

## **Geography of the Exodus**

### **Lesson Seven**

---

#### **Introduction:**

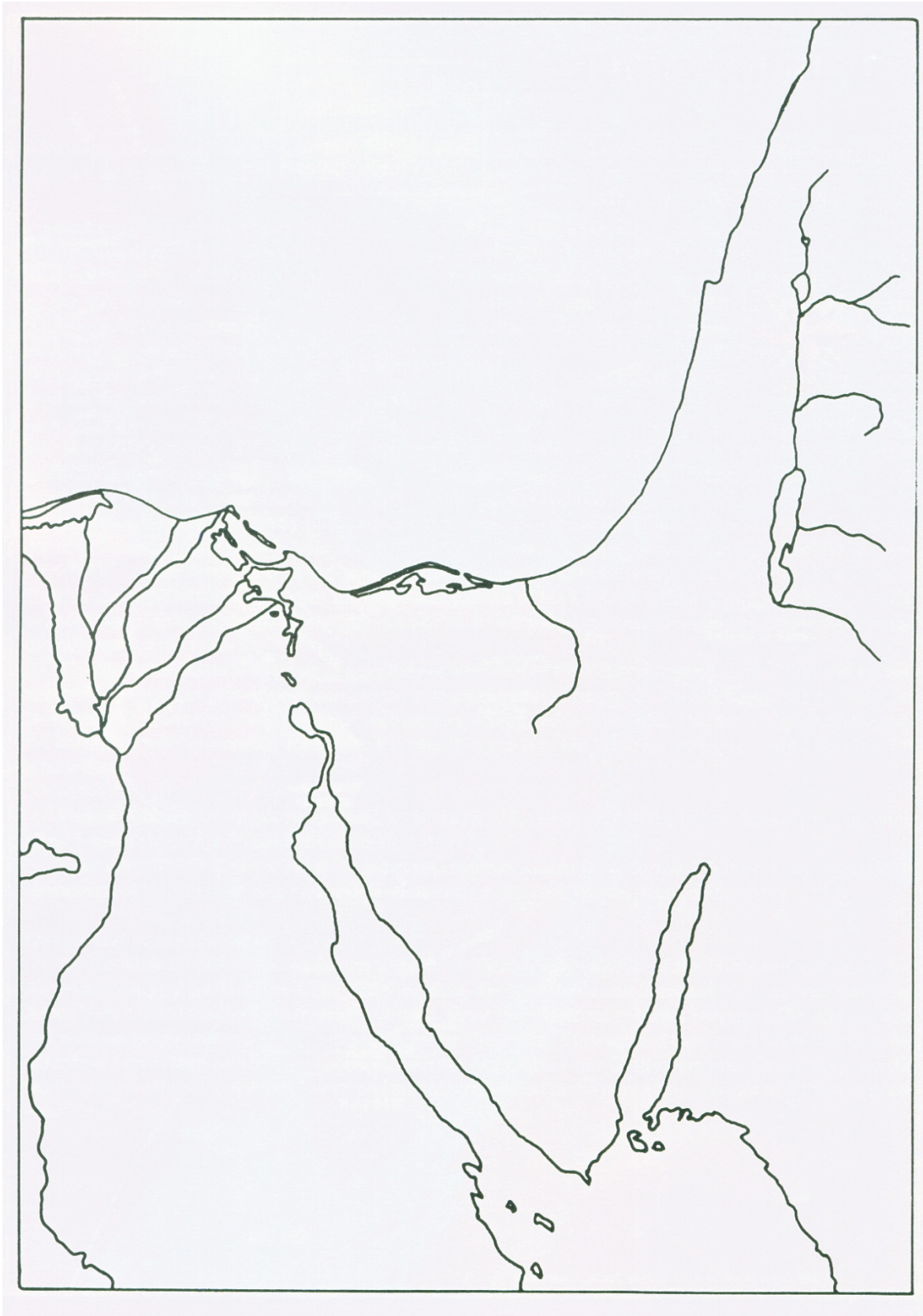
This lesson is different from the others in that we will not be focusing on a specific text, but rather on the geography surrounding the exodus of Israel from Egypt. The book of Exodus gives us the names and some general information regarding several places associated with this period of Israelite history.

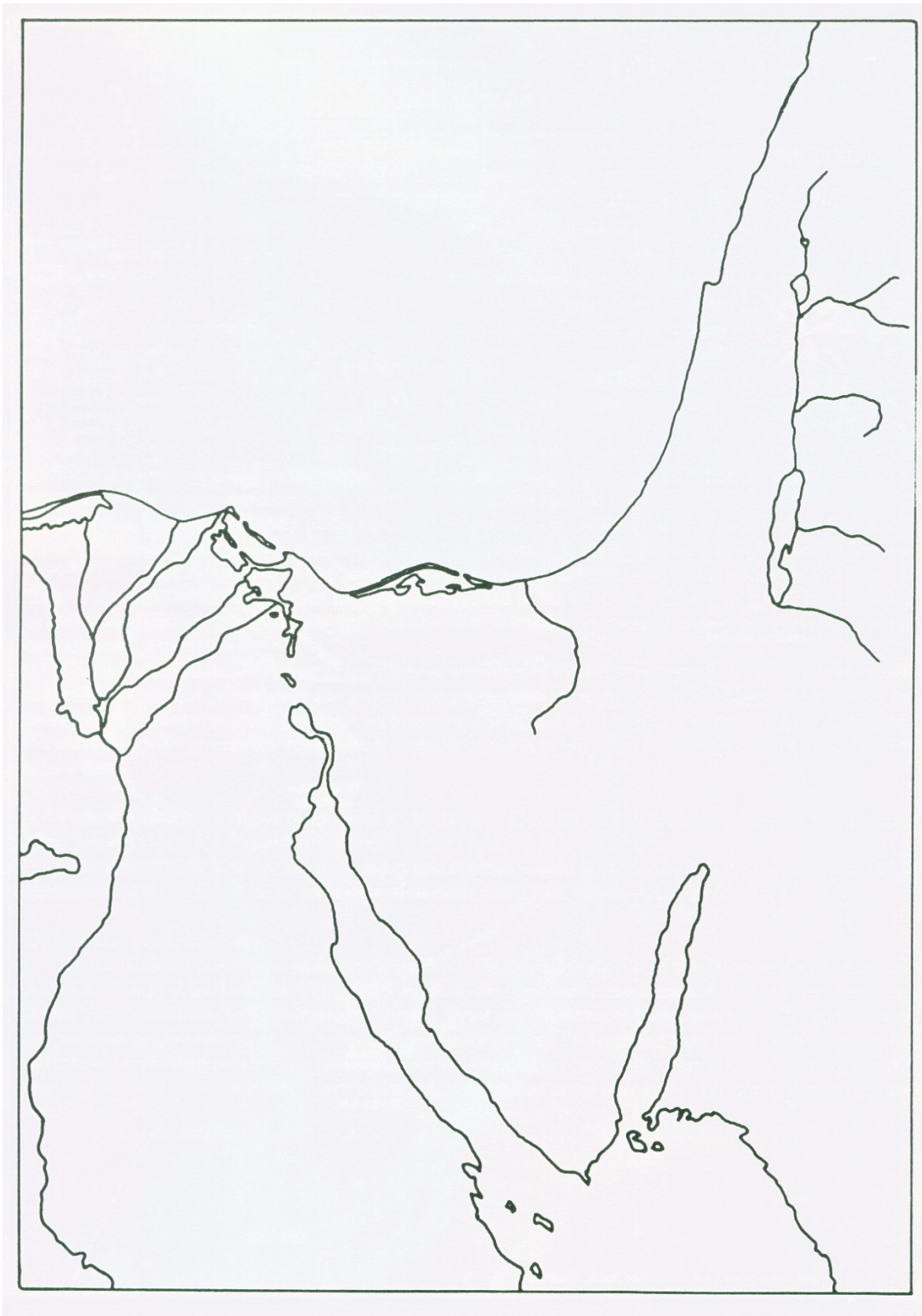
Most of our Bibles contain maps which show the location of Mount Sinai at the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula. In my opinion, there are some compelling reasons to consider an alternative route and site for Mount Sinai and the crossing of the Red Sea.

This lesson contains two blank maps on pages 20 and 21 which we will use as we consider the geography of the exodus. The student is encouraged to label the maps as directed in the discussion questions. These maps were taken from the book *You Shall Be My People* by Bob and Sandra Waldron.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. According to Exodus 12, how many Israelite men left Egypt?
2. Locate the approximate location of the geographical features below and label them on the map on page 20:
  - a. Goshen
  - b. Rameses
  - c. Philistia
  - d. Gulf of Suez
  - e. Gulf of Aqaba
  - f. Bitter Lakes
  - g. Sinai Peninsula
  - h. Mount Sinai
  - i. River of Egypt (not the Nile!)
3. Which came first: the departure from Egypt or the crossing of the Red Sea?
4. Where were the Israelites camped when the Egyptian army approached them, just prior to the crossing of the Red Sea?
5. Where did Paul write that Mount Sinai was located (Galatians 4:25)?





## **In the Wilderness**

### **Lesson Eight**

### **Text: Exodus 16-18**

---

#### **Introduction:**

The complaining continues! No food, no water and no faith. Despite the complaints of the people, God continued to provide for them. Other inspired writers focused on this general period of time (e.g., see Psalm 78 and Hebrews 3-4). Note the provisions for a Sabbath rest in the regulations for the gathering of the manna.

Amalek took advantage of the weariness of Israel, attacking the stragglers (Deuteronomy 25:17-18). The subsequent victory over Amalek didn't end the matter; there would be consequences to the attack that would even affect the reign of king Saul during the united kingdom period.

In the text of this lesson, Moses also received some excellent advice from his father-in-law.

#### **Brief Outline of the Text:**

- I. Israel complained in the Wilderness of Sin that they had no food (16:1-36).
  - A. The people complained against Moses and Aaron because they had no food (vs. 1-3).
  - B. The Lord promised Israel that He would give them bread and meat to eat (vs. 4-12).
    1. The Lord informed Moses of His intention to “rain bread from heaven” and the people’s need to collect twice as much on Friday as they would normally gather daily (vs. 4-5).
    2. Moses told the people that the Lord had heard their complaints and they would be given food (vs. 6-8).
    3. The congregation saw the glory of the Lord in the cloud (vs. 9-10).
    4. The Lord told Moses that the people would eat meat at twilight and be filled with bread in the morning (vs. 11-12).
  - C. The Lord provided manna and quail for the people (vs. 13-31).
    1. At evening quails covered the camp (vs. 13).
    2. Moses instructed the people concerning the gathering of the manna (vs. 14-30).
      - a. The manna was left behind when the morning dew lifted (vs. 14-15).
      - b. The people were to gather a particular quantity of manna per person and leave none of it from one day to the next, although some of the people disobeyed this last instruction (vs. 16-21).

- c. The people were also to gather twice as much manna on the sixth day of the week and not to go out to gather manna on the Sabbath, but some of the Israelites disobeyed this instruction as well (vs. 22-30).
  3. The manna was like white coriander seed in appearance and had the taste of wafers made with honey (vs. 31).
  - D. Moses gave instructions for the long-term preservation of some manna (vs. 32-36).
    1. The people ate manna for forty years (vs. 35).
    2. An omer (the quantity of manna gathered daily for each person) was one-tenth of an ephah (vs. 36).
- II. The Lord provided for Israel in Rephidim (17:1-16).
- A. The people complained that they had no water to drink (vs. 1-3).
  - B. When Moses cried out to the Lord, he was instructed to strike the rock in Horeb with his rod and water would come out of it (vs. 4-7).
  - C. Israel was attacked by Amalek and the Lord helped the people defeat them (vs. 8-13).
  - D. Israel was to remember that the Lord would “utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek” (vs. 14-16).
- III. Moses was reunited with his wife and sons (18:1-12).
- A. Having heard that the Lord had brought Israel out of Egypt, Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, brought Zipporah and Moses’ two sons to him in the wilderness (vs. 1-6).
  - B. When Moses told Jethro about the things which had happened to Israel, Jethro rejoiced and offered sacrifices to the Lord (vs. 7-12).
- IV. Jethro gave his son-in-law Moses wise advice regarding judgment of the people (18:13-27).
- A. Moses was judging all of the questions of the people by himself (vs. 13-16).
  - B. Jethro suggested that Moses select capable men to judge the smaller matters, allowing Moses to handle only the more difficult matters (vs. 17-23).
  - C. Moses implemented Jethro’s suggestion (vs. 24-26).
  - D. Jethro returned to his own land (vs. 27).

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How did the people of Israel manifest their lack of faith in the Wilderness of Sin? In Rephidim?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What did Moses say was the significance of the people’s complaints against him and Aaron?



**The Law**  
**Lesson Nine**  
**Text: Exodus 19-23**

---

**Introduction:**

Israel came to the mount of God, but the people were not allowed to closely approach the mount. The instructions of God limiting their approach conveyed an important lesson about the holiness of God.

The decalogue formed the moral core of the covenant that God made with Israel, His special treasure, but the ten commandments were not, by any means, the only laws given to the people. The text of this lesson contains many practical regulations regarding daily life among the people. Although the Old Covenant is no longer in force, there are important principles regarding the proper treatment of others to be learned in its specific regulations.

The regulations in chapters 21-23 are not strictly organized by topic in the text (or at least the relationship between contiguous regulations is not always apparent). For this reason, some sections of the outline include individual regulations which seem unconnected to their neighbors.

**Brief Outline of the Text:**

- I. Israel arrived at Mount Sinai (19:1-25).
  - A. Israel came to Mount Sinai in the middle of the third month after leaving Egypt and camped there (vs. 1-2).
  - B. God promised Israel a special relationship with Him if they would obey His covenant and Israel agreed to do so (vs. 3-9).
  - C. God gave instructions for the preparation of the people that they might meet with Him (vs. 10-15).
  - D. The Lord came down upon Mount Sinai and spoke with Moses (vs. 16-25).
- II. God spoke the Decalogue to Israel (20:1-17).
  - A. The first four laws dealt specifically with one's relationship with God (vs. 1-11).
  - B. The last six laws dealt specifically with one's relationships with others (vs. 12-17).
- III. The people were afraid of God speaking to them (20:18-21).
- IV. God gave instructions regarding the construction of altars (20:22-26).
- V. God gave Moses various regulations to relay to the people (21:1-23:19).
  - A. Laws concerning slavery (21:1-11)
  - B. Laws concerning violence (21:12-27)
  - C. Laws concerning livestock and civil responsibility (21:28-22:6; 23:4-5)



