

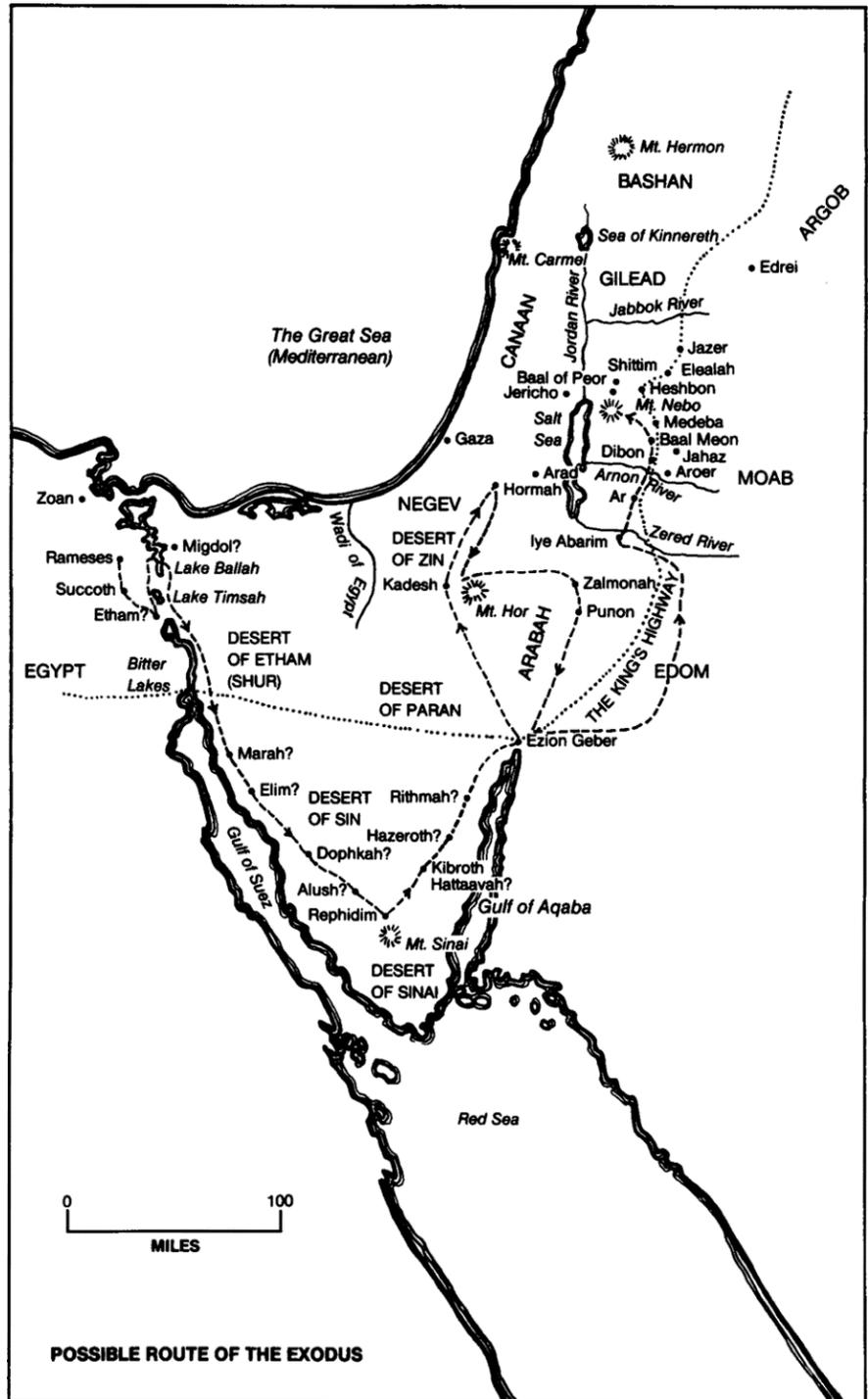
“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”

March 29, 2016

- ✓ Numbers 33:1-49 – Review of the journey from Egypt.
- ✓ 1 Corinthians 15:12-34 – the death of death.
- ✓ Psalm 28:1-9 – Prayer for deliverance and praise for the character of God.

REFLECTIONS:

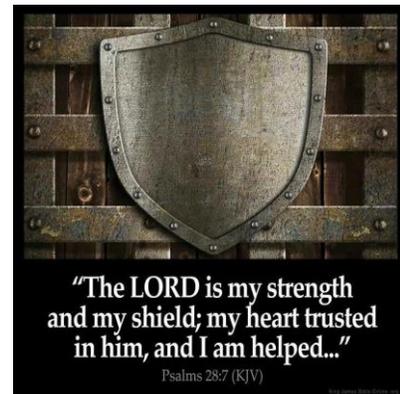
Numbers 33:1-49. This chapter provides a summary of the journey of Israel from Egypt to the plains of Moab. This map provides a visual of the journey. However, it must be kept in mind that it is impossible to know just how complete the list of places is, and some of the names cannot be positively identified. Of course, the principal lesson for us is that we are on a journey with God. Undoubtedly, we have all experienced many unexpected turns and twists in our lives, but we must remember that it is God Himself who designed the plan and leading us every step of the way. While we have no say about many circumstances of our lives, we do have a say whether we are more like faithful Joshua and Caleb or the unfaithful complaining bunch who were their own worst enemies. On another note, if you ever feel down because things seem to overwhelm you, it is a good idea to *remember* how the Lord has always provided for you in the past. Remember His faithfulness and grace!



1 Corinthians 15:12-34. In this section on the Resurrection, note the proclamation of the death of death all because of Christ's death on the Cross. Such a triumphant truth changes all the darkness of our earthly life with a heavenly hope of eternal life with the Lord. The one Man risen from the grave is the first-fruits, prophesying of many more that will follow Him. The Resurrection of Jesus is not only a prophecy, showing, as it and it alone does, that death is not the end of man, but that life persists through death and emerges from it in a physical manner as with Christ. Not only does Christ make it possible that one day we will never face death again, He makes it possible for us to overcome what would otherwise be a dead (functionally) spiritual life. The *Risen Lord* alone offers abundant life even as our body decays daily as we all head toward that final day when all categories of death will be abolished on Earth—again, all because of Christ. For now, all of creation groans and dies, but one day that will all change and we will have the privilege of reigning over the New Earth with none other than Jesus Christ Himself and behold how He makes all things new.



Psalms 28:1-9. The psalmist prays to the Lord that he would be kept separate from the wicked when they are judged. Observe how he appeals to God's mercy. He ends this short psalm with confidence that the Lord would deliver him as he praises the Lord as the Shepherd who guides His people forever. Like the psalmist, we too are surrounded by increasing evil doers in our dark days. We live in very dark times and we can expect greater persecution on God's people for not going along with the world in calling good evil and evil good. As our country increasingly becomes more evil, as evidenced by destroying every principle of natural law, we must remember that the Lord is our strength, not any political "leader." We must be careful not to get distracted by the growing vulgarity of our culture and our leaders. We must keep our eyes on the Lord, pray to God for deliverance for evil, and ask God for grace for our loved ones facing the next generation.



All because of Christ,

Pastor Don