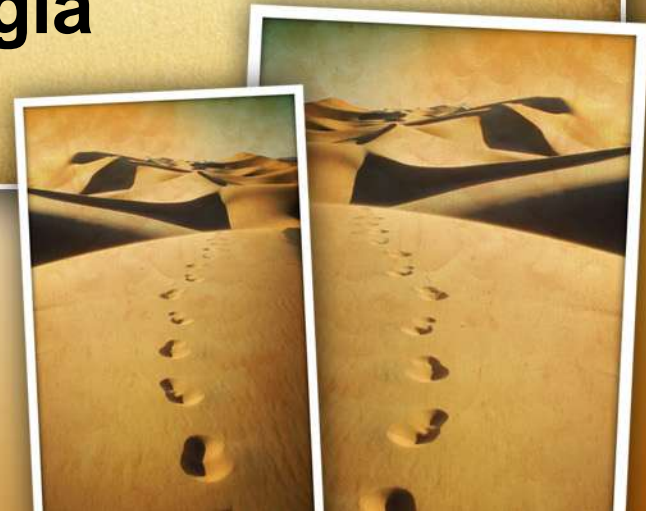
A Bible Study

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The Wilderness Journey



- **As recorded in the Book of Exodus, Israel escaped slavery in Egypt - God miraculously set them free from hundreds of years of bondage. They came through the Red Sea and saw God provide through the desert wilderness.**



They came to Mount Sinai where God appeared to them in a spectacular way; where Moses went up on the mountain to meet with God and receive the law. At Mount Sinai Israel also embraced an idolatrous image of a golden calf and was corrected by the Lord.





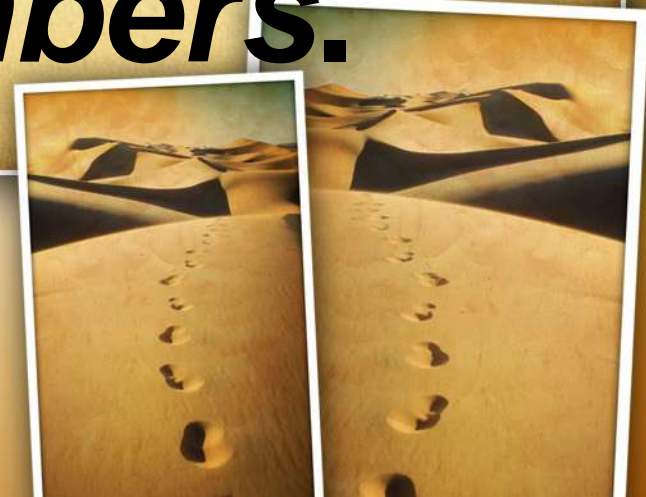
Encamped at Mount Sinai, Israel built a tabernacle of meeting and established a priesthood, receiving God's plan for the priests and the nation at large in Leviticus. At the end of the Book of Leviticus, they have been out of Egypt for a little more than a year.



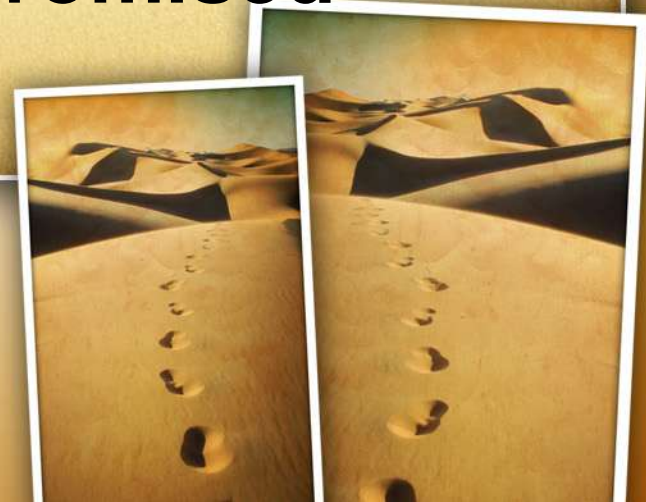
Exodus covered a year
Leviticus only a month
Book of Numbers
encompasses more than 38
years



**In Hebrew the book
of Numbers is titled
“*In the Wilderness*”
instead of *Numbers*.**



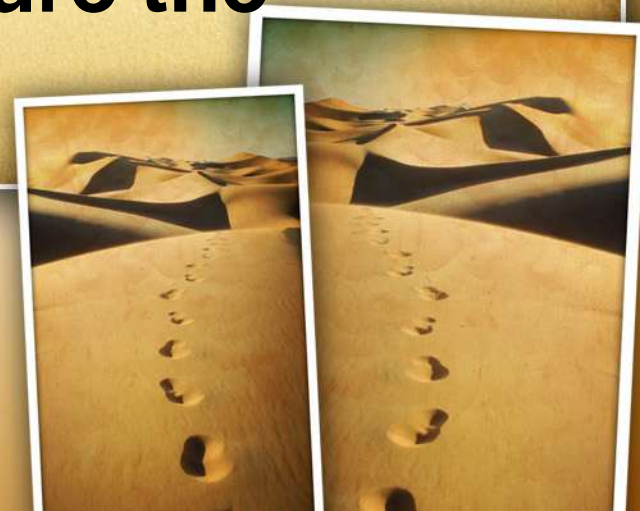
The theme of the book of Numbers is the journey to the Promised Land of Canaan. Its opening ten chapters, covering a mere fifty days, describe how Moses organized Israel for the march from Sinai to the Promised Land.”



After leaving Mt. Sinai, the Israelites headed toward the promised land. When they arrived at a place called Kadesh-Barnea, twelve spies were sent into the land to find out about it.



They returned after forty days, with the report of the beauty of the land, but ten of the twelve spies forgot about the fact that God was helping them and persuaded the people they just were not able to capture the land.



From Sinai to Kadesh

Numbers 10:11 – 13:33

Note Numbers 10:35

David later takes the words of Moses and writes a song (Psalm 68)






The People Complained

Numbers 11:1-3

Biblically, complaining was not limited to what a person said alone. Complaining, in Hebrew, means “to show oneself as sad”. People complain by merely showing sadness rather than contentment.





Before Israel said anything, they were already complaining. Complaining is a physical or emotional demonstration before it becomes a verbal expression.



Later, we will see Israel “murmuring”. Murmuring is the verbal expression of what has been demonstrated through physical complaining.



God was first upset with Israel because they did not act as if though they were happy or appreciative of what He had done for them. Remember, complaining is a demonstration before it becomes an expression.





In the Hebrew, the word “murmur” is the same word that is used for “lodge, abide, remain, tarry, continue, dwell.” Murmuring refers to voicing a complaint continuously as if the complaint abides, lodges, remains, tarries, dwells. It’s dwelling on a complaint.



God Responds

Numbers 11:1-3

God sends fire to consume them.

Moses intercedes for the people

The place is named Taberah



God Sends Quail

Numbers 11:4 – The Mixed Multitude

Exodus 12:38 says that *a mixed multitude* went out of Egypt. This means that not all of those who came out of Egypt with Moses were ethnically Israelites; many Egyptians (and perhaps other foreigners) went with them, because they were fellow slaves in Egypt, and because the God of Israel has shown Himself more powerful than the gods of the Egyptians.





The mixed multitude murmurs of hunger. (Numbers 11: 4-13)

Moses murmurs from the weariness he bears trying to lead the people. (Numbers 11:14)

God tells Moses to get help from 70 Elders (Numbers 11:16-25)



Eldad and Medad

Numbers 11:26-30

Eldad and Medad were not of the 70

Joshua wanted Eldad and Medad silenced

Moses was not intimidated.



God Sends Quail

- **Numbers 11:31-33**
- **Moses names the place again...
Kibroth-hattaavah which means “graves for the
lustful”**



Name 9 things that happened at Taberah

- 1. The people complain**
- 2. God sends Fire to consume them**
- 3. The mixed multitude complain**
- 4. Moses complains of the burden**
- 5. 70 Elders are chosen to assist**
- 6. Eldad and Medad receive the Spirit and Prophecy**
- 7. God sends quail**
- 8. God sends a plague**
- 9. Name of the place changed to Kibroth-hattaavah**



On to Hazeroth

- And the people journeyed from Kibrothhattaavah unto Hazeroth,.... After having stayed there a month or more ([Numbers 11:20](#))
- and abode at Hazeroth; at least seven days, as appears from [Numbers 12:15](#); which was eight miles from Kibrothhattaavah, or Taberah, which were the same place.






Miriam is Punished at Hazeroth

Numbers 12: 1-16

Notice the use of the word “spake against” rather than “complained” or “murmured”. The phrase used here means that Miriam and Aaron talked to each other regarding Moses in a negative manner. They did not engage to people in their discussion but God heard it and responded with wrath.





If Miriam and Aaron can speak to each other and get away with it, they will speak to others also. God had to stop it with Miriam and Aaron before the little leaven spoiled the whole loaf.



From Hazeroth To Kadesh



12 Spies sent from Kadesh

Numbers 13:1-33

