



Exodus 13-15 | "Through The Red Sea"

I. THE REDEMPTION OF THE FIRSTBORN (13)

A. (v. 18)

1. **"But God led the people about, through the way of the wilderness of the Red sea: and the children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt."**

a. "God led the people about"

1) "about" - Heb. "in a circuit; in a circle; circled around"

a) So often, God will lead us in a direction that is the opposite of what seems logical, but it will always *circle around* and make sense later!

2) **KEY:** God led the people! He was leading them.

b. "wilderness" - Heb. "desert; uninhabited land"

c. "harnessed" - Heb. "armed; battle arrayed"

1) Some have suggested that they recovered some of the equipment from the dead Egyptian army when they washed onto shore.





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B. (v. 20)

1. **"And they took their journey from Succoth, and encamped in Etham, in the edge of the wilderness."**

a. "the edge of the wilderness"

1) "edge" - Heb. "coast; extremity; brim; border; frontier; end"

II. CROSSING THE RED SEA (14)

A. (v. 2)

1. **"Speak unto the children of Israel, that they turn and encamp before Pihahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, over against Baalzephon: before it shall ye encamp by the sea."**

a. "turn" - Heb. "turn back; return; come back; change course; change direction; turn toward; turn back into"

b. "Pihahiroth" - Heb. "mouth of the gorge; mouth of the channel"

c. "Migdol" - Heb. "tower; fortress"

d. "Baalzephon" - Heb. "Baal of winter; god of the north; god of the unknown"

B. (v. 11)

1. **"And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt?"**

a. Here, the children of Israel begin to give Moses a hard time. On a natural level, this would not be a good strategy.

1) They have no way of escape.



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- 2) They are surrounded and have no way out.
- b. However, *God* directed them into this situation!
 - 1) Moses is just receiving instruction from the Lord (v. 1-2), and it was the Lord that led them right into a dead end.
- c. **Q** = Why would God lead them into a TRAP?...
 - 1) He wanted to close every possible avenue of escape, except Himself.
 - 2) He wanted to teach them that He can make a way even when there is no way.
 - 3) He wanted them to despair of their own human resources and bring them to a total trust in Him.
 - 4) He wanted them to know that salvation and deliverance comes only from the Lord.
- d. I hear people say so often, "I gave my life to the Lord, and now everything is always going wrong! It's gotten so difficult!"
 - 1) If you been a very resourceful person, very "street smart", or very self-reliant, then God has to bring you into situations for you to learn that you can't do it and to trust Him to do it!
 - 2) For years, you've learned to be self-sufficient and relying on your own ways.
 - 3) God is trying to deliver you from yourself!
 - a) Cf. **James 4:6** - "*God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.*"
 - i. **NOTE:** If God is humbling you, that's not a bad thing! It's so He can give you more grace — His resources!
- e. You might be in a place where you're surrounded and have no way out. You feel TRAPPED!



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- 1) In a dead end job.
 - 2) Trapped in a relationship.
 - 3) Stuck in an addiction, and it seems that there's no way out.
 - 4) In financial ruin.
- f. **Q** = What was Moses' instruction?... (v. 13)
- 1) "*Fear not*"
 - a) Our human nature is to fear in uncertain situations.
 - 2) "*Stand still*"
 - a) Too often, we feel that we just have to do something, and then we make bigger messes.
 - 3) "*See the salvation of the Lord*"
 - a) Once you have the right perspective of God, it becomes exciting to see how He's going to work it out!
 - i. I have no idea how He's gonna do it, but I can't wait to see what happens!

C. (v. 21-22)

1. **"And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left."**
 - a. "*the sea*"
 - 1) Most modern scholars, which try to explain this story in terms of the natural, translate it as "Reed Sea" or "Sea of Reeds".



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- a) The Reed Sea is a marshland or shallow lake in Egypt, and when the east wind blows, it pushes back the water and makes it dry ground until the wind stops or changes direction.
 - b) **KEY:** If they crossed at the *Sea of Reeds*, then this is a bigger miracle than I thought because that means the whole Egyptian army drowned in a only few feet of water!!! Obviously, I'm being facetious.
- 2) I believe that these scholars are wrong when you just look at the Text!
2. **Q** = Was this *the Red Sea*? (13:18)... YES!!!
- a. **Textual Reasons:**
 - 1) In the 3rd century B.C., when the Jews translated the Hebrew Bible into Greek (LXX), they translated it with the Greek words *eruthrá thálassē* ("**Red Sea**"), not "Reed Sea".
 - 2) The New Testament, written by the Inspiration of the Holy Spirit, uses the Greek word for "Red", not "Reed", just like the LXX — "Red Sea".
 - a) Cf. **Acts 7:36** - "*He brought them out, after that he had shewed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in **the Red sea**, and in the wilderness forty years.*"
 - b) Cf. **Hebrews 11:29** - "*By faith they passed through **the Red sea** as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.*"
 - 3) The description of this event in the O.T. Scriptures do not allow for a small, marshy lake. This was a HUGE event!
 - a) Cf. **Exodus 14:21-22, 28-29** - "*And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and **the***



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waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. ... And the waters returned, and **covered** the chariots, and the horsemen, and **all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them.** But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and **the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.**"

- b) Cf. [Exodus 15:4-5, 8, 10](#) - "Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea: his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red sea. **The depths have covered them: they sank into the bottom as a stone.** ... And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap, and **the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea.** ... Thou didst blow with thy wind, the sea covered them: they sank as lead in **the mighty waters.**"
- c) Cf. [Psalm 136:13-15](#) - "To him which **divided the Red sea into parts:** for his mercy endureth for ever: And made Israel to pass through the midst of it: for his mercy endureth for ever: **But overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red sea:** for his mercy endureth for ever."
- d) Cf. [1 Kings 9:26](#) - "And king Solomon made a **navy of ships** in Eziongeber, which is beside Eloth, **on the shore of the Red sea, in the land of Edom.**"
- i. **NOTE:** Yam Suph ("Red Sea") is here speaking of the Gulf of Aqaba, whose north shore is Edom (modern-day southern Jordan).
- e) Cf. [Nehemiah 9:11](#) - "And thou didst divide the sea before them, so that they went through the midst of the sea on the dry land; and their persecutors thou threwest **into the deeps**, as a stone into **the mighty waters.**"
- f) Cf. [Psalm 77:19-20](#) - "Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in **the great waters**, and thy footsteps



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are not known. Thou leddest thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron."

- g) Cf. **Psalm 78:13** - "He divided the sea, and caused them to pass through; and he made the waters to stand as an heap."
- h) Cf. **Isaiah 51:10, 15** - "Art thou not it which hath dried the sea, the waters of **the great deep**; that hath made **the depths of the sea** a way for the ransomed to pass over? ... But I am the LORD thy God, that divided the sea, **whose waves roared**: The LORD of hosts is his name."
- i) Cf. **Isaiah 63:11-14** - "Then he remembered the days of old, Moses, and his people, saying, Where is he that brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of his flock? where is he that put his holy Spirit within him? That led them by the right hand of Moses with his glorious arm, dividing the water before them, to make himself an everlasting name? That led them **through the deep**, as an horse in the wilderness, that they should not stumble? As a beast goeth **down into the valley**, the Spirit of the LORD caused him to rest: so didst thou lead thy people, to make thyself a glorious name."
- j) Cf. **Jeremiah 31:35** - "Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name:"

b. PROBLEMS WITH TRADITIONAL LOCATION OF MT. SINAI:



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Saint Catherine's Monastery



Trouble with the Tradition

1. No archeological evidence ever found
2. No geographical evidence present
3. Northern Sinai had an Egyptian military presence
4. Moses was returning to Mt. Horeb in Midian

- Exodus 2:15; 3:1



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4. Moses was returning to Mt. Horeb in Midian
- Exodus 2:15; 3:1
5. The Bible places it in Arabia
- Galatians 4:25 "...Mount Sinai in Arabia..."

Explorers of the Exodus



Ron Wyatt



Bob Cornuke



Jim & Penny Caldwell



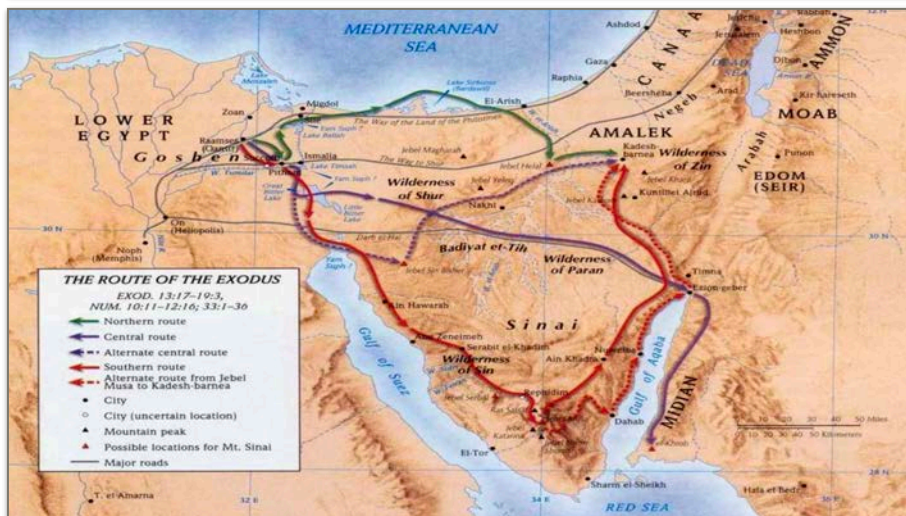
Dr. David Kim



Exodus 13-15 | "Through The Red Sea"

Place of the Crossing

- After 215 years of living in Egypt
 - Most of that time as slaves
 - The Children of Israel are finally set free
- They camped at Succoth ("Booths") - Exodus 12:37
- They then camped at Etham - Exodus 13:20
 - *"at the edge of the wilderness"*
- They travel to the place of the crossing



Place of the Crossing





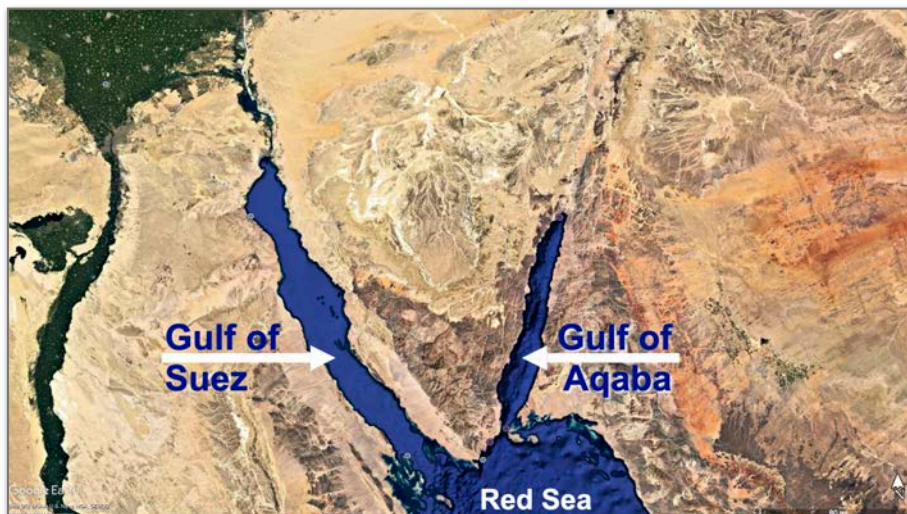
Exodus 13-15 | "Through The Red Sea"

Place of the Crossing

- Issue of the TIMING of the Crossing:
 - About 48 days to arrive at Mt. Sinai - Exodus 19:1
 - About 30 days to arrive in Midian - Exodus 16:1
 - There are about 25 days to arrive at the crossing point.

Place of the Crossing

- At the "*Red Sea*"
 - Exodus 14:21-22, 28-29; 15:4-5, 8, 10; 1 Kings 9:26; Nehemiah 9:11; Psalm 77:19-20; 78:13; 136:13-15; Isaiah 51:10, 15; 63:11-14; Jeremiah 31:35; Acts 7:36; Hebrews 11:29





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Place of the Crossing

- The Red Sea
 - Maximum depth near 9,000 ft
- Gulf of Suez
 - Average width of 20 miles
 - Depth of 200-300 feet
- Gulf of Aqaba
 - 8-17 miles wide
 - Depth greater than 2,000 feet (4,600 feet)

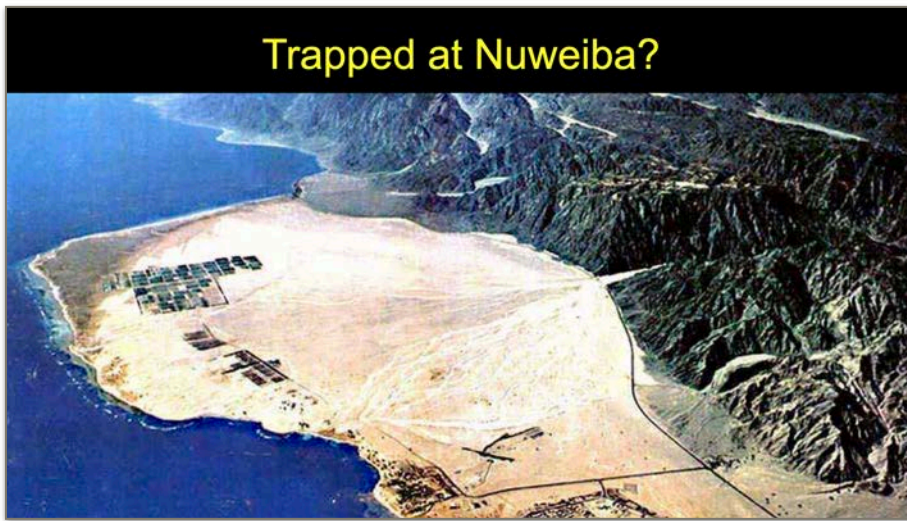
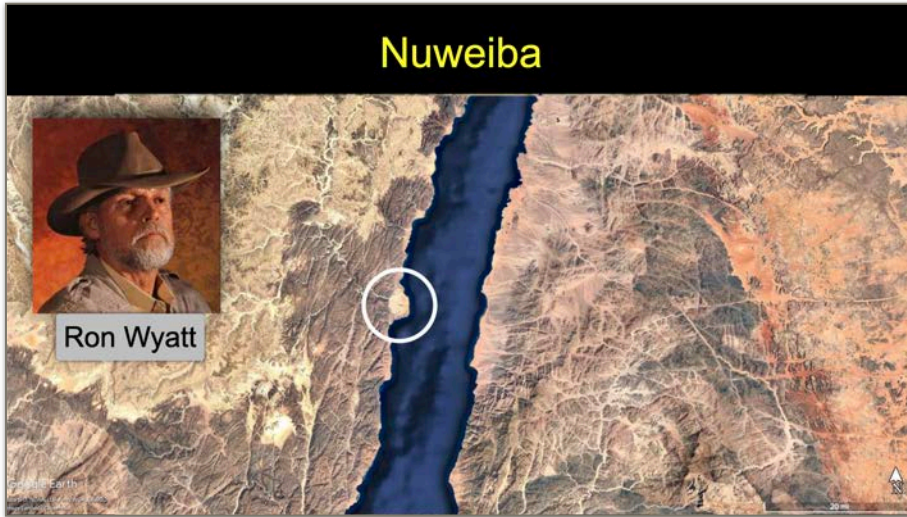
Place of the Crossing

- 4 KEY DESCRIPTIONS: - Exodus 14:1-2
 1. *"they turn"* (from Etham)
 - Meaning *"turn"* in the wilderness
 2. *"camp before Pi Hahiroth"*
 - Meaning *"mouth of the channel"*
 3. *"between Migdol and the sea"*
 - Meaning *"tower"* or *"fortress"* = Mountains
 4. *"opposite Baal Zephon"*
 - Meaning *"god of the north"* or *"unknown"*



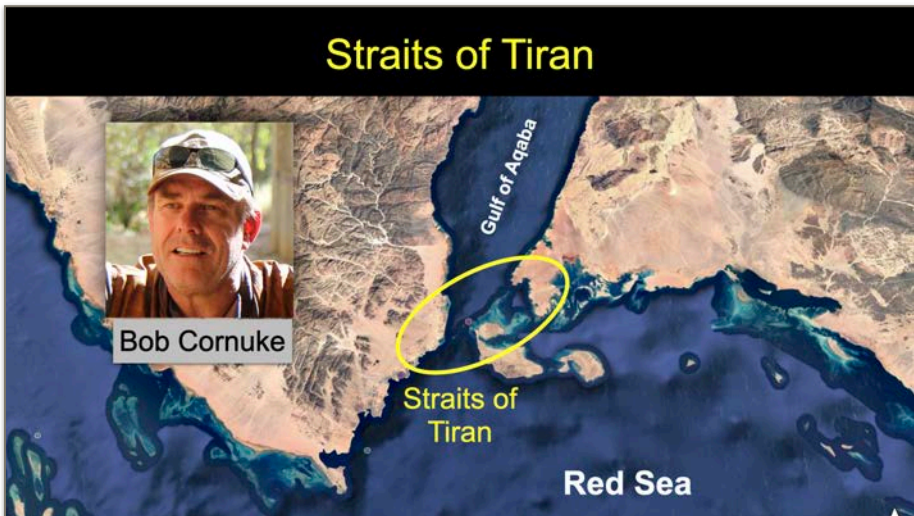
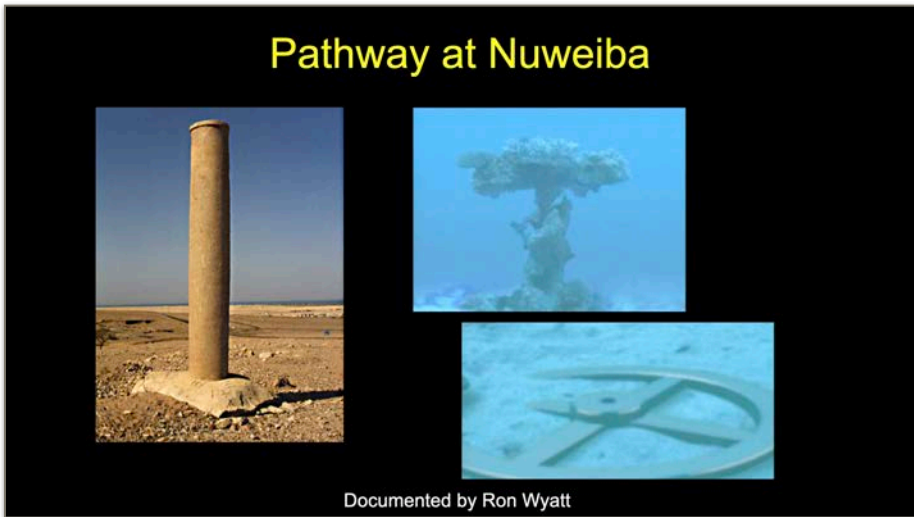
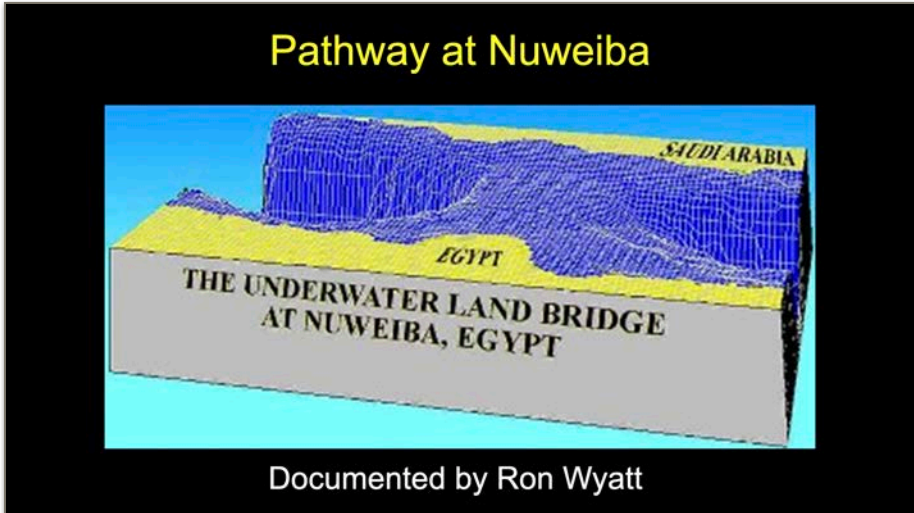


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D. (v. 27-28)

1. ***"And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them."***
 - a. **NOTE:** 40 years earlier, Moses sensed a call that he would be the one to deliver Israel out of bondage, but he could not successfully bury ONE Egyptian ([Ex. 2:11-14](#); [Acts 7:23-29](#)) in his own resources! Yet, when he was humbled and he relied on God to do it, God buried the whole army, and *"there remained not so much as one of them"*!

III. THE SONG OF MOSES (15)

A. (v. 1)

1. ***"Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea."***



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- a. This is the 1st Worship Song in the Bible!
- b. This became known as "*The Song of Moses.*"
 - 1) Cf. **Revelation 15:3** - Speaking of the Tribulation Saints, John wrote, "*And they sing **the song of Moses** the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.*"

B. (v. 22)

1. **"So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water."**
 - a. The children of Israel have just experienced one of the greatest miracles in history, and responded in worship and dance to the Lord. Then, a trial shows up — there's no water!
 - 1) When you decide to follow the Lord, and you see Him do amazing things in your life, expect trials to come your way!
 - b. It would be very difficult to be without water in the hot desert.
 - 1) In April (**Ex. 16:1**) in this area of Saudi Arabia, it gets in the 90s, with hardly any rain if at all.
 - 2) **Illust.** - There are always those commercials during the football games where someone is in the desert, and you can see the heat waves, and as they're dying of thirst, they get a nice cold Coke or water bottle!

C. (v. 23)

1. **"And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah."**
 - a. "Marah" - Heb. "Bitterness"



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1) Cf. Ruth 1:20

Exodus Route Requirements

- ✓ Destination is Mt. Horeb in Midian (Arabia)
- ✓ 2 possible places to cross the Red Sea
- 3 days journey to the Bitter Springs - Exodus 15:3
- Then on to Elim (12 wells + 70 Palms) - Exodus 15:27
- Through the Wilderness of Sin ("thorns") - Exodus 16:1
- They are given Manna - Exodus 16:4
- To Rephidim (Water from the Rock) - Exodus 17:6

Bitter Waters of Marah



D. (v. 24)

1. ***"And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?"***

- a. It is imperative that you drink a lot of water in hot weather and stay hydrated, and without water for a few days, your body will lack energy and tiredness will become a factor.



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- b. When you are tired, it's easy to get irritable. So these people are in hot weather, thirsty, tired, and getting irritated, so I don't blame them for reacting like this.
 - 1) **NOTE:** Nowhere in the Text does it say that God is mad at them or irritated with them.

E. (v. 25)

- 1. **"And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them,"**

- a. "the LORD shewed him a tree"

- 1) When Moses cast the tree into the waters, it was made sweet.
 - a) The "tree" is often a symbol for the CROSS in Scriptures.
 - i. Cf. **Galatians 3:13** - "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a **tree**:"
 - ii. Cf. **1 Peter 2:24** - "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on **the tree**, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."
- 2) **KEY:** When life gives you the bitterness of circumstances, or you experience the bitterness of this fallen world, just cast in the CROSS into it! The Cross of Christ makes everything sweeter!
 - a) Maybe you have had bitterness toward someone. All that bitterness is going to do is destroy you and keep you spiritually thirsty. Be free — add the *tree*!
 - b) When you look at the cross, you can't be bitter at someone else because you realize that Christ died



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for them too. And you realize how much you've been forgiven. Be free — add the *tree!*

c) The Cross can sweeten up your bitter relationships!

F. (v. 27)

1. ***"And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water, and threescore and ten palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters."***

Exodus Route Requirements

- ✓ Destination is Mt. Horeb in Midian (Arabia)
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The Wells of Elim





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- a. "the waters" = the Red Sea (Num. 33:10)
 - 1) The Text says that they encamped at Elim "by the Red Sea" (Num. 33:10), so it must be up the Saudi Arabian coast of the Gulf of Aqaba that they are traveling.
 - a) **NOTE:** Bob Cornuke's suggested site for Elim¹ would not fit the Biblical requirements of being by the Red Sea, thus that site would not be valid.

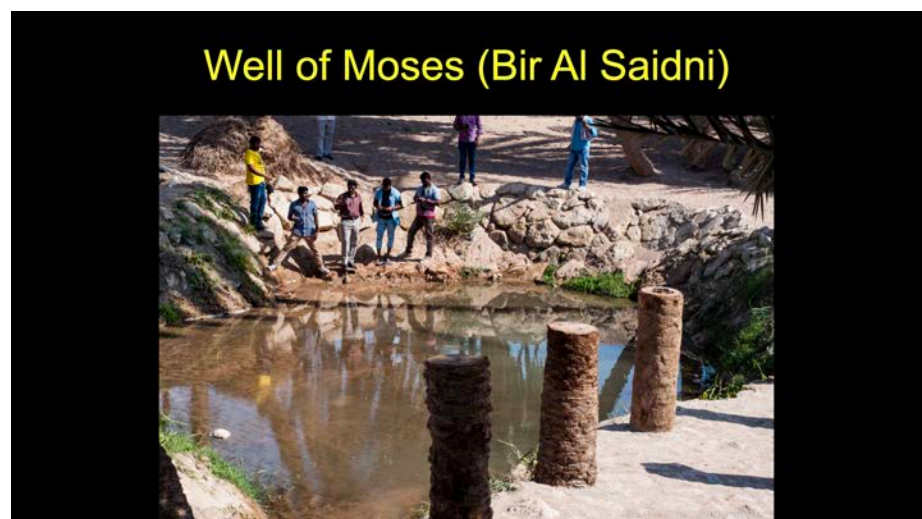
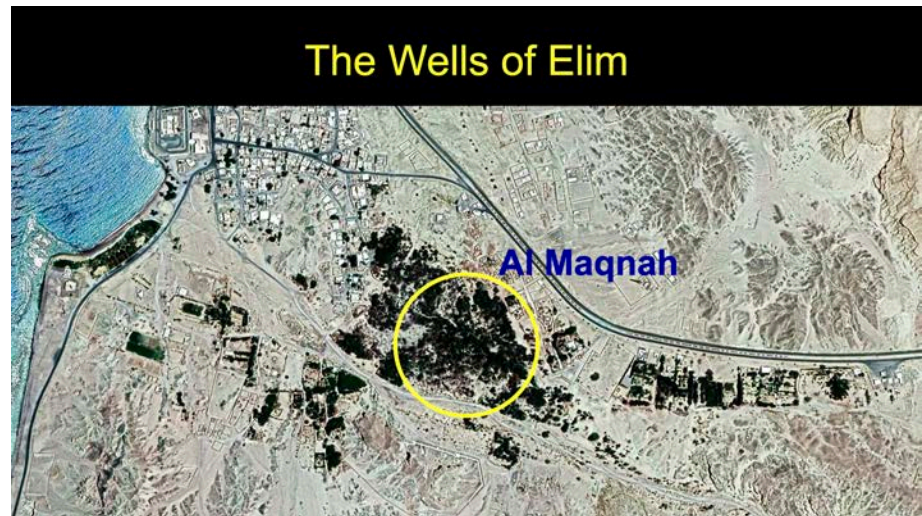


¹ 28°19'40.18"N 34°58'14.36"E - Cannot be Biblical Elim suggested by Bob Cornuke (Numbers 33:10)
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- b. Probably modern-day Al Maqnah (also known as Makna or Magna).²
 - 1) Local tradition holds that "Bir al Saidni" (Well of Moses) is located there.



² 28°23'51.72"N 34°44'50.56"E
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