

War Against the Midianites

Numbers 31

Numbers 25:16-18

¹⁶Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

¹⁷“Harass the Midianites, and attack them; ¹⁸for they harassed you with their schemes by which they seduced you in the matter of Pēor and in the matter of Cōzbī, the daughter of a leader of Midian, their sister, who was killed in the day of the plague because of Pēor.”

Jeremiah 31:33-34

³³“But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

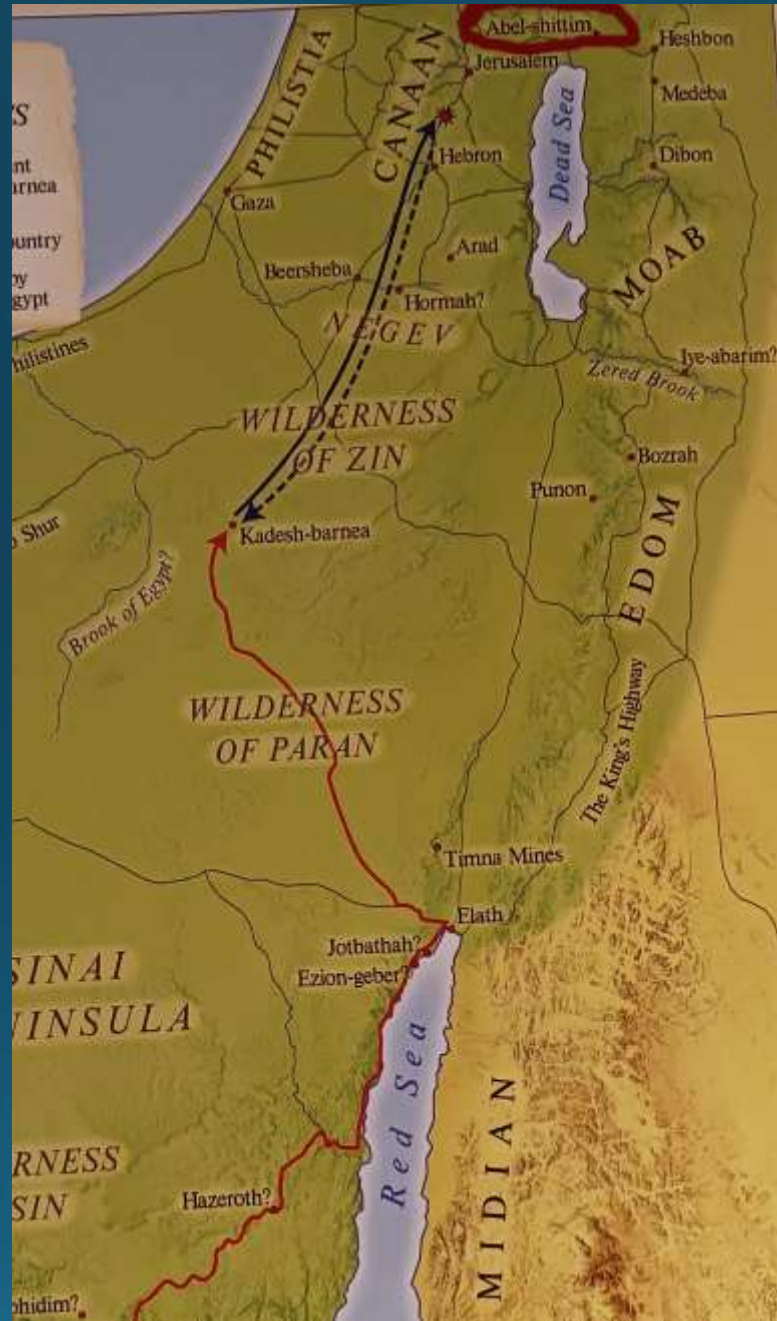
³⁴No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

Romans 3:21-23






²¹But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²²even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference, ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

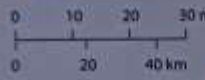
Numbers 31:1-2

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:
2“Take vengeance on the Midianites for the children of Israel.” Afterward you shall be gathered to your people.”



JOURNEY TO THE PROMISED LAND

-  Probable route of the Israelites' journey to Abel-shittim
-  King Sihon attacks the Israelites
-  Israelite battle missions
-  King Og attacks the Israelites
-  Land taken from Og and Sihon



Numbers 31:3-6

³So Moses spoke to the people, saying, “Arm some of yourselves for war, and let them go against the Midianites to take vengeance for the LORD on Midian. ⁴A thousand from each tribe of all the tribes of Israel you shall send to the war.” ⁵So there were recruited from the divisions of Israel one thousand from *each* tribe, twelve thousand armed for war. ⁶Then Moses sent them to the war with Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, with the holy articles and the signal trumpets in his hand.

Numbers 10:9

“When you go to war in your land against the enemy who oppresses you, then you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, and you will be remembered before the LORD your God, and you will be saved from your enemies.”



Numbers 31:7-8

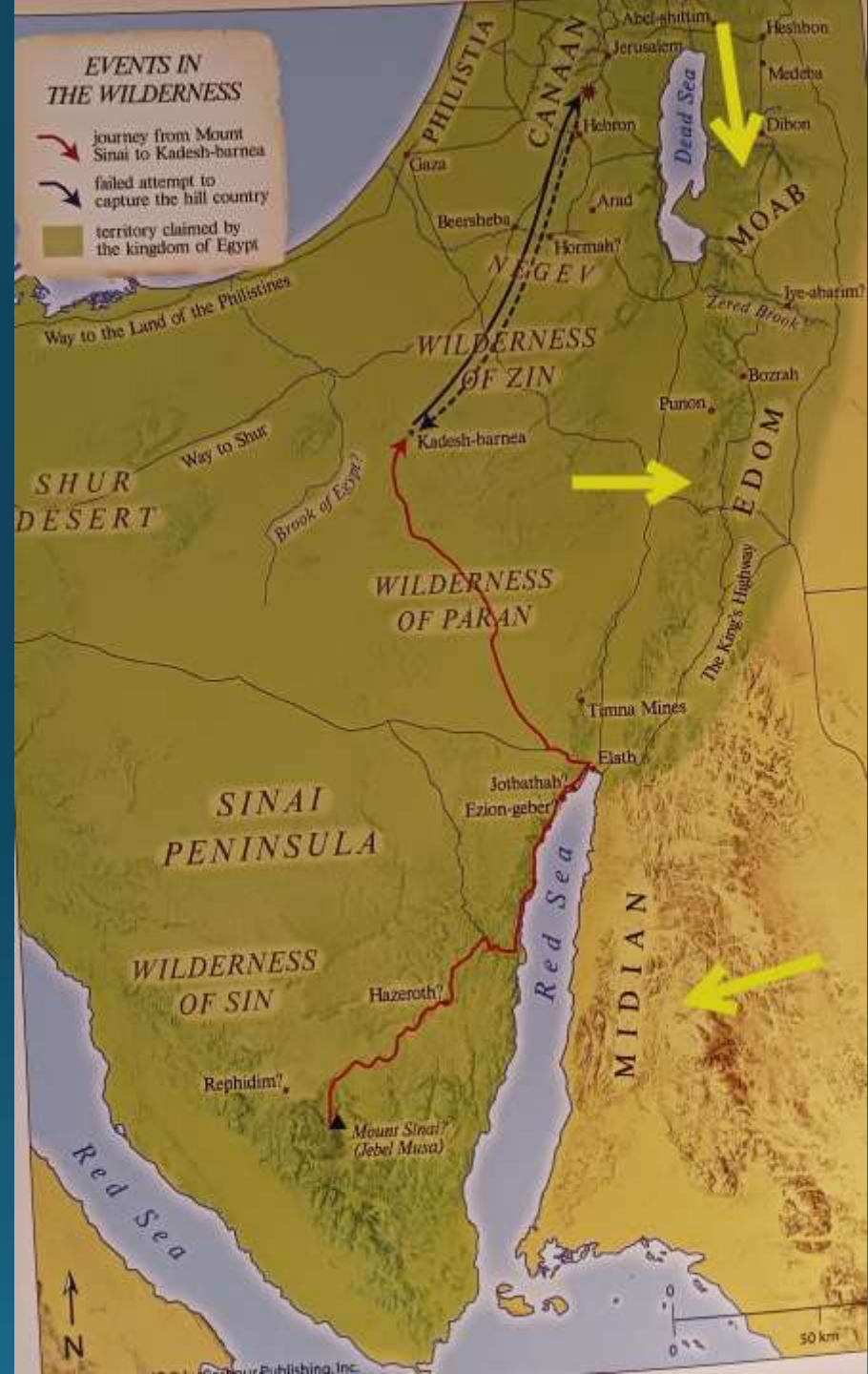
⁷And they warred against the Midianites, just as the LORD commanded Moses, and they killed all the males. ⁸They killed the kings of Midian with *the* rest of those who were killed —Ēvī, Rēkem, Zūr, Hur, and Rēba, the five kings of Midian. Bālaam the son of Beor they also killed with the sword.

Numbers 31:9-12






⁹And the children of Israel took the women of Midian captive, with their little ones, and took as spoil all their cattle, all their flocks, and all their goods. ¹⁰They also burned with fire all the cities where they dwelt, and all their forts. ¹¹And they took all the spoil and all the booty—of man and beast. ¹²Then they brought the captives, the booty, and the spoil to Moses, to Elēāzar the priest, and to the congregation of the children of Israel, to the camp in the plains of Mōab by the Jordan, across from Jericho.

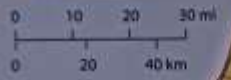
EVENTS IN THE WILDERNESS

-  journey from Mount Sinai to Kadesh-barnea
-  failed attempt to capture the hill country
-  territory claimed by the kingdom of Egypt



JOURNEY TO THE PROMISED LAND

-  Probable route of the Israelites' journey to Abel-shittim
-  King Sihon attacks the Israelites
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Numbers 31:13-16

¹³And Moses, Elēāzar the priest, and all the leaders of the congregation, went to meet them outside the camp. ¹⁴But Moses was angry with the officers of the army, *with* the captains over thousands and captains over hundreds, who had come from the battle. ¹⁵And Moses said to them: “Have you kept all the women alive? ¹⁶Look, these *women* caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Bālaam, to trespass against the LORD in the incident of Pēor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.”

Numbers 31:17-18

¹⁷“Now therefore, kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman who has known a man intimately. ¹⁸But keep alive for yourselves all the young girls who have not known a man intimately.”

Numbers 31:48-50

⁴⁸Then the officers who *were* over thousands of the army, the captains of thousands and captains of hundreds, came near to Moses; ⁴⁹and they said to Moses, “Your servants have taken a count of the men of war who *are* under our command, and not a man of us is missing. ⁵⁰Therefore we have brought an offering for the LORD, what every man found of ornaments of gold: armlets and bracelets and signet rings and earrings and necklaces, to make atonement for ourselves before the LORD.”

Numbers 31:51-54

⁵¹So Moses and Elēāzar the priest received the gold from them, all the fashioned ornaments. ⁵²And all the gold of the offering that they offered to the LORD, from the captains of thousands and captains of hundreds, was sixteen thousand seven hundred and fifty shekels. ⁵³(The men of war had taken spoil, every man for himself.) ⁵⁴And Moses and Elēāzar the priest received the gold from the captains of thousands and of hundreds, and brought it into the tabernacle of meeting as a memorial for the children of Israel before the LORD.

“This massive gift was brought into the tabernacle as a memorial of God’s faithfulness to His people (vv. 51-54). Previously, some of them had left Jehovah’s presence for carnal reasons and had paid a terrible price, but now they experienced God’s grace in an incredible way and were delighting in Him alone.”

Warren Henderson *Refining and Reminding* p. 237

1 Samuel 15:22

So Samuel said: “Has the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, *and* to heed than the fat of rams.”

Psalm 40:6

Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened.
Burnt offering and sin offering You did no require.

Hosea 6:6

“For I desire mercy and not sacrifice,
and the knowledge of God more than
burnt offerings.”

Isaiah 1:3

³The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master's crib; *but* Israel does not know, My people do not consider...

Isaiah 1:11

¹¹“To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?” Says the LORD, “I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed cattle. I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs or goats.” ...

Isaiah 1:13-14

¹³“Bring no more futile sacrifices; incense is an abomination to Me. The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies—I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting. ¹⁴Your New Moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates; they are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing them.”

Jeremiah 9:24

“But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I *am* the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says the LORD.

Romans 10:8-10 [From Deut. 30:14]

⁸But what does it say? “*The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart*” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): ⁹that if you confess [sins] with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

1 John 2:21, 24-25

²¹I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

1 John 2:21, 24-25

²⁴Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you will abide in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life.

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