



Look and Live

A Series on the Cross

Leading to Easter Sunday

March 11, 2012 and Following

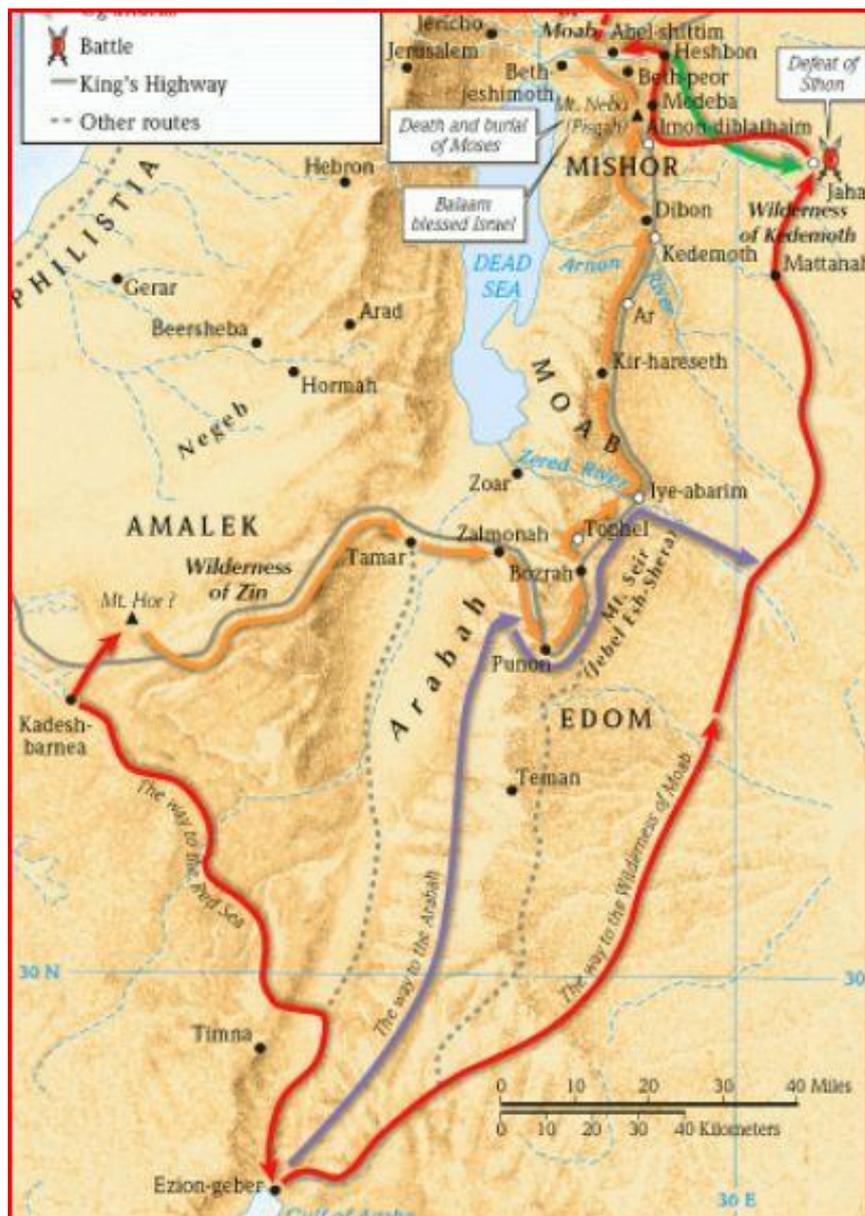
Look and Live!

BACKGROUND

- As we come to the text before us, we must remember where we are chronologically, geographically, humanly and where the children of Israel were spiritually.
- **Chronologically**, we are near the end of the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness after the exodus from Egypt.
- **Geographically**, we are in the area between the southern end of the Dead Sea and the northern tip of the Gulf of Aqaba, one of the extensions of the Red Sea at its northern end.
- This area's **southern** portion, closer to Egypt, is known as the Wilderness of Paran.
- The **middle** part of this territory, closer to the Promised Land, is known as the Wilderness of Zin.
- And the **northern** portion, in what would become Judah's territory, is called the Negev.
- And just east of all this (to the right on a map), is the troublesome land of Edom.
- Edom will play a big part in this story.
- **Humanly**, we the people of this chapter are the children of those who left Egypt, for all of the adults except Joshua and Caleb have died for their unbelief when the spies returned from surveying the land 40 years earlier.
- **Spiritually**, the children have not learned the lesson of their parents, and it will cost them dearly!

Numbers 21:1-3 NOTES

- **Arad** is a town west of the Dead Sea, in the Negev region of Israel.
- **By way of the spies** – along the route taken by the spies 40 years earlier.
- *Herem Law* – The law of things devoted unto the Lord. Here it is the destruction of these cities.
- This is Israel's first victory in nearly 40 years. VERIFY THIS
- They are riding a huge high, but as it often does, suddenly, a downward spiral comes.



TEXT: Numbers 21:4-9

I. Discontent (Num. 21:4-7)

A. Reason (21:4)

1. The Events of Their Bad Day (Numbers 20)

- Here is a list of some of their recent “bad days.”
- The chapter starts out with the people grumbling AGAIN about water. **(20:1-5)**
- Then, Moses is so frustrated with their complaints that he fails to give glory to the Lord as God gives water from the rock. **(20:6-11)**
- In Judgment, God tells Moses that he will not be allowed to enter the Promised Land. **(20:12,13)**
- Then Edom refuses to allow Israel to take the shortcut. **(20:14-21)**
- In a final blow, God tells Moses that Aaron also [NOTE: See the KJV “ye” at this point. Aaron has been complicit with Moses] will not be allowed to enter the Promised Land. Moses is to remove Aaron’s priestly garments and he will die. **(20:22-29)**

READ NUMBERS 20:14-21

2. The Emotions of Their Bad Day

a. The Confusion in their Difficulty (Pr. 13:12; Jer. 29:11)

- It seemed as if the hand of Providence was off the wheel of their life.
- They have fallen into believing Satan’s lie that God does not care.

b. The Continuation of their Difficulty (Job 1:21; 3:2-3; Ps. 77:2-3)

- They had endured this for forty years (some of them).

c. The Cause behind Their Difficulty (Dt. 8:2; Ps. 66:10; 1 Pet. 4:12; Job. 23:10)

- They doubted the plan of God.
- They forgot the purpose of God.
- When we are tried there is a reason.

B. Reaction (21:5)

1. The Center of Their Complaint

- They spoke against ... (“ye”)
 - a. **God (cf., Jude 9,10)**
 - Jude says that even angels fear to rebuke the Devil.
 - Here humans are not afraid to rebuke God!
 - b. **Moses**
 - Moses has been faithfully leading the people as God tells him to do it.

2. The Content

- a. **They Question Motive “wherefore”**
- b. **They Question Intent “to die”**
- c. **They Want Real Bread**
- d. **They Want More Water**
- e. **They Despise the Manna (Heb. 10:28-31)**
 - But they have now crossed a bold line in the sand.
 - For God was using the manna to set up a type of Christ, as we shall see later.
 - It is precisely this that did them in.

C. THE FINAL APPLICATION FOR THIS SECTION.

WHAT SHOULD THEY HAVE DONE INSTEAD?

1. **They should have remembered the Providence of God. (1 Sam. 3:18; Jn. 18:11; Job 13:15; 1 Sam. 30:6)**
2. **They Should Have Remembered the Purpose of God. (Rom. 5:3; 2 Cor. 4:16-17; 12:9; 2 Tim. 2:20-21; Heb. 12:10-11)**
3. **They Should Have Remembered the Promise of God (Ex. 3:17; Rm. 4:20; 1 Cor. 10:13; 2 Cor. 1:20; Rm. 8:28)**
4. **They Should Have Reflected the Patience from God (Heb. 10:36; James 5:7-8)**
 - Had they remembered God’s Providence, Purpose and Promise, they could have responded rightly, and so can we!
 - We all have bad days.
 - Watch how you handle yourself on a bad day!