

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JN. 5:39



Jn. 5:39 “**Search the scriptures....they are they which testify of me.**”

Jn. 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for **he wrote of me.**

Rom. 15:4 For whatsoever things were **written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.**

Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, **which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me.**

45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might **understand the scriptures,**

Last week, we finished chapter 16 and observed that the children of Israel murmured and complained, and then the Lord graciously gave them “manna.”

Tonight, we observe another wonderful picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is our Rock.

❖ In obedience to the Lord’s directions, the children of Israel traveled to Rephidim.

Original Word: רִפְדִּים

Transliteration: Rephidim

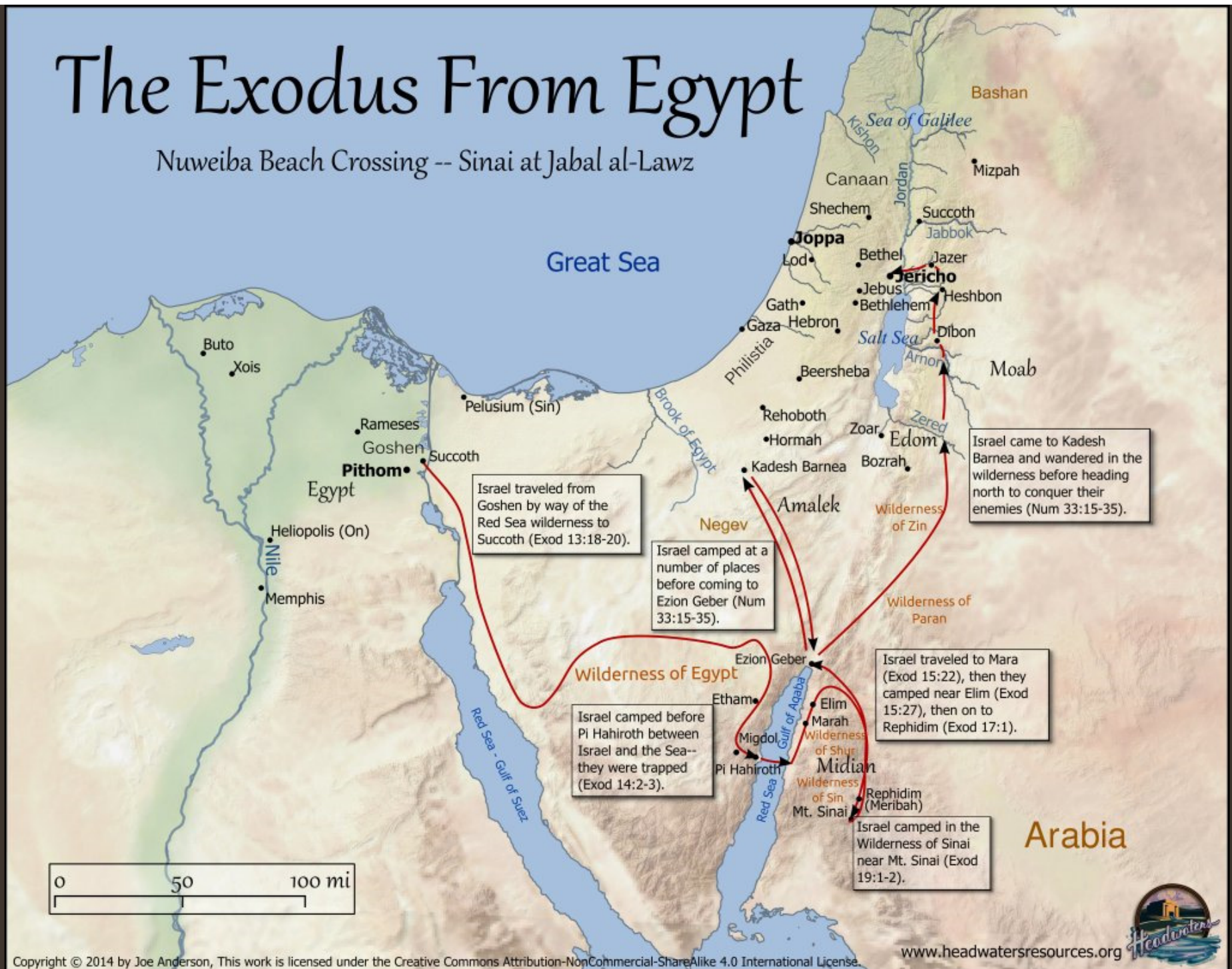
Definition: a place in the desert; "rests" or "stays" or "resting places"

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/7508.htm>

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/h7508/kjv/wlc/0-1/>

The Exodus From Egypt

Nuweiba Beach Crossing -- Sinai at Jabal al-Lawz



I. THE INTERRUPTION, 17:1-3

Ex. 17:1 And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, **according to the commandment of the LORD**, and pitched in Rephidim: and *there was* no water for the people to drink.

2 Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, **Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD?**

3 And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore *is* this *that* **thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?**

Num. 33:12 And they took their journey out of the wilderness of Sin, and encamped in Dophkah.

13 And they departed from Dophkah, and encamped in Alush.

14 And they removed from Alush, and encamped at Rephidim, where was no water for the people to drink.

- ❖ Once again, the journey was interrupted as the LORD tested the children of Israel and, once again, they failed.
- ❖ Once again, while following the Lord's leadership, the children of Israel murmured against Moses, 17:1.

❖ Moses equated chiding with him to that of tempting the Lord, 17:2.

❖ The murmurers exaggerated the situation and accusation, 17:3.

II. THE INSTRUCTION, 17:4-7

Ex. 17:4 And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, **What shall I do** unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me.

5 And the LORD said unto Moses, **Go on before the people**, and **take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod**, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go.

6 **Behold, I will stand before thee** there upon **the rock** in Horeb; and thou shalt **smite the rock**, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

7 And **he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah**, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because **they tempted the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not?**

- ❖ When Moses faced another murmuring challenge, he “cried unto the LORD...”
- ❖ One seasoned pastor stated that verse 4 should give ministerial students a realistic picture of the pastorate.
- ❖ The LORD answered Moses by instructing him to do the following: (17:5)
 - Go on before the people;
 - Take the elders;
 - Take the rod.
 - “go”

- ❖ The LORD promised His presence to be with Moses, 17:6
- ❖ The first time that the word “rock” is found in the Bible is in 17:6.

Deut. 32:4 **He is the Rock**, his work *is* perfect: for all his ways *are* judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right *is* he. ...

15 But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered *with fatness*; then he forsook God *which* made him, and **lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation**. ...

18 Of **the Rock** *that* begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God that formed thee. ...

31 For **their rock is not as our Rock**, even our enemies themselves *being* judges.

2 Sam. 22:2 And he said, The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;

3 The God of my rock; in him will I trust: *he is* my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence. ...

32 For who *is* God, save the LORD? and **who is a rock, save our God? ...**

47 The LORD liveth; and blessed *be* **my rock**; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation.

Psa. 18:2 **The LORD is my rock**, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, *and* my high tower. ...

31 For who *is* God save the LORD? or **who is a rock save our God?** ...

46 The LORD liveth; and **blessed be my rock**; and let the God of my salvation be exalted.

❖ Moses named the area to designate his disdain for Israel's attitude.

Original Word: מַסָּה **Transliteration:** Massah

Definition: a place in the desert where Israelites rebelled; "temptation"

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/4532.htm>

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/h4532/kjv/wlc/0-1/>

Original Word: מְרִיבָה **Transliteration:** Meribah

Definition: "place of strife", two places in the desert; "strife" or "contention"

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/4809.htm>

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/h4809/kjv/wlc/0-1/>

Deut. 6:16 Ye shall not tempt the LORD your God, as **ye tempted *him* in Massah.**

- ❖ Moses obeyed the LORD in smiting the rock, a picture of the smitten Savior.

Isa. 53:4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, **smitten of God**, and afflicted.

- ❖ The children of Israel drank from the Rock, a picture of Christ, which was also a picture of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

1 Cor. 10:4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink:
for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed
them: and **that Rock was Christ**.

Psa. 105:41 He opened the rock, and the waters
gushed out; they ran in the dry places *like* a river.





Summary

- ❖ The children of Israel continued their short-sided forgetfulness by murmuring when difficulties confronted their journey to the Promised Land.
- ❖ Despite the display of ingratitude, the children of Israel received God's gracious provisions.
- ❖ The smiting of the Rock was a picture of Calvary, the Lord Jesus smitten on the cross.

Conclusion

Num. 14:20 And the LORD said, I have pardoned according to thy word:

21 But *as truly as* I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.

22 Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, **which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice;**

23 Surely they shall not see the land which I swear unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:

24 But **my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully,** him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.

Ex. 19:3 And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel;

4 Ye have seen **what I did** unto the Egyptians, and **how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.**

5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth *is* mine:

6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These *are* the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.