

His Hand Among the Nations

Lesson 3 – Nations That Stood in the Way of Israel's Inheritance (1406–1380 B.C.)

Enemies Who Should Have Been Friends

1. In each case below, list the tribes who should have been more supportive of Israel, how they were related to Israel, how they opposed Israel, and how God wanted Israel to treat them. The map on page 22 shows where they were located.

Read Numbers 20:14-17 (p. 41) and Deuteronomy 2:2-6.

The tribe:

Their relation:

How they opposed Israel:

How they were to be treated:

Read Deuteronomy 2:9,19 (p. 43).

The tribes:

Their relation:

How they opposed Israel:

How they were to be treated:

Read Numbers 22:3-6 and 25:16-18 (pp. 43,44).

The tribes:

Their relation:

How they opposed Israel:

How they were to be treated:

2. Both the Moabites and the Midianites tried to lead Israel into forsaking God, but the Midianites were to be treated more sternly than the Moabites. Come up with possible reasons why.
3. Sometimes people are hostile toward us or they wrong us even though we have befriended them. How does God's command to Israel not to provoke the Edomites, Moabites, and Ammonites teach us to treat our enemies? For more instruction on how to treat our enemies, see Luke 6:27-36 and Romans 12:17-21.

Enemies Who Would Now Be Destroyed

Read Deuteronomy 20:10-18 (especially verses 16-18).

4. As they conquered the land, God told the Israelites whom they were to destroy. Make a list of those groups and tell why the Lord would command such destruction of these people.

Read Genesis 15:16 (p. 46).

5. These words were spoken to Abraham more than 165 years before Joseph entered Egypt. If you add the 430 years in Egypt and the 40 years in the desert, God gave the Amorites (here a general term for the people who lived in Canaan) 635 years to come to repentance! What attributes of God does this demonstrate?
6. God commanded that Israel destroy three Canaanite tribes or nations whose destruction is discussed in chapter 3 of the book (Arad, Sihon, Og). What does this tell you about God's time of grace?

The Morality of It All

7. Refer to "God's right to curse" (pp. 131,132) for an explanation of why God had the right to command the extermination of his Canaanite enemies. How does the love that God has shown to us, his former enemies, help us to accept God's right to do this? (See also Romans 5:10.)

Read Exodus 12:33-36.

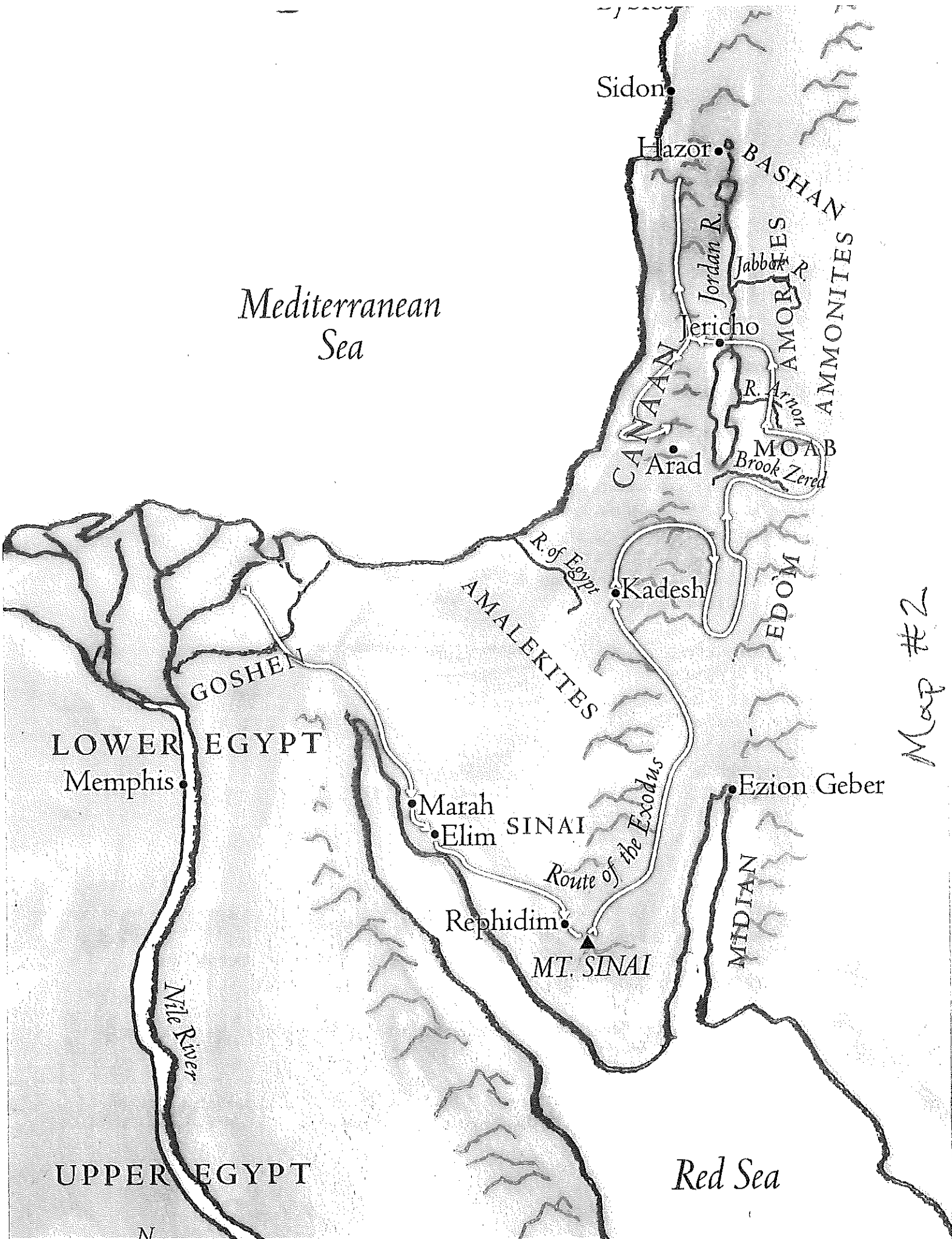
8. After the firstborn of Egypt were slain by the tenth plague, the Egyptians were afraid they would all perish if they did not let the Israelites go. At God's command, the Israelites then *plundered* the Egyptians. Normally, we would consider something like that to be stealing or extortion. Defend how you could say this was a right thing to do. (See also Exodus 3:21,22; James 4:12.)

Read Joshua 24:13.

9. The Israelites were about to take possession of a land on which they did not toil and cities they had not built. They would eat from vineyards and olive groves they did not plant. Normally, we would not consider this to be fair. How does this passage help us to understand this?

The Lives of Abraham and His Descendents

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Abraham | (2166 - 1991 BC) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2091 - Abram moves to Canaan (age 75)• 2066 - Birth of Isaac (age 100)• 1991 - Death (age 175) |
| Isaac | (2066 - 1866 BC) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2026 - Marriage to Rebekah (age 40)• 2006 - Birth of Jacob (age 60)• 1886 - Death (age 180) |
| Jacob | (2006 - 1859 BC) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1929 - Jacob flees to Mesopotamia (age 77)• 1915 - Birth of Joseph (age 91)• 1876 - Jacob's family moves to Egypt (age 130)• 1859 - Death (age 147) |
| Joseph | (1915 - 1805 BC) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joseph sold into Egypt (1898 - age 17)• Joseph becomes ruler in Egypt (1878 - age 37)• Death (1805 - age 110) |
| Moses | (1526 - 1406 BC) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moses kills an Egyptian and flees to Midian (1486 - age 40)• The Exodus - Moses leads Israel out of Egypt (1446 - age 80)• Death (1406 - age 120)• Israel enters Canaan (1406) |



Mediterranean
Sea

Sidon

Hazor

BASHAN
AMORITES

Jabbar R.

Jericho

R. Arnon

AMMONITES

Arad

MOAB
Brook Zered

CANAAN

R. of Egypt

Kadesh

AMALEKITES

EDOM

GOSHEN

LOWER EGYPT

Memphis

Marah

Elim

SINAI

Route of the Exodus

Rephidim

MT. SINAI

MIDIAN

Ezion Geber

UPPER EGYPT

Red Sea

Map #2

God's Hand in History - Study Guide Addendum

November 12, 2023

- 1) History is "His Story," that is, God's story. It is the story of how God created all things, how humankind brought sin into God's perfect creation, and how God used his chosen people to bring about a perfect, gracious plan of redemption through Jesus, the Messiah, to save a sinful world. The story of God's Hand in history is "His Story."
- 2) Is there other written history (besides the Bible) that supports the Mosaic accounts (writing of Moses in the first five books of the OT, often called the Pentateuch)? How could there be "written history" of the events that happened before the development of alphabetical writing?
 - First, we must believe that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God. To deny that Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible is a denial of the fundamental Christian truth that all Scripture is holy, inspired and without error. Christians must accept without question two truths:
 - a) Moses is the inspired author of all of the history contained in the first five books of the Bible (see Exodus 17:14, 24:4, and 34:27).
 - b) The Holy Spirit's inspiration made it possible for Moses to record events that occurred outside of his own lifetime (see 2 Timothy 3:16-17).
 - The Egyptians had a system of writing. They used hieroglyphic writing (symbols and pictures) as early as 2700 BC. This writing was commonly found within the pyramids that were built during that time period.
 - The development of alphabetical writing usually is affiliated with the Phoenicians (hence, the terms "phonics" and "phonetic" writing) around 1500 BC or even earlier. We note that Moses was born in 1526 BC and received the education of an Egyptian prince. Certainly, his Egyptian teachers were scholars who would have been on the cusp of the latest educational innovations and trends.
 - Flavius Josephus, a Jewish-Roman historian of the 1st century AD (CE), wrote "Antiquities of the Jews," a widely-accepted source of ancient Jewish history which fully supports the veracity and accuracy of Moses' writing. The works of Josephus, next to the Bible, are the "chief source of the history of ancient Israel." They also provide "significant accounts of Pontius Pilate, Herod the Great, John the Baptist, James (brother of Jesus), and Jesus of Nazareth" (pbs.com).
- 3) What did Josephus say about Jesus?
 - *"Now, there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works - a teacher of such men as gladly receive the truth. He drew over to himself many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. He was the Christ; and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men among us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him first did not forsake him, for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him; and the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day" from The Works of Josephus, Book 18, Chapter 3).*

The Hand of God in History

- 1) In the annals of time we see a wondrous plan,
The hand of God in history, the work of his strong hand.
From ancient days to present grace his purpose shall prevail
In ev'ry chapter, ev'ry age his love will never fail.
- 2) His Word reveals times of the past, how nations rise and fall,
God's people know his mighty pow'r and mercy covers all.
He parted seas and set hearts free in his redeeming grace,
The hand of God in history the world cannot displace.
- 3) As ages pass this truth will last in ev'ry life and land,
The hand of God in history, the work of his strong hand.
So let us raise our voices high and praise Jehovah's name,
The hand of God in history, forever we acclaim.
- 4) The hand of God in history, a guiding, steadfast light
Through trials, triumphs, mysteries, he leads us by his might.
Oh, praise the Lord, our Rock, our Shield, our Hope, our Destiny,
We sing of his eternal hand, the ruler of history.