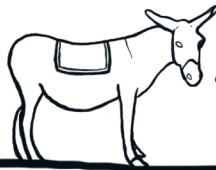


NUMBERS

CHAPTER

19



CHARACTERS

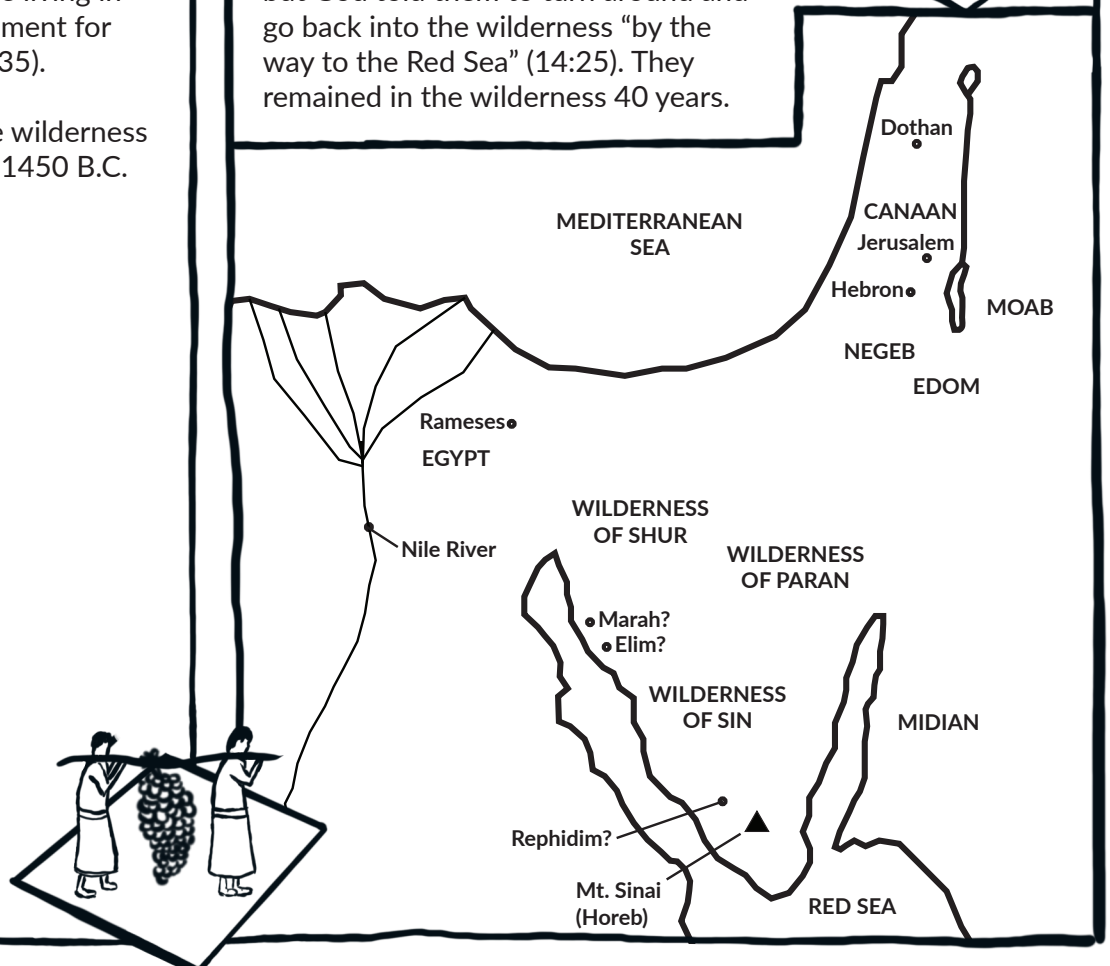
- **Moses** – Moses was selected by God to lead the Israelites to Canaan.
- **Aaron** – Moses' brother and the High Priest of Israel.
- **Aaron's Sons** – Eleazar and Ithamar served under their father as priests.

WHEN

- God's commands in Numbers 19 appear to have been given during the 40 years the Israelites were living in the wilderness as a punishment for their faithlessness (14:33-35).
- The Israelites were in the wilderness from approximately 1490-1450 B.C.

WHERE

- The Israelites were camped in the wilderness of Paran at Kadesh (13:26), but God told them to turn around and go back into the wilderness "by the way to the Red Sea" (14:25). They remained in the wilderness 40 years.





OUTLINE

- THE WATER FOR IMPURITY (19:1-10):

- + In order to make a special water for the purification of unclean Israelites, God told Moses to have Eleazar kill a red heifer outside the camp.
- + Eleazar was to take the animal's blood on his finger and sprinkle it 7 times in the direction of the Tabernacle.
- + The animal was to be burned along with cedarwood, hyssop, and scarlet yarn.
- + After completing these steps, Eleazar was considered unclean until the evening and was required to wash his clothes.
- + Another man was instructed to gather up the ashes of the red heifer and save them in a clean place outside the camp because they were to be used to make the "water of impurity."

- PURIFICATION FOR THOSE WHO CAME INTO CONTACT WITH A DEAD BODY (19:11-22):

- + Anyone who touched a dead body was to be considered unclean for 7 days.
- + They were required to wash themselves on the 3rd and 7th day with the water of impurity.
- + Anyone who didn't wash themselves as commanded was to be "cut off from Israel."
- + If a person died in a tent, everyone in the tent was unclean 7 days.
- + If a person touched a human bone or a grave, they were unclean 7 days.
- + In these instances, the water of impurity was to be mixed with fresh water and a clean person was to sprinkle the water on the unclean individual(s) with the hyssop plant. This was to be done on the 3rd and 7th day.
- + On the 7th day, after washing themselves and their clothes, the unclean individuals were made clean again.

APPLICATION

- Washing in water for the purpose of spiritual purification was common amongst the Jews in the Old Testament.
- The Jews even created traditions around hand washing for ceremonial cleanliness.
- It isn't surprising that Jesus carried this imagery forward in the practice of baptism.
- Jesus told Nicodemus a person must be born again "of water and the Spirit" if he wants to enter the Kingdom of God.
- When Ananias was about to baptize Paul, he said, "And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name."