

# **Moses, the Israelites and the Crossing of the Red Sea**

**Wonders of Arabia**

Windstar Cruises

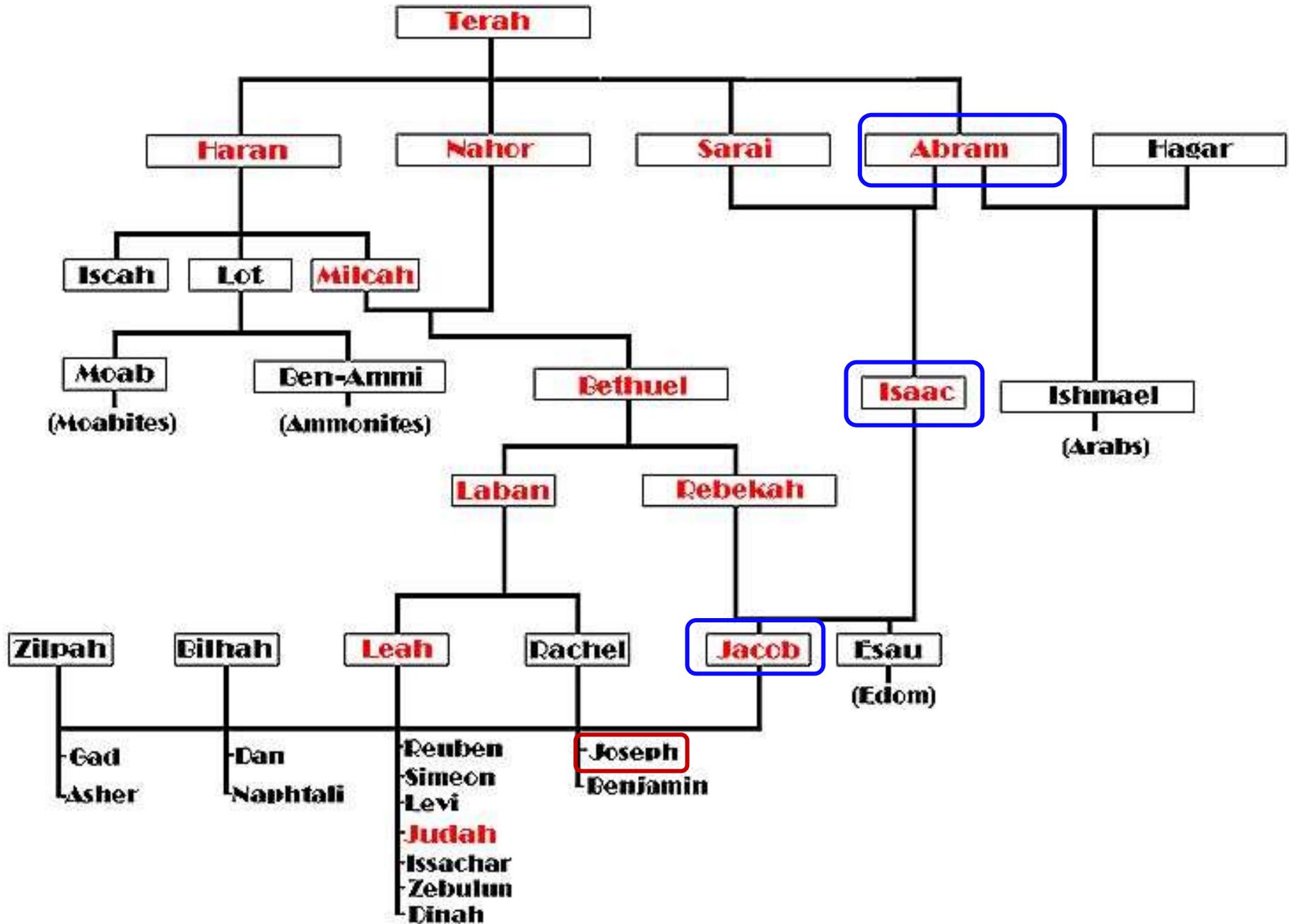
Ross Arnold, Fall 2014

# The Importance of the Exodus

“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. <sup>7</sup> “You shall have no other gods before me.” Deuteronomy 5:6-7

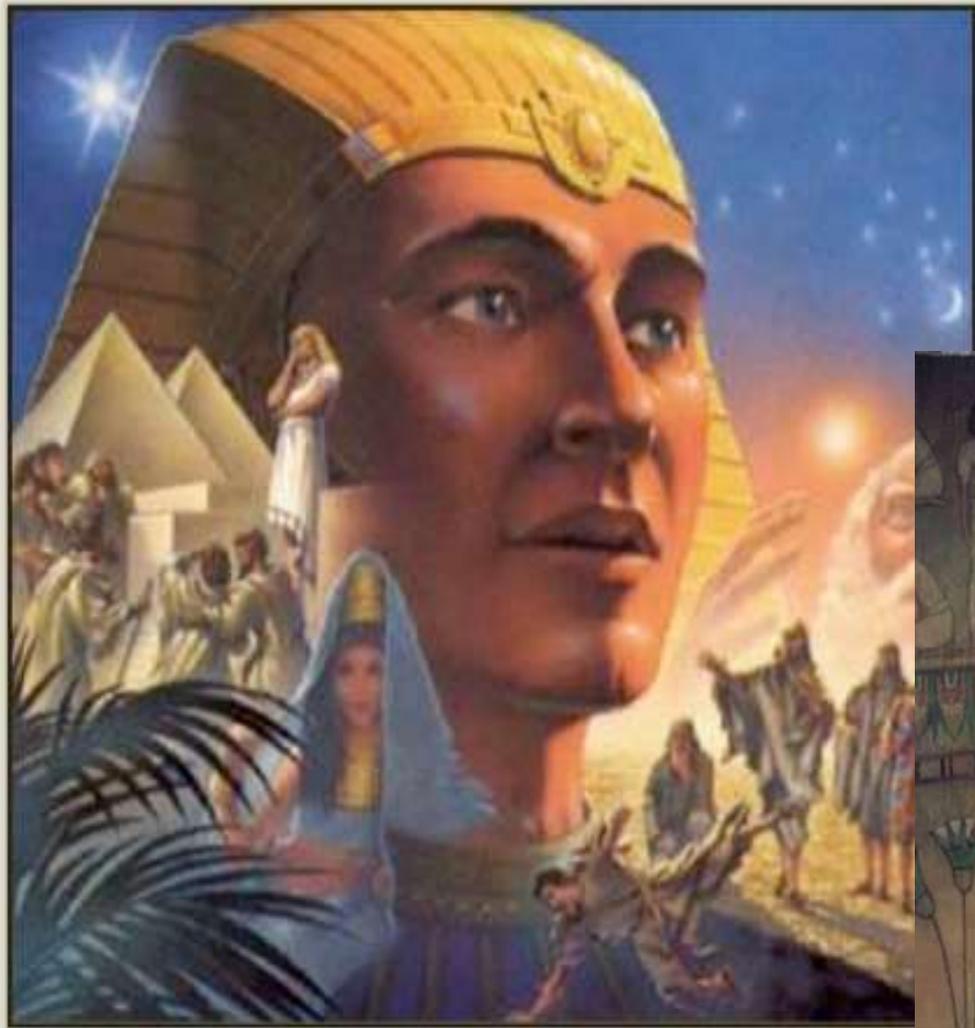
When the Israelites cried out to the Lord because of Midian, <sup>8</sup> he sent them a prophet, who said, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. <sup>9</sup> I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians. And I delivered you from the hand of all your oppressors...” Judges 6:7-9





# **(Traditional) Key Dates in Jewish History**

- c. 3200 BC – Civilization begins.**
- c. 2091 BC – Abram obeys God and follows Him.**
- c. 2066 BC – Birth of Abraham's son Isaac.**
- c. 2006 BC – Birth of Isaac's son Jacob.**
- c. 1898 BC – Joseph is sold into slavery in Egypt.**
- c. 1885 BC – Joseph becomes ruler under Pharaoh  
of all Egypt.**
- c. 1874 BC – Jacob & his family settle in Egypt.**



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  - c. 1885 BC – Joseph becomes ruler under Pharaoh of all Egypt.
  - c. 1874 BC – Jacob & his family settle in Egypt.
- **But sometime after Joseph's death, a new Pharaoh who had not known Joseph becomes fearful of the number of the Israelites, and they are enslaved.**

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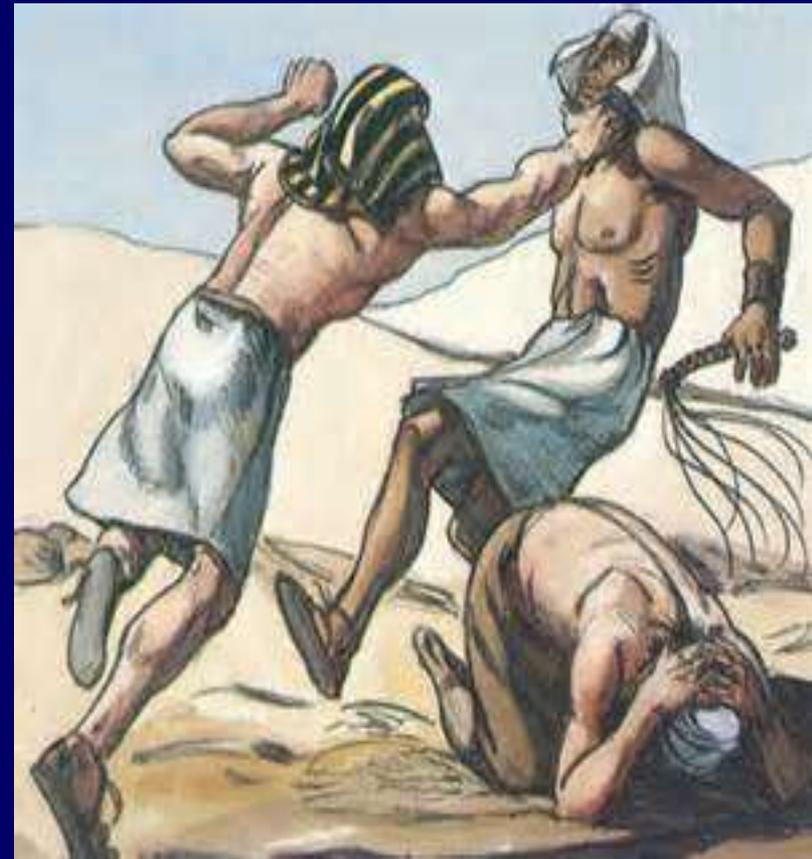
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- c. 1446 BC – Moses called by God to return to Egypt: “Let my people go!”**



## The Burning Bush

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup> There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. <sup>3</sup> So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

<sup>4</sup> When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!”  
And Moses said, “Here I am.”

<sup>5</sup> “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” <sup>6</sup> Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

Exodus 3:1-6

# The Call of Moses

The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. <sup>8</sup> So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and .... <sup>9</sup> And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. <sup>10</sup> So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

<sup>12</sup> And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

Exodus 3:7-12

# The Name of God

Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

<sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

<sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers--the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob--has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation.

Exodus 3:13-15



- **The Plagues on Egypt**

**Plague #1** – Ex. 7:14-25 – Nile turns to blood.

**Plague #2** – Ex. 8:1-15 – Frogs.

**Plague #3** – Ex. 8:16-19 – Lice/gnats.

**Plague #4** – Ex. 8:30-32 – Flies.

**Plague #5** – Ex. 9:17 – Disease on cattle.

**Plague #6** – Ex. 9:8-11 – Boils/sores on people &  
animals.

**Plague #7** – Ex. 9:12-35 – Hail destroys crops & cattle.

**Plague #8** – Ex. 10:1-20 – Locusts destroy crops.

**Plague #9** – Ex. 10:21-29 – Darkness.

**Plague #10** – Ex. 11:1-10 – Death of the Firstborn.

# (Traditional) Key Dates in Jewish History

- c. 1526 BC – Moses is born; raised by Pharaoh's daughter.
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- c. 1446 BC – Moses called by God to return to Egypt: "Let my people go!"
- c. 1446 BC – Exodus from Egypt; Crossing the Red Sea



## Pursuit by Pharaoh

When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them and said, “What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!” <sup>6</sup> So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him. <sup>7</sup> He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them. <sup>8</sup> The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly. <sup>9</sup> The Egyptians—all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots, horsemen and troops—pursued the Israelites and overtook them as they camped by the sea near Pi-Hahiroth, opposite Baal Zephon.

<sup>10</sup> As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? <sup>12</sup> Didn’t we say to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians’? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!”

<sup>13</sup> Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. ...” Exodus 14:5-14



## Crossing the Red Sea

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, <sup>22</sup> and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

<sup>23</sup> The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. <sup>24</sup> During the last watch of the night the Lord looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. <sup>25</sup> He made the wheels of their chariots come off so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

<sup>26</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." <sup>27</sup> Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the Lord swept them into the sea. <sup>28</sup> The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen – the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

Exodus 14:21-28









Moses as a kid

# The Exodus/Red Sea Crossing in History

	<u>Traditional</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Non-Trad.</u>
<u>Did it occur?</u>	Yes	Maybe	No

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<u>Did it occur?</u>	Yes	Maybe	No
<u>When?</u>	c.1446 BC	c.1250 BC	It didn't

*“In the four hundred and eightieth year after the Israelites came out of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon’s reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, the second month, he began to build the temple of the Lord.”*

1 Kings 6:1

Solomon’s Temple = 966 BC

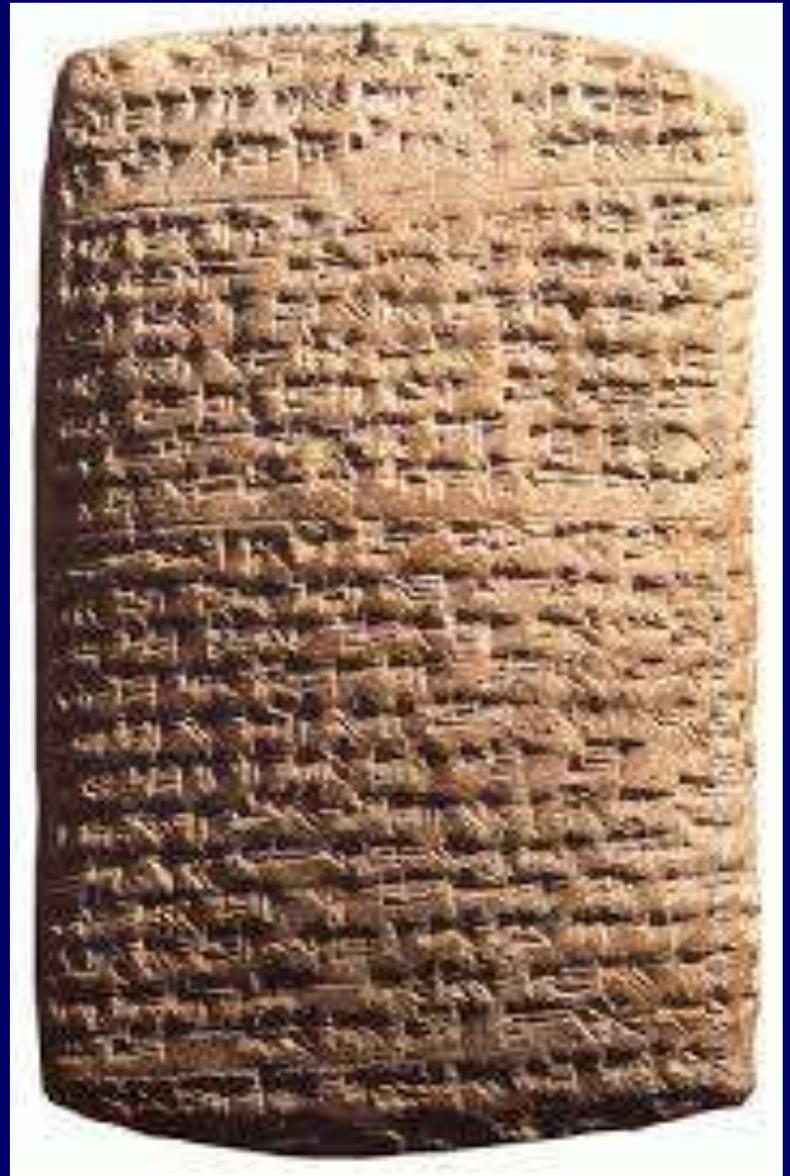
So... Exodus = 1446 BC



**Thutmose III**  
1479-1425 BC



**The Merneptah Stele, c, 1212-1202 BC**



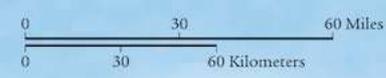
**The Amarna Letters**  
c. 1350s-1330s BC

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<u>Did it occur?</u>	Yes	Maybe	No
<u>When?</u>	c.1446 BC	c.1250 BC	It didn't
<u>Where?</u>	North (?) of Gulf of Suez	North (?) of Suez	It didn't

# Where Did The Israelites Cross The Sea?





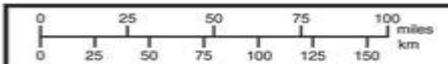
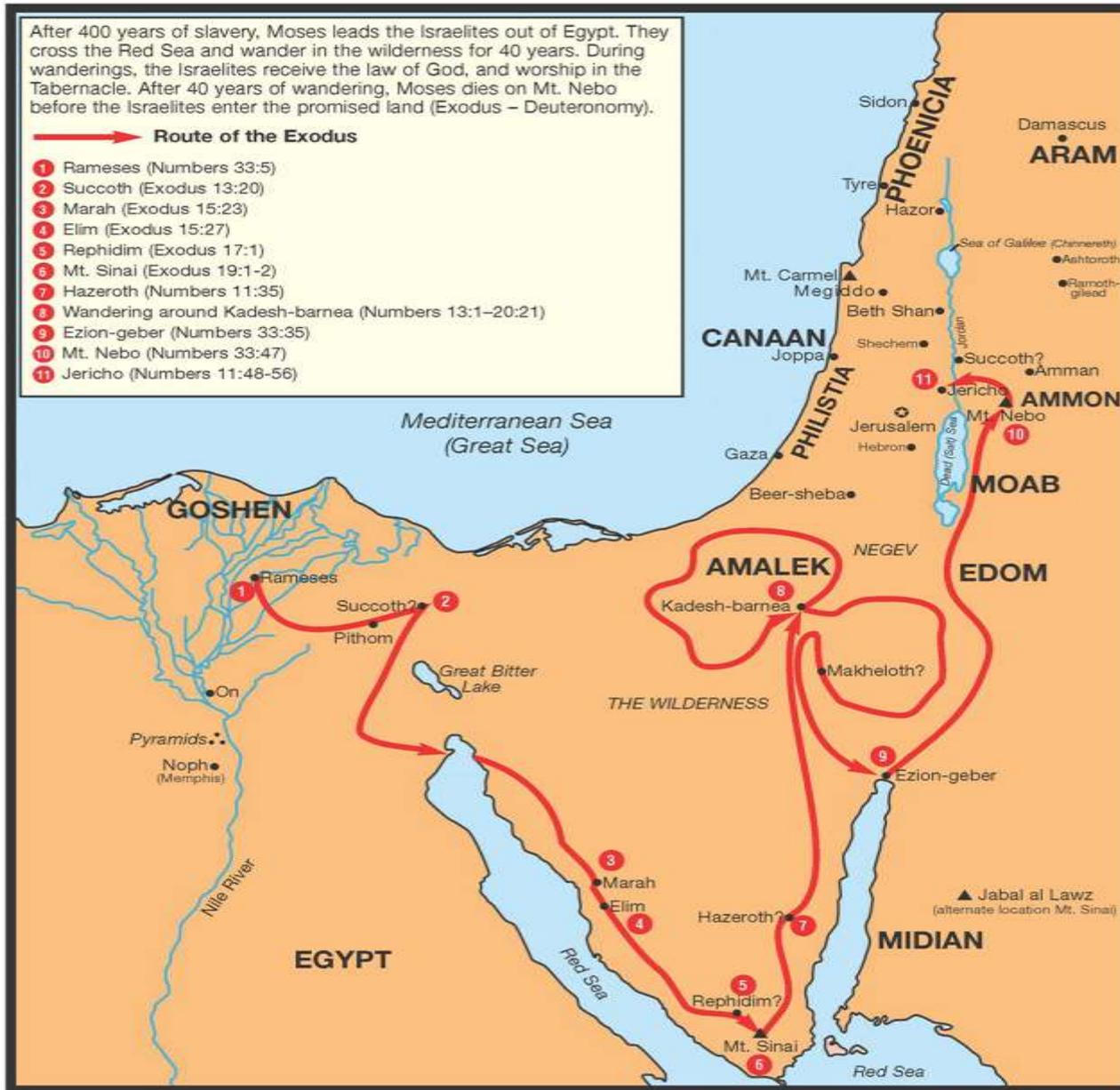
**ROUTE OF THE EXODUS**

- City
- ▲ Proposed site for Mt. Sinai
- ⊙ Fortress site
- Route from Egypt to Mt. Sinai
- ← Route from Mt. Sinai to Kadesh-barnea

After 400 years of slavery, Moses leads the Israelites out of Egypt. They cross the Red Sea and wander in the wilderness for 40 years. During wanderings, the Israelites receive the law of God, and worship in the Tabernacle. After 40 years of wandering, Moses dies on Mt. Nebo before the Israelites enter the promised land (Exodus - Deuteronomy).

→ **Route of the Exodus**

- 1 Rameses (Numbers 33:5)
- 2 Succoth (Exodus 13:20)
- 3 Marah (Exodus 15:23)
- 4 Elim (Exodus 15:27)
- 5 Rephidim (Exodus 17:1)
- 6 Mt. Sinai (Exodus 19:1-2)
- 7 Hazeroth (Numbers 11:35)
- 8 Wandering around Kadesh-barnea (Numbers 13:1-20:21)
- 9 Ezion-geber (Numbers 33:35)
- 10 Mt. Nebo (Numbers 33:47)
- 11 Jericho (Numbers 11:48-56)



● City or Town	⊕ Ancient Ruins/Sites
▲ Mountain	⊙ Modern Capital cities



**THE ROUTE OF THE EXODUS**

EXOD 13:17-19:3;  
 NUM 10:11-12:16; 33:1-36

- ← Northern route
- ← Central route
- ← Alternate central route
- ← Southern route
- - Alternate route from Jebel Musa to Kadesh-barnea
- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ▲ Mountain peak
- ▲ Possible locations for Mt. Sinai
- Major roads

0 10 20 30 40 50 Miles  
 0 10 20 30 40 50 Kilometers

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<u>Did it occur?</u>	Yes	Maybe	No
<u>When?</u>	c.1446 BC	c.1250 BC	It didn't
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route of the Exodus  
 in miles  
 order fortresses  
 0 20 40 Miles  
 0 20 40 Kilometres

**MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

Dead Sea

Rameses

Succoth

**EGYPT**

Gulf of Suez

Gulf of Aqaba

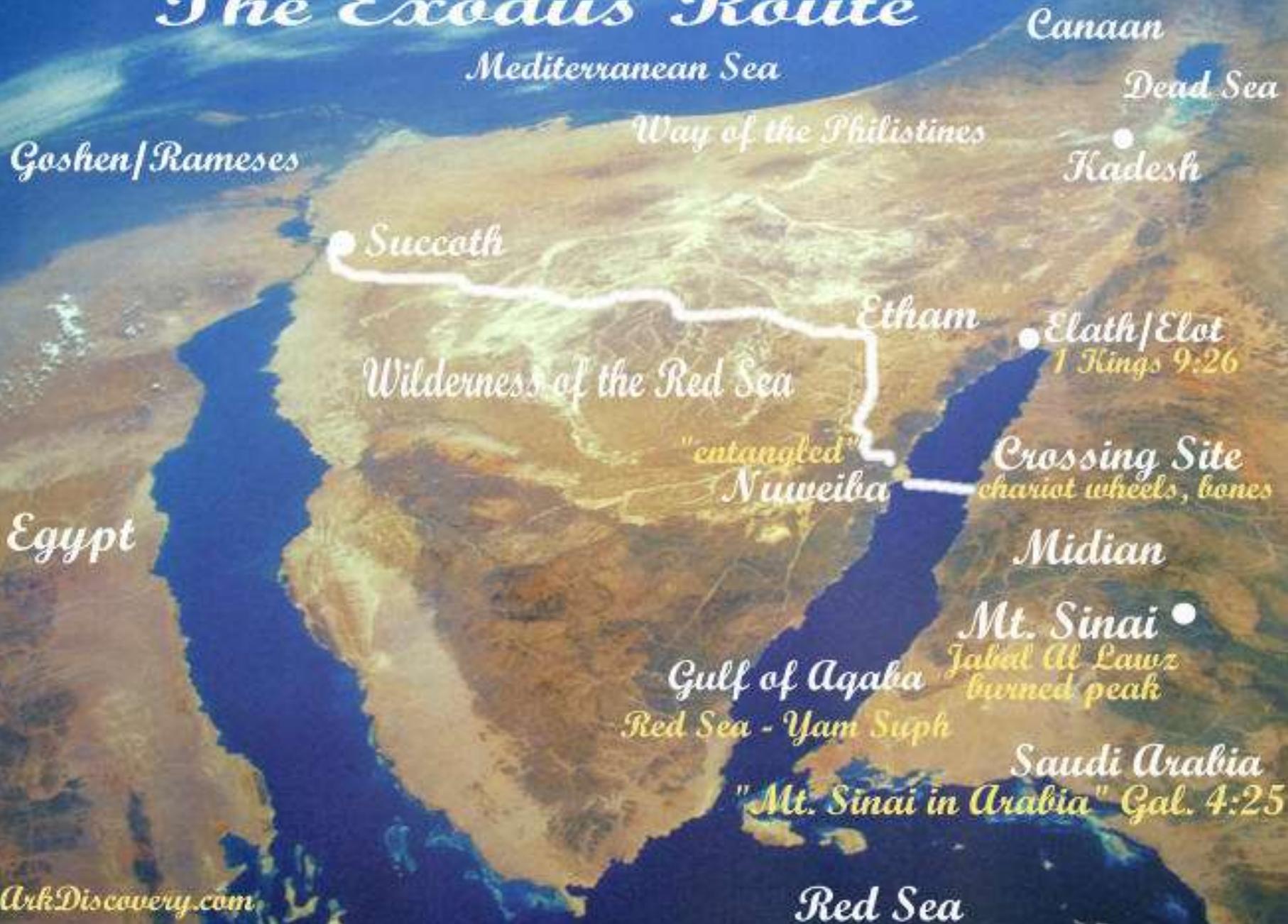
Mt Sinai  
(Jebel el Lawz)

**ARABIA**

**RED SEA**



# The Exodus Route



Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, "This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: <sup>4</sup>'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup> Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, <sup>6</sup> you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."

**Exodus 19:3-6**