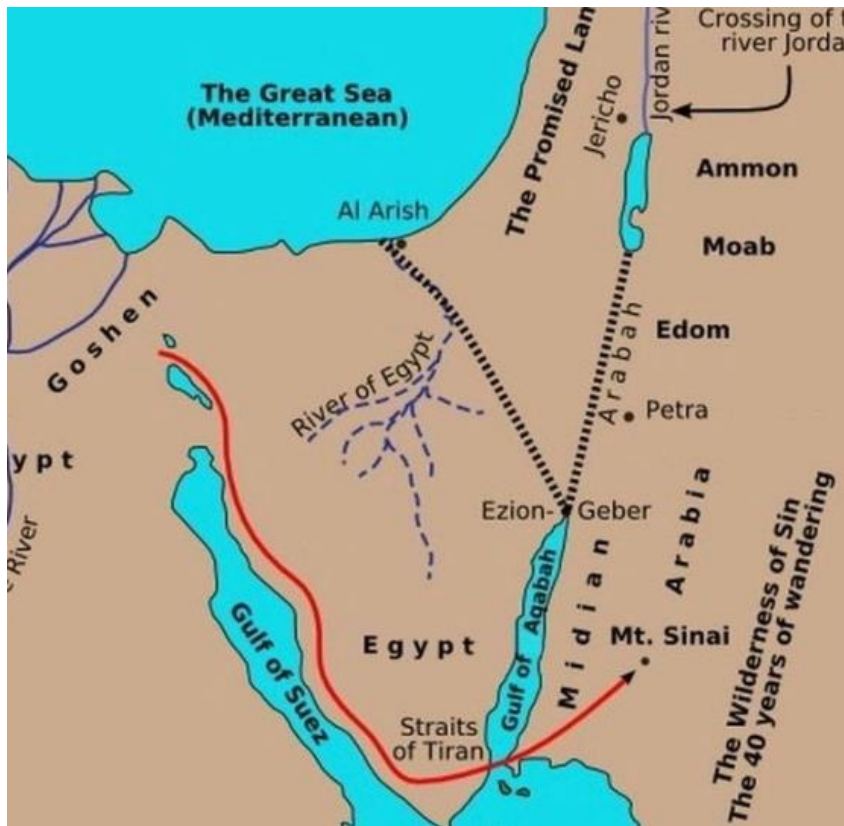


Intro:

Today I would like us to continue on the story of the wilderness and of why Israel did not enter the promised land right away but had to wander for 40 years. It was never God's intention for the Israelites to wander for 40 years. The route from Egypt to the promise was a day or two walk, not 40 years.



Here are some things to consider:

- 1) God was giving them everything they needed to trust Him.
 - a. Water provisions

- b. Food provisions
- c. War protection and victory
- d. The law of governance and sacrificial system.
- e. His presence in a cloud and fire.

They had everything they needed to enter except one thing. Faith.

Moses sends 12 spies—what they saw—the report—the good and bad response.

The people did not want to go because of what was waiting for them across those lines.

Numbers 13:30

(30) Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it."

Numbers 13:31

(31) But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we."

Caleb knew what was behind those lines but also knew who was with them.

Numbers 14:1-45

(1) So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night.

(2) And all the children of Israel **complained against Moses and Aaron**, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we **had died in the land of Egypt!** Or if only we **had died in this wilderness!**

(3) Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? **Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?"**

(4) So they said to one another, "Let us **select a leader and return to Egypt.**"

(5) Then **Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly** of the congregation of the children of Israel.



(6) But **Joshua the son of Nun** and **Caleb the son of Jephunneh**, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes;

(7) and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land.

(8) **If the LORD delights in us**, then He will bring us into this land and **give it to us**, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.'

(9) **Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread;**

their protection has departed from them,
and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them."

RESPONSE: (10) And all the congregation **said to stone them with stones.**

(Stephen – John 6:66)

GOD'S REPLY - Now the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of meeting before all the children of Israel.



(11) Then the LORD said to Moses: "How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they **not believe Me**, with **all the signs** which I have performed among them?"

(12) I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and **I will make of you** a nation greater and mightier than they."

(13) And Moses said to the LORD: "Then the Egyptians will hear it, for by Your might You brought these people up from among them,

(14) and they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that You, LORD, are among these people; that You, LORD, are seen face to face and Your cloud stands above them, and You go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night.

(15) Now if You kill these people as one man, **then the nations which have heard of Your fame will speak, saying,**

(16) 'Because the LORD was **not able to bring this people to the land** which He swore to give them, therefore He killed them in the wilderness.'

(17) And now, I pray, let the power of my Lord be great, just as You have spoken, saying,

(18) 'The LORD is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He **by no means clears the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation.'**

(19) **Pardon the iniquity of this people,** I pray, according to the greatness of Your mercy, just as You have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now."

(Forgive them; they know not)

(20) Then the LORD said: **"I have pardoned, according to your word;**

(21) but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD—

(22) because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have **put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice,**

(23) they certainly **shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers,** nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it.

(24) **But My servant Caleb,** because he has a **different spirit in him and has followed Me fully,** I will bring into the land where he went, and **his descendants shall inherit it.**

(25) Now the Amalekites and the Canaanites dwell in the valley; tomorrow turn and move out into the wilderness by the Way of the Red Sea."

(26) And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,

(27) "How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who complain against Me? I have

heard the complaints which the children of Israel make against Me.

(28) Say to them, 'As I live,' says the LORD, 'just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you:

(29) The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above.

(30) **Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun**, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in.

(31) But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and they shall know the land which you have despised.

(32) But as for you, **your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness.**

(33) And your sons shall be **shepherds in the wilderness forty years**, and bear the brunt of

your infidelity, until your carcasses are consumed in the wilderness.

(34) According to the number of the days in which **you spied out the land, forty days, for each day you shall bear your guilt one year, namely forty years, and you shall know My rejection.**

(35) I the LORD have spoken this. I will surely do so to all this evil congregation who are gathered together against Me. In this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.' "

Hebrews 3:16-19 For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? (17) Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? (18) And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? (19) So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

(36) Now the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land, who returned and made all the congregation complain against him by bringing a bad report of the land,

(37) those very men who brought the evil report about the land, **died by the plague before the LORD.**

(38) But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh remained alive, of the men who went to spy out the land.

(39) Then Moses told these words to all the children of Israel, and the people mourned greatly.

(40) And they rose early in the morning and went up to the top of the mountain, saying, **"Here we are, and we will go up to the place which the LORD has promised, for we have sinned!"**

(41) And Moses said, "Now why do you transgress the command of the LORD? For this will not succeed.

(42) Do not go up, lest you be defeated by your enemies, for the LORD is not among you.

(43) For the Amalekites and the Canaanites are there before you, and you shall fall by the sword; because you have turned away from the LORD, the LORD will not be with you."

(44) But they presumed to go up to the mountaintop. Nevertheless, neither the ark of the covenant of the LORD nor Moses departed from the camp.

(45) Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites who dwelt in that mountain came down and attacked them, and drove them back as far as Hormah.