----- Moses 3<sup>rd</sup> 40 Years Part A-----

The Fourth Age of the World

- 192. On the fifteenth day of the first month, (Tuesday, May 5th) at midnight, the firstborn of all Egypt were killed. Pharaoh and his servants quickly sent away the Israelites with all their goods and the plunder which they had received from the Egyptians. {#Ex 12:33,35,36} It was exactly four hundred and thirty years from the first pilgrimage of Abraham's departure from Canaan to the day they were set free from bondage. The day after the Passover they journeyed toward Ramesses with about six hundred thousand men, besides women and children. {#Ex 12:29-31,37,41,51 Nu 33:3} [L22] From there on, the camps are recorded by Moses. {#Nu 33} In writing to Fabiola, Jerome expounded symbolically the Hebrew meaning of the words in his treatise of their forty-two camps. I assume the first camp to be at Ramesses. Thus then:
- 1) At Ramesses, where the Israelites had been placed by Joseph, {#Ge 47:11}, they all met those who now either lived among the Egyptians {#Ex 3:22} or who at that time were scattered over all Egypt to gather stubble. {#Ex 5:12}

- 2) At Succoth, Moses first declared to them the commandments of God for the yearly keeping of the Passover and the sanctifying of the firstborn. {#Ex 13:1-22}
- 3) At Etham, on the border of the wilderness, the Lord led them with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. {#Ex 13:20,21}
- 4) At Pihahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, opposite Baalzephon, Pharaoh overtook them with his army. There Moses divided the waters with his rod and they passed through the midst of the Trythraean or Red Sea, into the desert of Etham. When Pharaoh and his army tried to follow, they were all drowned when the waters came together again. [E15] At dawn, the Israelites were completely freed from the bondage of the Egyptians, whose bodies they saw floating all over the sea and washed up on the shore. {#Ex 14:26-30} They sang a song of praise and thanksgiving to God for their deliverance. {#Ex 15:22} This song is called the song of Moses and is the first song of deliverance sung by the Hebrews. {#Re 15:3}

This happened on the twenty-first day of the first month on the last day of the feast of Unleavened Bread, as appointed by God. This is the general opinion of the Jews and is in accordance with known facts. {#Ex 12:16} From there they marched three whole days through the wilderness of Etham, from Tuesday the 22nd to Thursday the 24th and they found no water anywhere along the way. {#Ex 15:22 Nu 33:8}

- 5) At Marah, named after its bitter waters, the people who had gone without water three whole days began to murmur. Moses threw a piece of wood into the water and made the waters drinkable. This taught the people over time to come to put their trust in God. {#Ex 15:23-26}
- 6) At Elim were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees. They camped near those springs. {#Ex 15:27 Nu 33:9}
- 7) This camp was by the Red Sea. {#Nu 33:10}
- 193. Now we come to the second month.
- 8) On the fifteenth day, (Thursday, June 4th) the Israelites came to the place of their eighth camp in the wilderness of Zin, between Elyma and Sinai. Because they were hungry, they murmured against God and their leaders. Towards evening God sent them quails and the next morning rained manna from heaven down on them. They lived on manna for forty years until they entered the land of promise. {#Ex 16:1-35}

- 9) They camped at Dophkah.
- 10) They camped at Alush.
- 11) At Rephidim the people murmured again because of thirst. [L23] (This place was called Meribah and Massa.) Moses gave them water by striking the hard rock with his rod. {#Ex 17:1-7} This Rock followed them throughout the wilderness. {#Ps 78:16,20 105:41 1Co 10:4 De 8:15}

The Amalekites attacked the rear of the Israelites, who were all weary and tired from their long journey in the wilderness. They killed some of the stragglers and weakest among them. Moses sent out his servant Jehoshua or Joshua, the son of Nun, to fight against them. {#Ex 33:11} His proper name was Hosea, but Moses changed it to Joshua, {#Nu 13:16} or Jesus in the Greek. {#Ne 8:17 Ac 7:45 Heb 4:8}

Joshua fought and defeated the Amalekites in Rephidim while Moses prayed on the top of the hill. The people were commanded by God to utterly destroy and root out that whole nation. As a memorial of this battle they built an altar there. {#De 25:17-19 Ex 17:8-16}

- 194. The third month.
- 12) In the desert of Sinai, the Israelites camped opposite Horeb and stayed there almost a whole year. They left the wilderness of Sinai on the second day of the second month, of the second year after coming out of the land of Egypt. {#Nu 10:11,12} They arrived there on the same day of the third month of the first year, after coming out of Egypt. This was on the third day of the third month (Monday, June 22nd) according to Fr. Ribera. {Ribera, De Temple, l. 5. c. 7.} {#Ex 19:1}
- 195. When Moses went up into the mount, God declared to him that he would renew his covenant with the Israelites. He declared that he would bind them to himself by a law and that he would favour and love all those who would observe and keep that law. This they readily agreed to. God gave them two days to prepare and sanctify themselves to receive that law. He forbade everyone except Moses and Aaron to approach the mount. Afterward God came down to the mount in great majesty as they all watched and trembled at the sight. {#Ex 19:1-25}
- 196. With a terrifying voice, God proclaimed his law as contained in the ten commandments. {#Ex 20:1-26 De 5:1-33}

This did not make void the promise of grace made to Abraham four hundred and thirty years earlier. {#Ga 3:17}

197. The people were terrified as God gave them many other laws. {#Ex 20:21-23 De 4:13,14} These were written in the book of the covenant Moses gave to the people. After this, Moses rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain. He set up twelve pillars corresponding to the twelve tribes of Israel. He sent twelve young men of the firstborn (as the Chaldee paraphrase has it) whom the Lord had consecrated to himself {#Ex 13.2 Nu 3:13 8:16,17} to be ministers of the holy things. {#Ex 19:22} This was before the Levitical priesthood was ordained. [E16] These men offered sacrifices, first for sin and then as a thanksgiving to the Lord. Moses read to the people the book of the covenant which contained the commandments found in Exodus. {#Ex 20:1-23:33}. He then took the blood of the calves and goats that were offered, and with water, scarlet wool and hyssop he sprinkled the book as well as the twelve pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. This ratified that solemn covenant between God and his people. {#Ex 24:3-8 Heb 9:19,20}

198. Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu and seventy men of the elders of Israel went up into the mount and there beheld the glory of God. [L24] When the remainder returned, Moses, with his servant Joshua, stayed there for a further six days. On the seventh day God spoke to Moses and he continued there forty days and forty nights. {#Ex 24:9-18} This time includes those six days which he spent waiting for the Lord. During this time, he ate no food nor drank water. {#De 9:9} He received God's commands concerning the construction of the tabernacle, the priests' garments, their consecration, sacrifices and other things as related in Exodus. {#Ex 25:1-Ex 31:18}

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199. The fourth month.

200. When those forty days and forty nights were over, God gave Moses the two tables of the law written in stone by God's own finger. {#Ex 31:18 De 9:10,11} God ordered him to go down quickly, for the people had already made a molten calf to worship. Moses, in prayer, pleaded with God on their behalf, and having prevailed, he went down from the mount. When he saw the people in the camp keeping a festival in honour of their idol, he broke the tables of the law at the foot of the mount. {#Ex 32:1-19} Ever since this event, to this day the Jews have kept a solemn fast on the fourteenth day of the fourth month. This has led some men into the error that the forty days of Moses in the mount were to be started from the day immediately following the giving of the

ten commandments, thus omitting altogether the intermediate time spent in writing and reading the book of the covenant and sanctifying the covenant made between God and his people with solemn rites and ceremonies. {#Ex 24:1-18}

- 201. Moses burned and defaced the idol and the Levites killed three thousand of the people. {#Ex 32:20-29 De 9:21 33:9}
- 202. The next day Moses returned again to the mount and there again entreated the Lord for the people. {#Ex 32:30-32}
- 203. He commanded them to lay aside their gorgeous apparel and to set up the tent of the congregation outside the camp. This tent was used until the tabernacle was built by Bezaleel. The people, from a deep sense of God's wrath, repented of their sins. Moses prayed that God himself should be their guide and leader on their way, and not an angel as God had threatened. This prayer was heard. {#Ex 33:1-23}
- 204. God commanded Moses to get new tables of stone and to bring them with him into the mount the next day. Moses brought them the next morning. When Moses stood in the cleft of a rock, God passed by and showed him a glimpse of his glory. {#Ex 34:1-35}

205. Again Moses stayed another forty days and forty nights in the mount without food or water and prayed for the people. {#De 9:18 10:10} God was appeased and renewed his covenant with the people, with certain conditions. He gave his laws again and told Moses to write them down. God himself rewrote the ten commandments on the tables which Moses brought to him. {#Ex 34:10-28}

#### 206. The sixth month.

- 207. After forty days, Moses returned from the mount with the tables in his hand. Because his face shone, he covered it with a veil. He proclaimed the laws of God to the people, ordering the observance of the Sabbath. He asked for a free will offering to be made toward the building of the tabernacle. {#Ex 34:1-35:35}
- 208. So that this offering could be done in an orderly manner, all males were numbered from twenty years old and upward and there were found to be six hundred and three thousand, five hundred and fifty. According to the law prescribed by God, {#Ex 30:12,13} each contributed half a shekel. The total sum amounted to a hundred talents of silver and seventeen hundred and seventy-five shekels. {#Ex 38:25,26} [L25] From this we gather that among the Jews each talent amounted to three thousand shekels-every pound

containing sixty shekels. {#Eze 45:12}. In addition to this pole tax from the voluntary offering was the sum of twenty-nine talents and seven hundred and thirty shekels of gold; and seventy talents and twenty-four hundred shekels of brass. {#Ex 38:24,29} As for other materials needed for the tabernacle, there came in more than enough, and the people were commanded to stop giving! {#Ex 36:5-7}

209. Bezaleel and Aholiab were appointed by God as the chief workmen of the tabernacle. {#Ex 31:2-6 35:30-35}

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210. In the first six months of this year the tabernacle, the ark of the covenant, the altar, the table of showbread, the priests' garments, the holy ointments, the lampstands and other utensils and vessels belonging to the sacrifices were finished in the desert at Mount Sinai and were brought to Moses. {#Ex 36:1-39:43} [E17]

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### 211. God commanded Moses, that:

a) On the first day of the second month he should set up the tabernacle and furnish it with all the items belonging to it.  $\{\#Ex\ 40:2-8\}$ 

- b) He should anoint them with holy oil and should consecrate Aaron and his sons for the priesthood. {#Ex 40:9-15}
- 212. He did this, but not both activities at the same time. {#Ex 40:16} For on the very day God appointed, he erected the tabernacle with everything belonging to it. {#Ex 40:17-33} The second command he performed later, at a time appointed by God. {#Le 8:1-13} It took seven days for the consecration of the priests and altar. {#Ex 29:35-37}

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213. On the first day of the first month (Wednesday, April 21st) of the second year after they left Egypt, the tabernacle of the covenant was set up and was filled with the glory of God. {#Ex 40:2,17,34} From it God uttered his will and commandments to Moses. These are recorded in Leviticus. {#Le 1:1-7:38} In the same year and this same first month, the Israelites, as commanded by God, celebrated the passover on the evening of the fourteenth day. (Tuesday, May 4th) On this day some of the people complained to Moses and Aaron that they could not keep the passover with the rest of the congregation on the appointed day, because they were unclean from touching a dead body. God made a law that all such persons should keep their passover on the

fourteenth day of the second month if they could not keep it on the day first appointed. {#Nu 9:1-14}

- 214. On the first day of the second month (Friday, May 21st) God commanded Moses to count the number of all the males of the children of Israel from twenty years old to sixty by their tribes, except the Levites. He appointed the Levites to the service of the tabernacle and assigned to them the various responsibilities for setting it up, taking it down and moving and carrying it from place to place. {#Nu 1:1 26:64}
- 215. The census came to six hundred and three thousand, five hundred and fifty, {#Nu 1:1,46} the same number as seven months earlier, when they were taxed for a contribution toward the building of the tabernacle. {#Ex 38:26} [L26]
- 216. Moses, according to God's command, {#Ex 29:1-37 30:22-30 40:9-15} anointed the tabernacle and the altar and all the other things in it with the holy oil, consecrating them to the Lord. He also consecrated Aaron and his four sons with the same oil and with rites and ceremonies necessary for the execution of the priestly office. He commanded them not to leave the tabernacle for seven days. {#Le 8:1-36} This was the time required for the consecration of themselves and the altar. {#Ex 29:35-37 Le 8:33}

- 217. Moses outlined the order and position of the tribes in their march and encampments. {#Nu 2:1-34}
- 218. The number of Levites from one month old and upward was found to be twenty-two thousand and three hundred. {#Nu 3:15-35} The twenty-two hundred firstborn of the Levites managed the service of God in lieu of the firstborn of Israel. {#Nu 3:11-13} The number of the firstborn of the children of Israel exceeded the entire number of the Levites (their firstborn deducted) by two hundred and seventy-three. Therefore, these were taxed redemption money-five shekels for every additional person. {#Nu 3:39-50}
- 219. The Levites were set apart and consecrated to God for his service. Every man was appointed a certain time when he was to perform his ministry. {#Nu 8:5-26}
- 220. Eighty-five hundred and eighty Levites were between thirty and fifty years old. Their offices and services were assigned among them according to their families. {#Nu 4:1-49}
- 221. All leprous and unclean persons were put out of the camp. The laws for restoring of damages and of jealousy were ordained. {#Nu 5:1-31}

- 222. The vow, the consecration and manner of the Nazarites was instituted. {#Nu 6:1-27}
- 223. On the eighth day following the completion of the consecration, Aaron offered sacrifices and oblations, first for himself and then for all the people. All these offerings were consumed by fire that fell from heaven upon the altar. This sign ensured that the people accepted that the priestly office among them was ordained by God himself. {#Le 9:1-24}
- 224. All the tabernacle was completely set up and anointed all over, together with the utensils and things belonging to it. The altar which had been consecrated for seven days was now dedicated by Aaron in making his first oblation of sacrifices on it. The seven previous days had been ordained for expiation and for the hallowing of the altar. {#Ex 29:36,37}
- 225. The heads of the tribes brought six covered wagons and twelve oxen, and jointly offered them before the tabernacle. All this was given to the Levites, the sons of Gershon and Merari, for their duties. Every day leaders of the tribes brought their various sacrifices and things required for the ministry of the tabernacle and offered them toward its dedication. This took twelve days. {#Nu 7:1-11,84,88} [E18]

- 226. On this first day, Nahshon (from whom David descended and according to the flesh, Jesus Christ himself) came and made his offering for the tribes of Judah. Then the rest also made offerings, every one for his tribe, according to the order in which they were ranked in their camps. {#Nu 7:11-83}
- 227. Nadab and Abihu were Aaron's two oldest sons who had gone with their father up into Mount Sinai and had seen the glory of God there. {#Ex 24:1,9,10} They went into the sanctuary with strange or common fire. This was not that fire which fell from heaven, {#Le 9:24} and which was perpetually to be kept alive and continued for the burning of the sacrifices and incense in times to come. {#Le 6:12,13} They were struck dead on the spot by fire sent from heaven. {#Le 10:1,9 Nu 3:2-4 26:60,61} [L27] The priests were forbidden to make lamentation for them. Moreover, because some priests' neglect of duty, all the priests were ordered to abstain from wine and strong drink before they were to go into the tabernacle. A law was also made that what was left of the sacrifices should be eaten by the priests. Aaron's excuse for not doing this was accepted by Moses. {#Le 10:6-20}
- 228. Upon this occasion the law was made (about the tenth day of this month, as it seems) that only the high priest

should enter into the sanctuary and only once in each year. This was to be on the day of atonement and the general fast, which was to be kept on the tenth day of the seventh month. {#Le 16:1-34}

- 229. On the fourteenth day of this month, (Thursday, June 3rd) at evening, the passover was to be celebrated by those who were unable to keep it a month earlier because of their uncleanness {#Nu 9:1-23}
- 230. By God's command, the blasphemous son of an Israelite woman was carried outside the camp and stoned to death. {#Le 24:10-12,23}
- 231. All the laws contained in the last seventeen chapters of Leviticus seem to have been made in this month.
- 232. God commanded two silver trumpets to be made to call the congregation together for the times of their moving and marching and sacrificing. {#Nu 10:1-18}
- 233. Jethro, who was also called Hobab, brought his daughter Zipporah, with her two sons Gershon and Eliezer who were left with him, to Moses, his son-in-law. He congratulated him and the people for their deliverance from Egyptian bondage. He publicly declared, both by word and

deed, his faith and devotion toward the true God. In accordance with his advice, Moses delegated the government of the people to various others and ordained magistrates for the deciding of lesser issues. {#Ex 18:1-27 De 1:9-18 Nu 10:29}

- 234. The nineteenth day of this month seems to have been the last day that the twelve leaders of the tribes made their oblations for the dedication of the altar. This day, Ahira made his offering for the tribe of Naphtali. {#Nu 7:78,88}
- 235. On the twentieth day of the second month (Wednesday, June 9th) God commanded the Israelites to break camp and to start their journey to take possession of the promised land. {#Nu 10:11,12 De 1:6,7} Moses asked Jethro to go along with him but he refused and returned home. {#Nu 10:29,30 Ex 18:27}
- 236. The cloud rose from the tabernacle and they arranged themselves into four squadrons, or battalions, and marched from Sinai. They had been there almost a year. After three days' journey they came to the wilderness of Paran, {#Nu 10:12,33} where they stayed and rested for twenty-three days.

- 13) At their thirteenth camp, at a place called Kibrothhattaavah, {#Nu 33:16} some who murmured were struck with fire from heaven. Hence that place was called Tabor. They were saved by the intercession of Moses. However, they again murmured and provoked God by their loathing of manna and desiring of flesh to eat. {#Nu 11:1-10 Ps 78:19-21}
- 237. Moses complained to God of the great burden of this government and desired to be relieved from it. God chose seventy elders to help him. Two of these, Eldad and Medad, prophesied in the camp. {#Nu 11:10-17,24-30}
- 238. God gave the people quails for a whole month, not just for a day as he did the year before. {#Ex 16:12,13} He sent a most grievous plague among them. That place was called Kibrothhattaavah, after the graves of those who lusted after meat. {#Nu 11:31-34 Ps 78:26-31 Ps 106:15}
- 14) The fourteenth camp was at Hazeroth. {#Nu 11:35 33:17} Miriam and Aaron spoke evil of Moses, their brother, because he had married a woman from Ethiopia. [L28] Zipporah, his wife, was from Midian, which was a part of Eastern Ethiopia, otherwise called Arabia. They made themselves equal in all points with him. [E19] God honoured Moses over them and struck Miriam with leprosy. She was

sent outside the camp, but at the prayer of Moses she was healed after seven days. {#Nu 12:1-15 De 24:9}

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- 239. Miriam was cleansed some time during the fourth month. Upon her return to camp, the Israelites left that place.
- 15) They camped in Hazeroth, in the desert of Paran, {#Nu 12:6 33:18} near Kadeshbarnea. {#Nu 13:26}
- 240. This was in the fifth month.
- 241. From the wilderness of Paran, {#Nu 13:3} or Kadeshbarnea, {#Nu 32:8 De 1:19,22 9:23 Jos 14:7} at the time of the ripe grapes, God commanded Moses to send twelve spies, one from every tribe, {#De 1:22,23} to thoroughly spy out the land. Moses and the people were agreeable to this plan. {#Nu 13:1,2,20} Among these men were the forty year old Caleb, the son of Jephunneh (of the tribe of Judah) {#Jos 14:7} and Oshea the son of Nun, whom Moses called Joshua, from the tribe of Ephraim. These men entered the land from the south by the desert of Zin, passing through to Rehob in the very northern part. {#Nu 13:2-22 De 1:23,24}

#### 242. The sixth month.

- 243. The spies spent forty days in searching out the land before returning to Kadesh in the wilderness of Paran. They brought back with them the branch of a vine with a cluster of grapes on it gathered from the valley of Eshcol. This valley was named for its pomegranates and figs. {#Nu 13:23-27 De 1:24,25} It is likely that this happened prior to the seventh month, before the feast of tabernacles. This feast was kept on the fifteenth day of that month, when the fruits of the barn and winepress were always harvested. {#Ex 23:16 Le 23:39 De 16:13} Ten of the twelve men spoke ill of the country and its barrenness, magnifying the cities' strength and the giants living in the land. This discouraged the people from marching any further toward it. Caleb, however, did all he could to persuade the people to go on. {#Nu 13:28-33 32:9}
- 244. The people were terrified by the report given by the ten spies and threatened to return to Egypt. They were ready to stone Caleb and Joshua for their conflicting report. When God threatened the people with sudden destruction, Moses again prayed and their lives were spared. However, God declared that all those who were over twenty years old would die in the wilderness and would never see the promised land, but wander in the wilderness for forty years. {#Nu 14:1-35

- 26:64,65 32:10-13 De 1:26-36 9:23} {#Jos 5:6 Ps 95:8-11 106:24-26} Their children entered the promised land in the thirty-ninth year. {#Nu 32:13 De 2:14}
- 245. God destroyed the ten rebellious spies by a plague. {#Nu 14:36,37} In memory of this event, the Jews keep a fast on the seventh day of the sixth month, called Elul.
- 246. God now commanded them to break camp and return back into the desert near the Red Sea. [L29] Instead, they disobeyed him by going forward into the mountain to begin taking the land by fighting the Amalekites and Canaanites who dwelt there. They were defeated and pursued all the way to Hormah. Therefore, they sat down and wept before the Lord, but he would not hear them. {#Nu 14:40-45 De 1:40-45}
- 247. After this incident, as the Israelites continued to die in the wilderness, Moses composed the Psalm, #Ps 90:1-17 Lord thou hast been our refuge... He also showed that the normal age of men was reduced to seventy or eighty years. Therefore,
- 248. The age of man was shortened by a third of what it was before

249. The Israelites remained in Kadesh for many days. {#De 1:46} Because whether it was for a day, a month, or a year: as long as the cloud continued over the tabernacle, the camp did not move. {#Nu 9:22} In some places the camp stayed for many years, since there were only seventeen camps mentioned in the thirty-seven years. After leaving Kadesh, they returned into the wilderness toward the Red Sea and camped around the hill country of Seir for many days. {#De 2:1 Jud 11:16} The seventeen camps during this time in the wilderness of Seir are mentioned in the thirty-third chapter of Numbers in this order:

16th at Rimmonparez
17th at Libnah
18th at Rissah
19th at Kehelathah
20th at Mount Shapher
21st at Haradah
22nd at Makheloth
23rd at Thahash
24th at Thara
25th at Mithcah
26th at Hashmonah
27th at Moseroth

28th at Benehaajan, or Beeroth Bene Jaakan, the well of the sons of Jaakan {#De 10:6}
29th at Horhagidgad, or Gudgodah, {#De 10:7} [E20]
30th at Jotbathah, a place of many springs of water {#De 10:7}
31st at Ebronah
32nd at Eziongeber, which is near Elath and by the shore of the Red Sea, in the land of Edom {#1Ki 9:26}

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- 250. The only mention of these camps are the laws and historical events as recorded in Numbers. {#Nu 15:1-19:22}
- a) {#Nu 15:1-41} A man was stoned by God's command for gathering sticks on the Sabbath. Although the sacrifices were omitted in the wilderness, the Sabbath was kept.
- b) {#Nu 16:1-50} Korah, Dathan and Abiram rebelled against Moses and Aaron. They were swallowed alive into the earth. Their two hundred and fifty associates who offered incense were destroyed by God through fire. God commanded their censors to be taken and used for a covering

- for the altar. This was to be as a sign to the children of Israel. The people murmured against Moses and Aaron for this calamity and God killed fourteen thousand and seven hundred of them.
- c) {#Nu 17:1-13} The twelve rods were brought by the twelve leaders of the tribes and placed before the Lord in the sanctuary. Aaron's rod was the only one that budded and brought forth almonds. It was set before the ark as a warning against any future rebellions.
- 251. All these events are thought to have happened in the latter half of the second year after they left the land of Egypt. Moses wrote only what happened in the first two years and the last year of their travels in the wilderness. For the intervening events of those thirty-seven years see Abulensis. {Abulensis, Numbers, c. 1. q. 3.}
- 252. The scriptures also show that, after they moved from their thirty-second camp, the Israelites spent half a year in travelling from Kadeshbarnea until they passed the valley, or brook, of Zered. Another half year elapsed before they crossed the Jordan River, so making up the full thirty-eight years. [L30] During this time, all those who had rebelled against God perished. {#De 2:14-16}