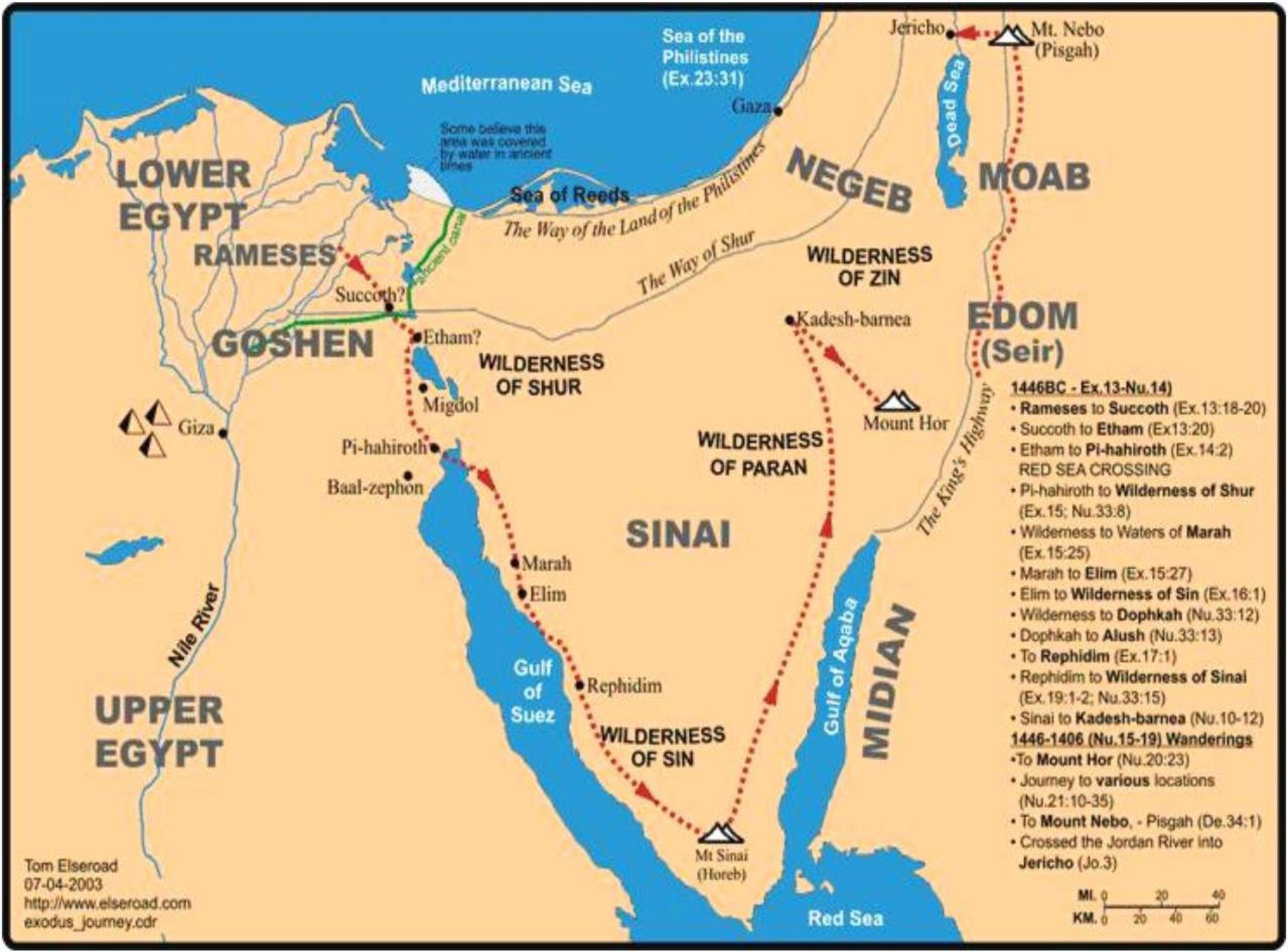




Exodus 17:8-16

Israel and The Amalekites



LOWER EGYPT

RAMESES

GOSHEN

UPPER EGYPT

Mediterranean Sea

Sea of the Philistines (Ex. 23:31)

Some believe this area was covered by water in ancient times

Sea of Reeds

The Way of the Land of the Philistines

The Way of Shur

NEGEB

MOAB

EDOM (Seir)

WILDERNESS OF ZIN

WILDERNESS OF SHUR

WILDERNESS OF PARAN

SINAI

MIDIAN

The King's Highway

1446BC - Ex.13-Nu.14

• Rameses to Succoth (Ex.13:18-20)

• Succoth to Etham (Ex.13:20)

• Etham to Pi-hahiroth (Ex. 14:2)

RED SEA CROSSING

• Pi-hahiroth to Wilderness of Shur (Ex. 15; Nu.33:8)

• Wilderness to Waters of Marah (Ex. 15:25)

• Marah to Elim (Ex.15:27)

• Elim to Wilderness of Sin (Ex. 16:1)

• Wilderness to Dophkah (Nu.33:12)

• Dophkah to Alush (Nu.33:13)

• To Rephidim (Ex.17:1)

• Rephidim to Wilderness of Sinai (Ex. 19:1-2; Nu.33:15)

• Sinai to Kadesh-barnea (Nu.10-12)

1446-1406 (Nu.15-19) Wanderings

• To Mount Hor (Nu.20:23)

• Journey to various locations (Nu.21:10-35)

• To Mount Nebo, - Pisgah (De.34:1)

• Crossed the Jordan River into Jericho (Jo.3)

The Account

- ***The Amalekites:***

- Descendants of Amalek, grandson of Esau. (Gen. 36:12)
- A nomadic people, occupying land south of Palestine and between Edom and Egypt, who attacked and plundered caravans which passed through the desert.
- Described in Numbers 24:20 as the “first of nations”. (status or in their own minds)
- Here attacked the recently freed nation of Israel without provocation.

The Account

- **The Amalekites:**

- A long term adversary of Israel.

- Recalled and condemned by Moses in Deut. 25:17-19.
- A thorn to Israel in the days of the Judges. (3:13; 6:3-5)
- Saul disobeys God's command to utterly destroy. (I Sam. 15)
- David battled the Amalekites. (I Sam. 27:8; 30:1-20)
- In Hezekiah's day, the sons of Simeon attacked the Amalekites. (I Chron. 4:41-43)
- Haman the Agagite. (Esther 3:1)

The Account

- **Moses** → the great leader of the Israelites; hidden by his mother, raised by the daughter of Pharaoh, commissioned by God as the burning bush. (Ex. 3:10)
- **Aaron** → His brother, the first High Priest. (Ex. 4:14)
- **Joshua** → “Jesus” in the Greek; first mention; lead Israel into the promise land.
- **Hur** → First mention; given responsibility to judge when Moses was on Mt. Sinai. (Ex. 24:14)

The Account

- **The Battle.**

- Amalek fought with Israel in Rephidim. No provocation.
- “Disadvantages” of Israel:
 - Verse 9 → “Choose men” not out of an army; just find some to fight. No training, strategy, armory; not a well-trained fighting force.
 - The Amalekites are experienced and fought “dirty”. Attacked the feeble, weak and faint from the rear. (Deut. 25:17-19)
- Advantage: God is on their side.

The Account

- **The Battle.**

- Moses, Aaron and Hur go to the top of the hill. (Ex. 17:9)
- Moses has the staff of God in his hand. When Moses held up his hand Israel prevailed; when it lowered, Amalek had the upper hand in the fight.
- As Moses grew weary, he sat on a stone and his hands were stayed by Aaron and Hur till sundown.
- Joshua defeated the Amalekites in battle. (17:13)

Approaches To The Text

- That which sees a type of Christ here.
- The approach which sees passage as a prayer to God.
- The approach which puts the battle in its context.

Approaches To The Text

- That which puts it in its context.
 - Immediate context:
 - From Exodus 15:24; 16:2; to Ex. 17:7 → Israel is complaining about Moses and his leadership.
 - 17:7 → Is God with us or not?
 - The answer to the question is provided when Amalek attacks.
 - Larger context:
 - God had chosen and delivered Israel out of bondage and the means by which He did so often involves the rod.
 - The rod of God: In meeting Pharaoh, the Plagues, at the Red Sea, now here in defeat of Amalek.
 - After this event, Moses receives the advice of Jethro, who tells him that he can't do it all. He needs helpers.
 - This is the context for the battle in which we see God prevailing over the enemies of His people.

The Application

- ***Helps us to see the nature of our real enemies.***
 - Amalek was the enemy of Israel as it sought to impede progress to the promise land.
 - Our real foes are not those that would merely seek to kill, steal, destroy, intimidate, but those that would impede our progress to the promise land. These are the ones on which our focus should be.
- ***The Need To Strengthen Our Brethren.***
 - Even Moses Needed Help.
 - Verse 12 → Aaron and Hur supported his hands till the going down of the sun.
 - It is not a quick battle, and they needed each other.

The Application

- **The Need To Strengthen Our Brethren.**
 - Same word found in LXX:
 - Luke 22:32 → strengthen thy brethren
 - Acts 18:23 →...strengthening the disciples
 - Rom. 1:11 → to the end you may be strengthened
 - I Thess. 3:13 → Paul wanted them to be strengthened in holiness
 - Rev. 3:2 → strengthen the things that remain

The Application

- The Ultimate Victory Is Provided By God.
 - Through His Son Jesus Christ.
 - Gen. 3:15
 - Heb. 2:14-15
 - He has provided for us the weapons. (Eph. 6:10-17)
 - We must receive the cleansing blood of Jesus by meeting God's terms. (Rev. 1:5; Matt. 26:28; Acts 2:38; 22:16)