



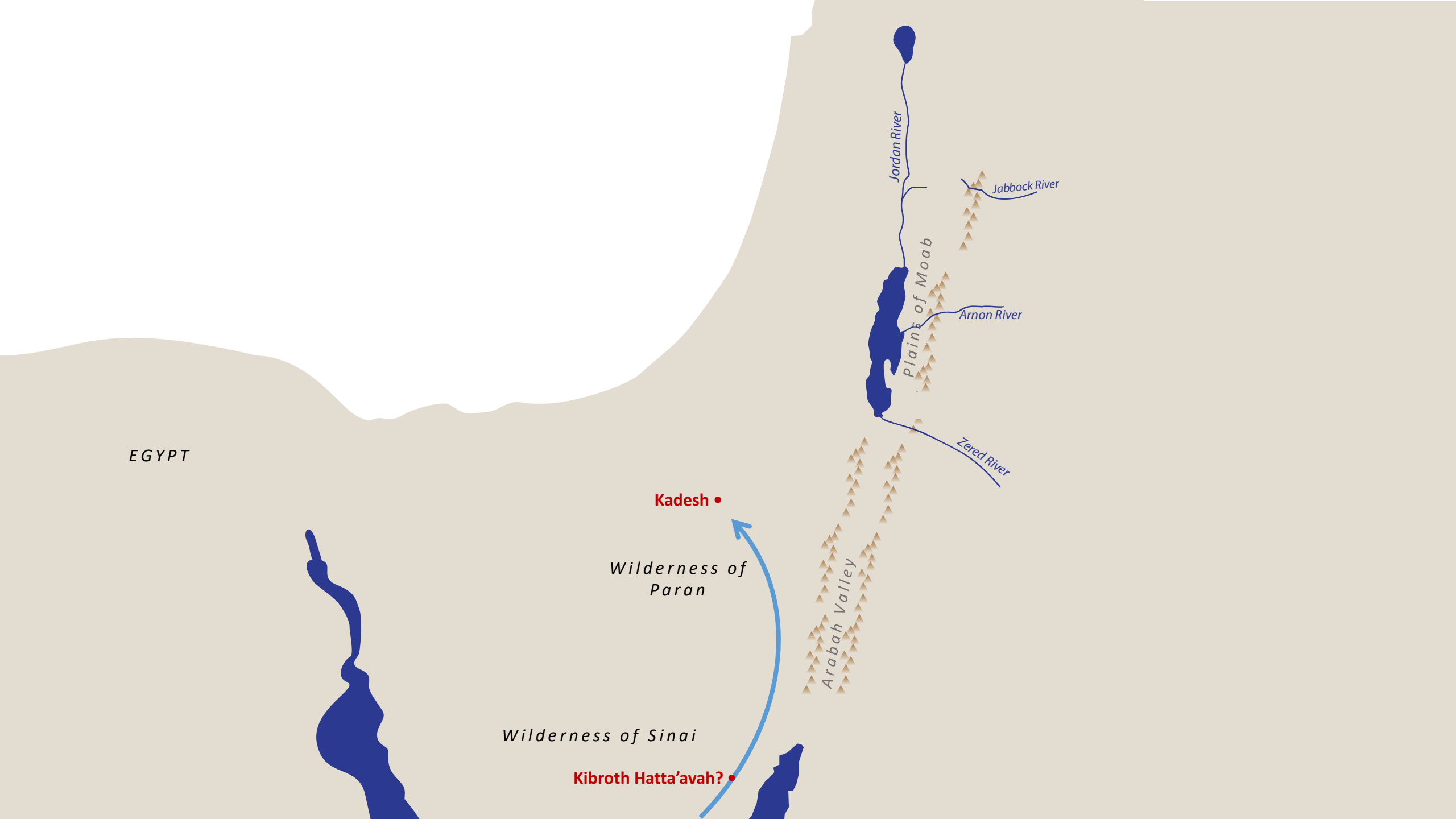
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BOOK OF NUMBERS

Lesson 3: Taberah & Kibroth Hatta'avah

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EGYPT

Jordan River

Jabbock River

Arnon River

Zered River

Plains of Moab

Arabah Valley

Kadesh •

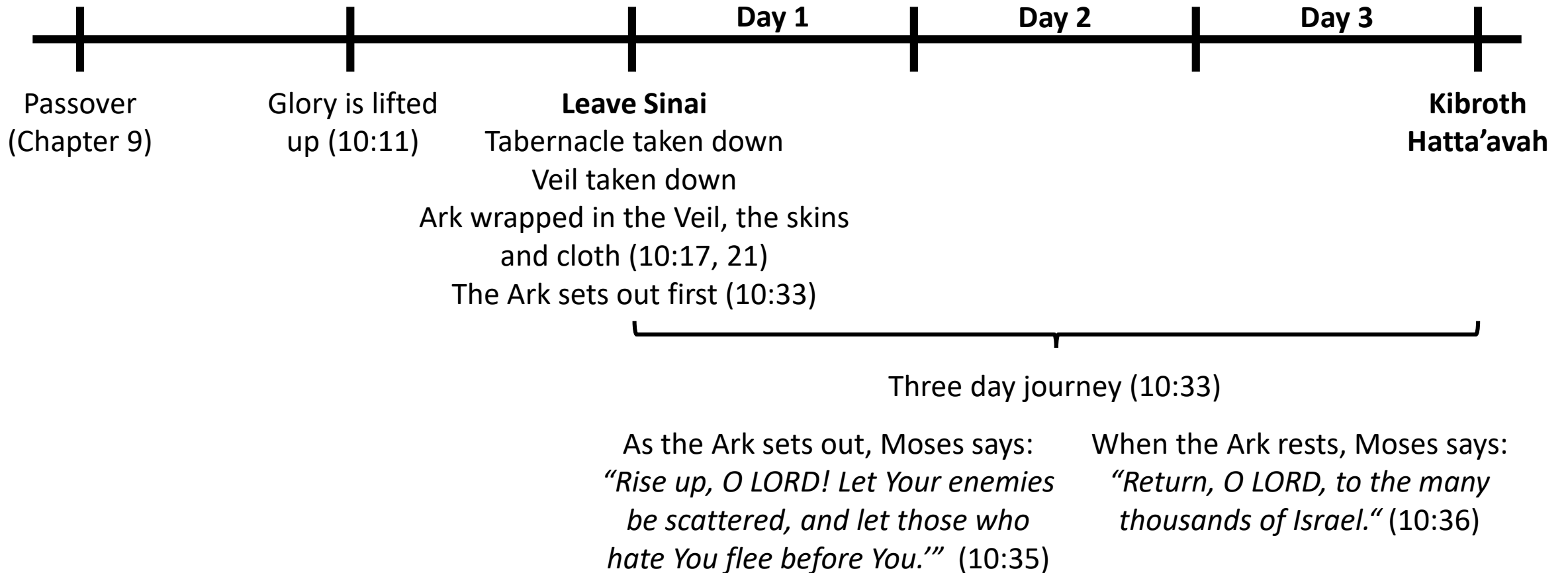
Wilderness of Paran

Wilderness of Sinai

Kibroth Hatta'avah? •

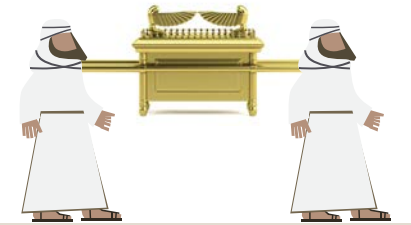


Timeline of Chapter 10 -11:1



Order of March, Numbers 10:14-28

Kohathites
carrying the ark



Naphtali

Asher

Dan

Benjamin

Manasseh

Ephraim

Kohathites
with the
Holy Things

Gad

Simeon

Reuben

Sons of Gershon
& Merari with
the Tabernacle
curtains &
structure

Zebulun

Issachar

Judah

NORTH

WEST

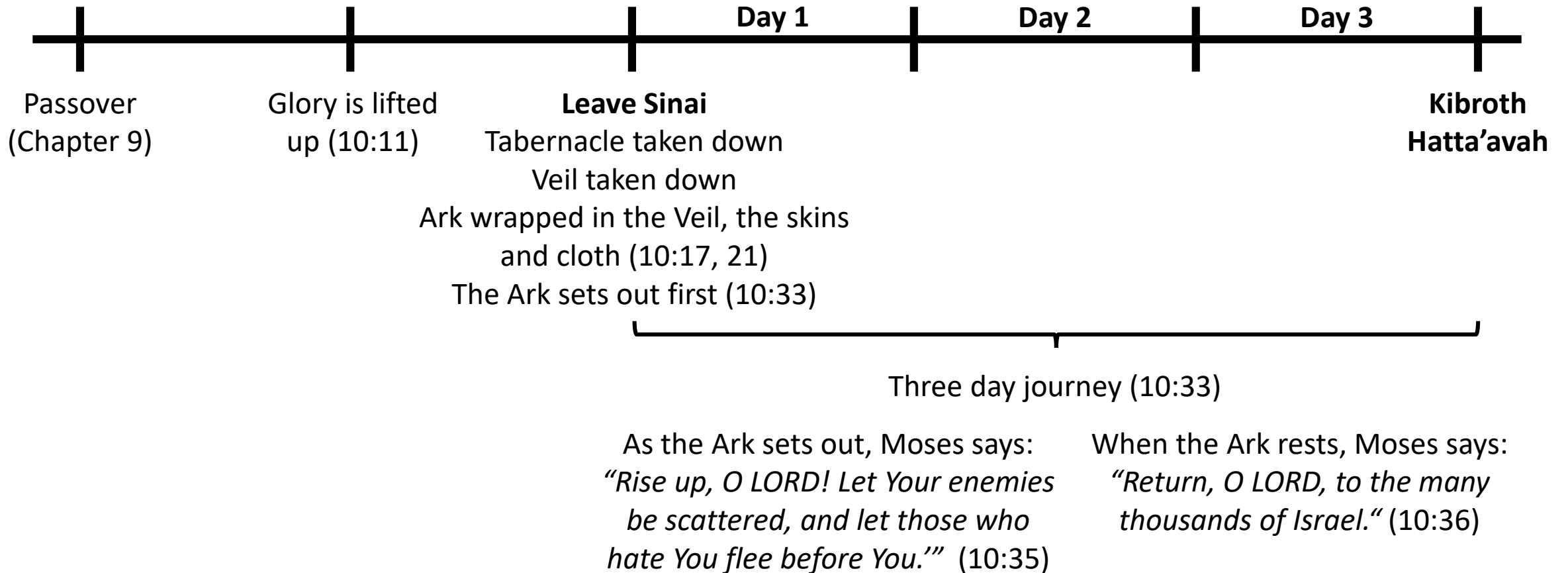
SOUTH

EAST

Carried on their
shoulders
(Numbers 7:9)

Carried on
oxen-drawn carts
(Numbers 7:7-8)

Timeline of Chapter 10 -11:1



Wilderness of Sinai

Wilderness of Paran

View of Israel

Wilderness of Zin

Arabah Valley & Moab

Kings Highway

Plains of Moab



Wilderness of Sinai

Wilderness of Paran

Wilderness of Zin

Kings Highway

Arabah Valley & Moab

Plains of Moab



Wilderness of Sinai

Wilderness of Paran

View of Israel

Wilderness of Zin

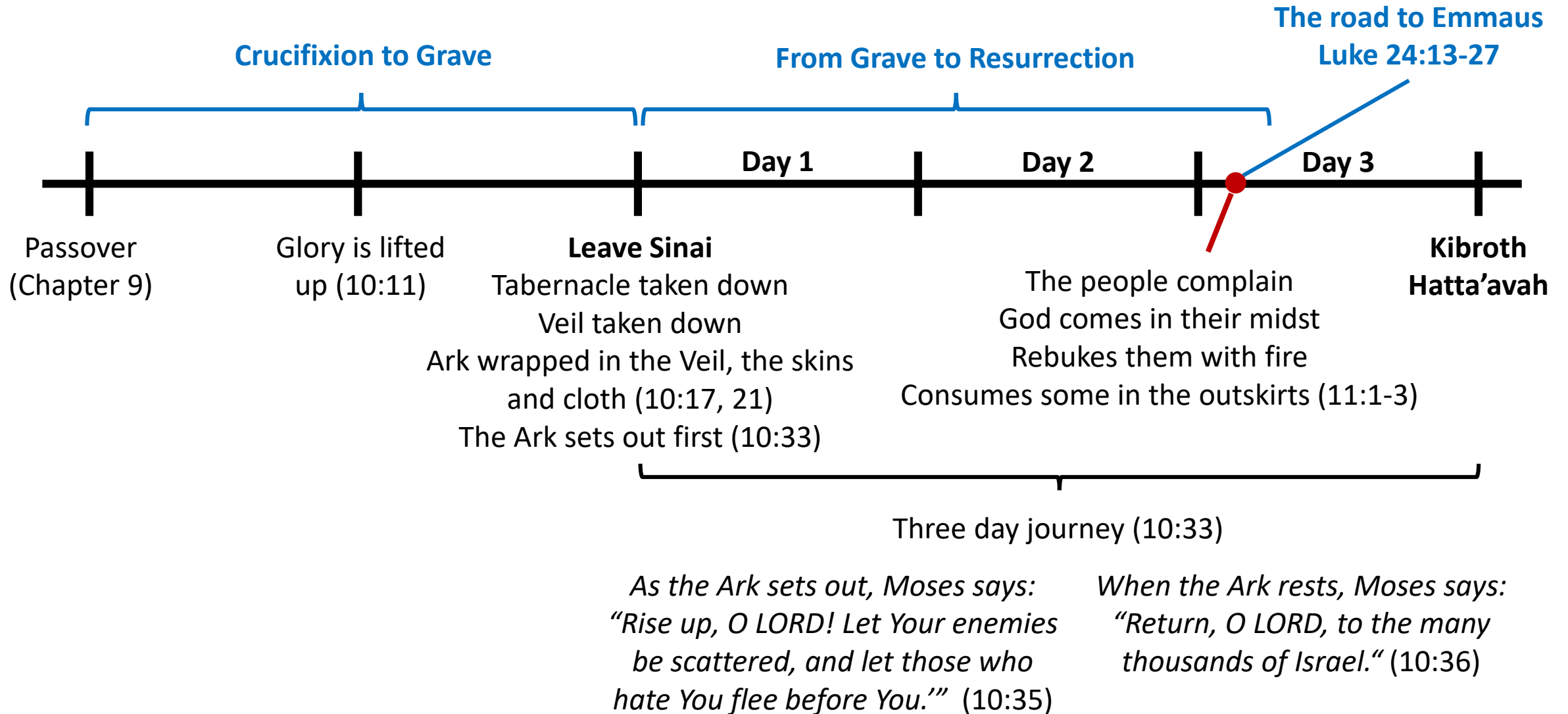
Arabah Valley & Moab

Kings Highway

Plains of Moab



Timeline of Chapter 10 -11:1 Shadow Christology



Taberah (Numbers 11:1-3)

Complaining: Hebrew word, *anan*, meaning to **murmur with sorrow**.

Self-pity: Excessive, self-absorbed unhappiness over one's own troubles.

Pitfall in the Journey: Be careful of who we cry out to when we need lifting up.

We can give glory to God by seeking Him in this moment...

...or we can seek our lifting up from others by sinking into self-pity.

Character of Self-pity

- Self-focused and self-promoting
- It casts us in the identity of a victim and demands others lift us up
- Like fire, it seeks out those who feed it
- Socially contagious
- Spread by the tongue

Read James 3:2-6.

- The tongue is a fire.
- The tongue has the ability to **alter our physical path** from the direction the Lord wants us to go.
- The tongue is the instrument that **causes spiritual defilement** when it violates boundaries.

Taberah: The Burning of the Tongue (Numbers 11:1-3)

What is the Lord's reaction to our complaining?

"Displeased" (evil to His ear); anger was kindled

How does the Lord stop the fire from spreading?

He fights fire with fire. He sets a backfire.

"See how great a forest a little fire kindles!"

Why didn't God's action stop the complaining?

Luke 6:45 *"...out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."* The problem isn't with the tongue, but with the heart. The tongue was punished but the heart problem wasn't dealt with.

Read James 3:13-16.

- Our tongue reveals what our **heart is feeling** and our **mind is thinking**.
- A tool for making our **inward** corruption evident on the **outside**.

What are some other destructive uses of the tongue?

- Gossip, criticism, angry outbursts.
- We get glorification from them.
- These behaviors are a way of **lifting ourselves up** by putting someone else **down**.
- Ultimately these bring glory to you but take glory away from God.

Camp Check:

Where in camp did the burning take place?

Who is in the outskirts of the camp and what is their spiritual status?

The complaint starts outside the camp and spreads into the camp. How did that boundary get crossed?

Kibroth Hatta'avah: Mixing with the Multitude

Read Numbers 11:4-10

How did we forget Egypt so quickly?

Why is it that we only remember the food?

- Food is our comfort.
- Food is our go-to pleasure whenever life gets difficult.
- Food is our escape
- It represents our coping strategy.

A Modern Scenario...

Who are the mixed multitude (Exodus 12:35-38)?

Hebrew word, *aspesuf*, meaning rabble.

- The cling-ons from the old life
- They are people who have seen the mighty work God has done in our life, and they are drawn to it because of its “shock and awe” quality. It is a thrilling novelty.
- They pursue the money. They insinuate themselves into our lives because they think they will have some benefit from us.
- They live for extremes and excesses. Moderation is not part of their thinking.
- They live for the moment and immediate gratification. Self-control is not part of their thinking.
- At heart they are not interested in a relationship with God. They have little heart for sticking around once the excitement dies down and the real work of building a relationship with God begins.

The Argument: Five tactics the mixed multitude use to get us off the path

1. They get us to identify with them as victims of God, to undermine our identity with God
2. They get us focused on issues
3. They present us a skewed comparison
4. They focus us on our freedom of choice – asserting our right of choice, our entitlement
5. They create a demand for their options

#1) They get us to identify with them as victims (Numbers 11:4)

- This is an intentional effort to uproot our identity with God.
- There is a difference between being a victim and having a victim identity.
- The victim identity is self-pity on steroids.
- Victimization does not define the child of God.
- Beware of getting sucked into a victim mentality and a victim identity.
- Work with victims as individuals – help them, encourage them, seek justice for them if possible.
- Do not take their victim identity on yourself. Seek to bring them out of it.

Five Strategies of the Mixed Multitude to Get Us Off the Path

#2) They get us focused on issues (Numbers 11:5-6)

- Food is not the real issue. The real issue is that they don't want a relationship with our God. Their roots are in Egypt.
- Food is just an issue to rally around and start the retreat to Egypt.
- Where the Lord lifted our heads and challenged us to see the bigger picture, the multitudes have us looking back down and focused on the weeds.
- The key to dealing with issues is to address them in a way that glorifies God.
 - Be rooted in our identity with God
 - Know His position and align with it, heart and mind
 - Control your flaming tongue. Mind the tone of voice or attitude that we argue with

#3) Present a skewed comparison

- Make comparisons between what God is offering at the moment and what Egypt has to offer.
- They prey on the difficulty that we are having at this moment, and make it seem like this is going to be our reality for the rest of our lives.
- They skew our definition of glorious living, and rob us of the glory God has planned for us.

Five Strategies of the Mixed Multitude to Get Us Off the Path

#4) Focus on freedom of choice

- In Egypt we had variety. In Egypt we had choices.
- This feeds our sense of individuality and self-determinism.

Abstinence is a choice

- Abstaining for a time reveals the heart desire to be nearer to God.
- Submitting your will to God's will reveals a desire to be like God.
- Practicing abstinence is one of the choices that sets us apart from the world.

New Testament on abstinence

- **Acts 15:20:** ...Abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood
- **1 Thessalonians 4:3:** abstain from sexual immorality
- **1 Thessalonians 5:22:** Abstain from every form of evil
- **1 Peter 2:11:** abstain from fleshly lusts
- **Romans 14:21** abstain from anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.

Abstinence must also be kept in balance.

- Separating yourself from worldly things be taken to unhealthy extremes
- Makes you overly focused on self to the exclusion of others.
- Abstinence that is only for outward show and not inward heart change is useless.

Five Strategies of the Mixed Multitude to Get Us Off the Path

#5) Create demands for their options

- Manna vs. meat-fish-cucumbers-melons-leeks-onions-garlic
- In the world of numbers, more is always better
- Get our focus off the necessary, need-to-have things, and get us focused on unnecessary want-to-have things.
- Want-to-have things become need-to-have things (the lie)
- Then the need-to-haves become right-to-haves. (entitlement)
- Entitlement is driven by an overinflated sense of self.
- Self-glorification over superficial issues
- While puffing us up, they sucks us back into the world of peer pressure and group conformity
- it will completely undermine our identity with God in the end.

Next Week: December 24th, Christmas Eve

One-day intensive presented by Pastor Don Den Hartog

King Herod in contrast to King Jesus the Christ

Room 2-2

Return to this class December 31st

Part two of Kibroth Hatta'avah