

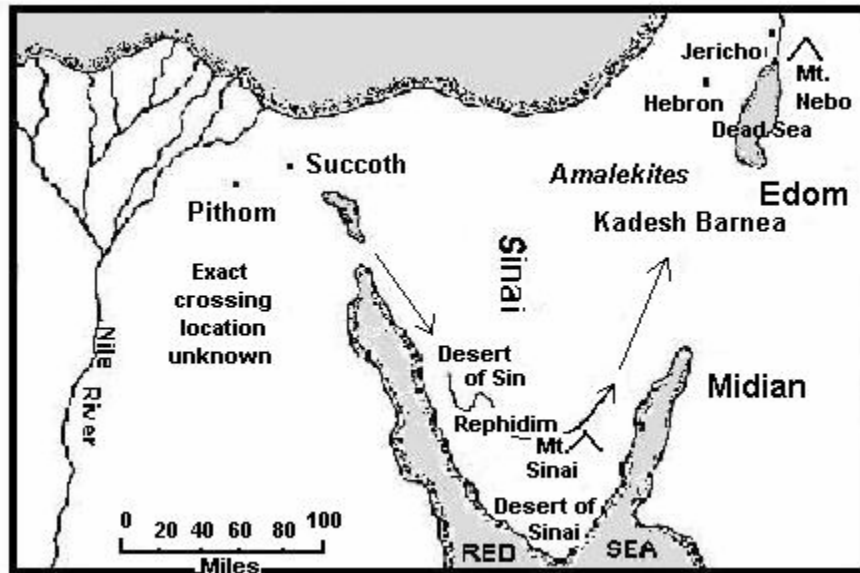
# Heading Home

## Lesson Seven

Exodus 15-40; Leviticus 24; Numbers 6, 13-16

The return of God's people to the area of Canaan now seems imminent. God has rescued His nation – the nation promised to Abraham. This lesson deals with the activities of the Israelites during the journey from Egypt to Canaan. This journey could have been completed in a lot less time than it wound up taking. In this lesson we will discover why this trip turned out to take forty years.

Look at the map below. It shows where the Israelites went and where they were ultimately headed.



## ISRAEL IN THE WILDERNESS

Exodus 15-17

*So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea into the wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the wilderness and found no water. And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters for they were bitter. And the people murmured against Moses saying, "What shall we drink?" And he cried to the Lord. The Lord showed him a tree, which when he had cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet. And the Lord said, "I am the Lord that heals you." And they came to Elim where there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees. And from Elim they came to the wilderness of Sin. And the*

whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, **1** "We wish to God we had died in the land of Egypt when we sat by the pots of meat and did eat bread to the full. For you have brought us into this wilderness to kill us with hunger." And the Lord said to Moses, "I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel. Say to them, 'At evening you shall eat flesh, **2** and in the morning you shall be filled with bread; and you shall know that I am the Lord, your God.'" And in the evening quails came up and covered the camp.

What do the people wish had happened? They had stayed in Egypt as slaves

Why? They had plenty of food

Now **read Exodus 16:13-35. (Slide 3)**

How much of the bread are they to gather? An omer (2 quarts), as much as needed

Are they to keep the bread overnight? no

What happens to the bread that is kept overnight? Gets full of maggots and stinks

On which day are they to gather twice as much? The sixth

Why? Because the seventh day is the Sabbath and no work is to be done then

What is the bread called? manna

What does it taste like? Wafers made with honey

*And Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin and camped in Rephidim. There was no water. Therefore the people scolded Moses and said, "Give us water that we may drink." And Moses cried to the Lord saying, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." And the Lord said to Moses, "Your rod, with which you struck the river [the Nile], take it in your hand and go. **4** Behold, I will stand before you there upon the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and there shall come water out of it that the people may drink." Moses did so. And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah because of the scolding of the children of Israel and because they tempted the Lord saying, "Is the Lord among us, or not?"*

Note that the name Massah means "testing," and the name Meribah means "quarreling."

Why are the people complaining this time? There is no water

Find the Desert of Sin and Rephidim on the above map. Also note where the home area of the Amalekites is located.

The Israelites have more trouble on the way. **Read Exodus 17:8-16** to find out what their next adventure will be. (Slide 5)

Who attacks the Israelites? The Amalekites

Where do they attack? Rephidim

Using the map, determine approximately how far these people have traveled in order to attack the Israelites.

140 miles

Whom does Moses choose to lead the battle? Joshua

What happens when Moses' hands are up? Israelites win

What happens when Moses' hands are down? Amalekites win

Which two people hold up Moses' arms when he gets too tired? 1) Aaron

2) Hur

Who wins the battle? Israelites

What will the Lord do to the Amalekites? Erase the memory of them (blot them out)

What name does Moses give to the altar? "The Lord Is My Banner"

## THE GIVING OF THE LAW ON SINAI

Exodus 19-24

*In the third month, after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, they came into the wilderness of Sinai and camped there before Mount Sinai. And Moses went up, and the Lord called to him, saying, "Thus shall you say to Israel, 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. If you will obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a peculiar treasure to me above all people. For all the earth is Mine, and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'" Moses called the elders of the people and lay before them all these words that the Lord commanded him. All the people answered together and said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do." And Moses returned the words of the people to the Lord. The Lord said, "Sanctify the people today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes and be ready against the third day; for the Lord will come down in the sight of all the people upon Mount Sinai. And you shall set bounds round about saying, "Take heed to yourselves that you do not go up into the mount. Whoever touches the mount shall surely be put to death."*

How many months have passed since the Israelites left Egypt? three

What must the people do to keep their part of the covenant? Obey God

Do they agree to do this? yes

What will happen to anyone who touches the mountain? They will die

The day has arrived. **Read Exodus 19:16-20:21** to see how the Lord approaches His people and what He will say to them. **(Slide 6)**

Describe what the people see and hear on the third day? Trumpets, smoke, the Ten Commandments, lightning, thunder, earthquakes

What warning does the Lord give to Moses to tell the people? Stay back from the mountain

List the Ten Commandments. (Historical liturgical church numbering is shown here. Reformed churches divide and number differently. The Bible does not number the commandments. Commentators generally agree that the numbering systems are arbitrary.)

1. (verse 3) No other gods

2. (verse 7) Do not take the name of the Lord in vain

3. (verse 8) Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy

4. (verse 12) Honor your father and mother

5. (verse 13) Do not kill

6. (verse 14) Do not commit adultery

7. (verse 15) Do not steal

8. (verse 16) Do not bear false witness

9. (verse 17a) Do not covet your neighbor's house

10. (verse 17b) Do not covet anything belonging to your neighbor

What is the people's reaction to the events of the day? Fear and trembling

The first three commandments deal with man's relationship with whom? God

The last seven commandments deal with man's relationship with whom? Each other

*And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord and rose early in the morning and built an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel. And he sent young men to offer sacrifices. And Moses took half of the blood of the sacrifices and put it in basins, and the other half he sprinkled on the altar. And he took the book of the covenant and read it to the people. When they said, "All that the Lord has said we will do," Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant which the Lord has made with you concerning all these words."*

*And the Lord said to Moses, "Come up to Me into the mount." 7 And Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights.*

The blood of the sacrifice being sprinkled on the people to seal the covenant points to a New Testament sacrifice that brought about the new covenant with God. Whose sacrificial blood cleanses us from our sins and puts us into a right relationship with God?

Jesus'

## THE GOLDEN CALF

Exodus 32-34

The above events seem memorable and awesome, but forty days is long enough for the people to forget what has happened and give up hope of seeing Moses again. **Read Exodus 32:1-6. (Slide 8)**

What request do the people make of Aaron? Make them a god

Why do they request this? Moses has been gone a long time; think he won't return

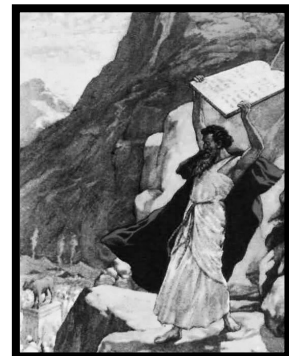
Does Aaron do what they ask him to do? yes

To whom do the people give credit for bringing them out of Egypt? Golden calf

Notice that Aaron announces a festival to the Lord to occur the next day. This festival does not proceed in a God-pleasing manner. Describe the scene.

Drinking, loud, out of control reveling

*And the Lord said to Moses, "Go, get down; for your people have corrupted themselves; they have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. I see this people is a stiff-necked people; now, therefore, let Me alone that My wrath may wax hot against them and that I may consume them; and I will make of you a great nation."*



What promise given to Abraham does God say He will give to Moses? *Make a great nation out of him*

**Read Exodus 32:11-14** to see what the reaction of Moses is to God's plan.

Moses uses two lines of reasoning with the Lord to get Him to change His mind. What are the two arguments he uses?

1) *What will Egypt think of God*

2) *The promise to Abraham*

Will God "wipe them off of the face of the earth"? *no*

*And Moses went down from the mount, and the two tables of the testimony were in his hand. The tables were written on both sides, and were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, engraved upon the tables. As soon as he came near the camp, he saw the calf and the dancing. And Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands,<sup>9</sup> and broke them beneath the mount. And he took the calf and burned it in the fire **10** and ground it to powder and strewed it upon the water and made the children of Israel drink of it. Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp and said, "Who is on the Lord's side? Let him come to me." All the sons of Levi gathered themselves together around him. And he said to them, "Thus says the Lord. Put every man his sword by his side and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp and kill every man his brother, and his neighbor." And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses. There fell of the people that day about three thousand men.*

Which of the tribes rallies around Moses? *Levi*

*The Lord spoke to Moses face to face as a man speaks to his friend. And the Lord said to Moses, "Cut two tables of stone like the first; and I will write upon these tablets the words that were in the first tables which you broke." **11** And Moses cut two tables of stone like the first; and rose up early in the morning and went up Mount Sinai as the Lord had commanded him and took in his hand the two tables of stone. And the Lord descended in the cloud and passed by before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty." And Moses bowed his head and worshiped and said, "O Lord, pardon our iniquity and our sin and take us for Your inheritance." And the Lord made a covenant that He would lead them into the land. And Moses was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights. He did neither eat bread nor drink water.*

What does Moses ask of the Lord? *forgiveness*

Will the Lord continue in His covenant relationship with the people of Israel? yes

Moses needed neither food nor water when he was in the presence of the Lord. After forty days and nights of being with God, Moses returned to the people. The glory of God was on the face of Moses even after the Lord had departed. **Read about it in Exodus 34:29-35.**

Is Moses aware of the change in his face? no

What is the reaction of the people when they see Moses? They are afraid

When does Moses remove the veil? When he talks with God

Why does Moses wear the veil? To keep the people from seeing the fading glory

### **THE TABERNACLE. THE BLESSING. THE BLASPHEMER. THE SABBATH-BREAKER.**

Exodus 35-40

Leviticus 24

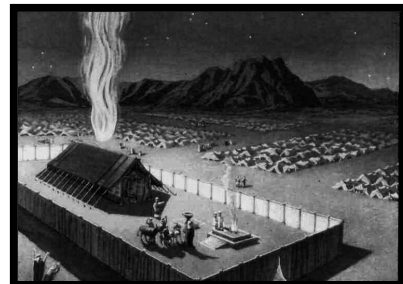
Numbers 6 and 15

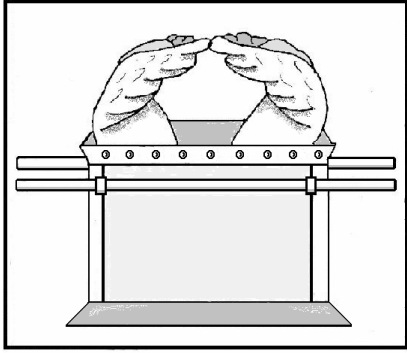
Notice that the events in this part of lesson seven are recorded not only in Exodus but also in parts of Leviticus and Numbers. Leviticus comes from the word "Levites." The descendants of Levi (one of the twelve sons of Jacob) were assigned the task of attending to the tabernacle and the sacrifices and worship. The book of Leviticus deals with the worship of the Lord. It contains the form of the worship, the moral laws, and the festivals and holy days that are to be observed. We see in the sacrificing of animals to cover the sins of the people a picture of the sacrificial death of Jesus to cover our sins.

The book of Numbers picks up the historical account of God's nation. The title comes from the census list that is contained in this book. However, Numbers deals with more than a listing of the twelve tribes of Israel. It covers the next thirty-eight years of the history of Israel. It is during this time that the Israelites wander about in the desert as God prepares them to inhabit the promised land.

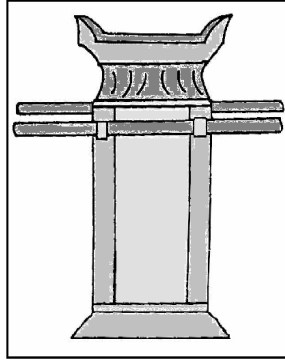
God now has Moses build a tabernacle **12** in which an organized form of worship will be able to be conducted. The first temple of God will be in the form of a tent, for the people are to be in the desert for many more years. During this time they will move from place to place. God gives very specific instructions as to the construction of this temple. He also gives detailed instructions of the furnishings of the tabernacle. **13** Refer to the drawings below as the items are mentioned in the following narration.

*And God commanded Moses to set up a tabernacle. This was divided into the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. **14** In the Most Holy Place stood the Ark of the Covenant, **15** which contained the two*

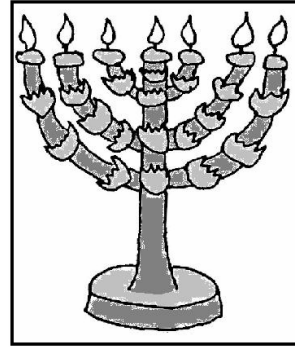




**The Ark**



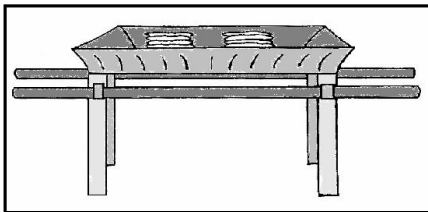
**Altar of Incense**



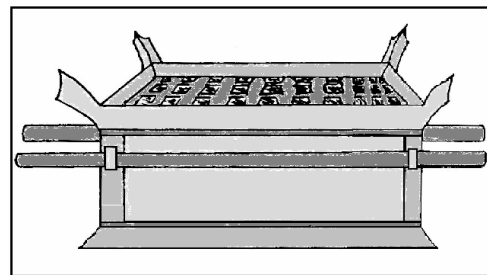
**Candle Stick**

tables of the Law and the pot of manna. The top of this Ark of God, on which were two golden cherubim, was called the mercy-seat. In the Holy Place stood the altar of incense, **16** the golden candlestick,**17** and the table of showbread. **18** In the court that surrounded the tabernacle stood the altar of burnt offering **19** and the brazen laver [bronze basin]. **20** The people of Israel observed the Sabbath, the Passover, Pentecost, the Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles. They also brought sacrifices, and had a high priest, and Levites. Aaron was consecrated as high priest and his sons as priests. The children of Levi were appointed to the service of the tabernacle.

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to Aaron and to his sons saying, 'You shall put My name upon the children of Israel, and I will bless them and thus shall you bless them saying to them: "The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.'""



**The Table of Showbread**



**Altar of Burnt Offering**



**The Bronze Basin**



Please note that the "showbread" consisted of twelve loaves of bread (one for each of the twelve tribes of Israel). The bread was a perpetual offering to God through which the Israelites declared they had consecrated to the Lord the first fruits of their labor.

The "mercy seat" was part of the ark of the covenant. The ark was the symbolic throne of God. The atonement cover, also known as the mercy seat, signified God's mercy toward His people.

Not everyone embraced the laws of the Lord and the covenant He had established with the people. Those who broke this relationship were dealt with harshly. **Read Leviticus 24:10-16** for an example of what happened to those who continued in their rebellion.

What sin does the man commit? blasphemy

What is his punishment? Death (stoning)

Breaking the Sabbath was also a serious offense. **Read Numbers 15:32-36** to find out what happened to a man who broke the Sabbath.

What has the man done that breaks the Sabbath? Gathered wood

What is his punishment? Death (stoning)

## THE SPIES AND KORAH'S REBELLION

Numbers 13-16

It is time for the nation of Israel to take possession of the land of Canaan. A party of men is sent ahead of the people to spy out the land and to report back to the people. Once again, the people do not want to trust the Lord to do as He has promised.

*The Lord said to Moses, "Send men to search the land of Canaan; of every tribe send one of the chief men." And Moses said to them, "Go up and see the land, what it is, and the people that dwell there, whether they be strong or weak, few or many." So they came to the brook of Eshcol and cut down from there a branch with one cluster of grapes; **21** and they bore it between two upon a staff. And they brought samples of the pomegranates and of the figs. And they returned from searching the land after forty days and said, "We came to the land and surely it flows with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it. But we are not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we, and the cities are walled and very great. And there we saw giants, and we were in their sight as grasshoppers."*

What problems will they encounter as they take possession of the land? Strong people, walled cities, giants

**Read Numbers 14:1-10** to find out the reaction of the people of Israel to this news.

Do the people trust the Lord to give them the "Promised Land"? no

Where do the people want to go? Back to Egypt

Twelve spies entered Canaan. Which two are not afraid to do as the Lord has directed?

1.) Joshua 2.) Caleb

Why are they not afraid? They trust in the Lord

Will the people listen to these two men? no

*And the glory of the Lord appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel. And the Lord said to Moses, "How long will this people provoke Me? And how long will it be before they believe Me, for all the signs which I have showed among them? But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord. 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 listened to My voice: from twenty years old and upward they shall not see the land which I swore to their fathers, except Caleb and Joshua. But your little ones, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land that you have despised. And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, after the number of the forty days in which you searched the land. I, the Lord, have spoken; I will surely do it."*

What is the punishment of the people? Those over twenty years old will not see the Promised Land and the people will wander for forty years

There are two exceptions to this punishment. Who are they?

1.) Joshua 2.) Caleb

Later the Levites decide that Moses and Aaron do not speak for the Lord. They challenge their leadership in **Numbers 16:1-22**. Read this passage.

Who is the leader of the unrest? Korah

What charges do Dathan and Abiram make against Moses?

1. He has brought them into the desert to die

2. He has not delivered them into the Promised Land

With whom does the Lord speak? Moses and Aaron

*And the Lord spoke to Moses saying, "Speak to the congregation saying, 'Get away from the tents of Korah, Dathan and Abiram.'" And Moses rose up and spoke to the congregation saying, "Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest you be consumed in all their sins." And Moses said, "By this you shall know that the Lord has sent me: If these men die the common death of all men, then the Lord has not sent me. But if the Lord makes a new thing happen, and the earth opens her mouth and swallows them up with all that appertain to them, and they go down alive into the pit: then you shall understand that these men have provoked the Lord." And when he had said these words, the ground that was under them split apart. **22** The earth opened her mouth and swallowed them up and their houses and all the men that appertained to Korah, and all their goods. And all Israel that were round about them fled at the cry of them; for they said, "Lest the earth swallow us up also." And there came out a fire from the Lord and consumed the two hundred and fifty men. And in proof that God had chosen Aaron, his rod budded **23** and blossomed and yielded almonds. And the rod was kept in the ark of God.*

## REVIEW

1. What two things does the Lord provide for food?

1.) manna 2.) quail

2. Who attacks the Israelites? Amalekites

3. Who wins? Israelites

4. On which mountain does the Lord give Moses the Ten Commandments? Mt. Sinai

5. What does Moses see as he returns from forty days on the mountain? The golden calf

6. What happens to the first stone tablets? They are broken (Moses smashes them)

7. Who is appointed as the first high priest? Aaron

8. What happens to the blasphemer? Stoned to death

9. What happens to the man who broke the Sabbath? Stoned to death

10. How many men go to spy in Canaan? twelve

11. Which two spies trust the Lord? 1.) Joshua 2.) Caleb

12. Do the people trust the Lord to give them the Promised Land? no

13. What is the punishment for their lack of trust? Cannot enter the Promised Land

14. What happens to Korah, Dathan, and Abiram? Killed (swallowed by the ground)

15. What happens to their 250 followers? Consumed by fire