

----- Moses 3rd 40 Years Part B-----

2552b AM, 3262 JP, 1452 BC

264. After the Israelites had wandered around the hill country of Seir and Edom for thirty-seven years, they went from Kadeshbarnea to Eziongeber in Edom. As they were travelling south toward the shore of the Red Sea, God commanded them to turn northward and march straight for the land of promise. When the land of Edom lay directly in their way, he ordered them not to fight with the Edomites because they were their brothers. God reminded them of how great his providence and care toward them had been, in preserving them for forty years in the wilderness. {#De 2:1-8} He used the round number of forty for the actual time of thirty-nine years.

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265. In the first month of the fortieth year after they had left Egypt, the Israelites came into the wilderness of Zin and camped there.

33) They camped at Kadesh {#Nu 20:1 33:36-38 Jud 11:17} [L32] on the edge of the wilderness of Zin, near the border of Edom, {#Nu 20:14,15} towards Eziongeber and the Red Sea. {#Nu 33:36 De 2:8} This was not at Kadeshbarnea, where

they made their fifteenth camp and which lay near the border of Canaan, toward the south. {#Nu 34:4 Jos 15:3}

266. Miriam died there four months before her brother Aaron and eleven months before her brother Moses. {#Nu 20:1} She was the oldest of the three and lived a hundred and thirty years so that she was a rather mature maiden when Moses was born. {#Ex 2:4-7} {See note on 2433 AM. <<166>>} The Jews to this very day keep the memory of her death upon the tenth day of their first month.

267. Again the people complained to Moses and Aaron about the lack of water. God commanded them to call water out of the hard rock simply by speaking to it. [E22] Through impatience and diffidence in God's command, Moses said something ill-advised and struck the rock twice with Aaron's rod. This was the rod that budded and blossomed. Moses drew water from the rock, as he had done from another rock thirty-seven years earlier. {#Ex 17:7} Because of this incident the place was called Meribah, or waters of strife. {#Nu 20:2-13}. (For it is most likely that the former water, which Tertullian called Aquam Comtiem, or the water that followed them as mentioned in the eleventh encampment, was lost in the Red Sea.) In this second instance of lack of water, the children complained just like their fathers had done, many years before.

268. Moses and Aaron, because of their diffidence and unbelief in executing the commandment of God, were not allowed to enter into the land of Canaan. {#Nu 20:23,24 27:14 Ps 106:32,33}

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269. The Israelites sent messengers to the Edomites and Moabites asking to pass through their land. They refused to let them pass through their countries, {#Nu 20:14-21 Jud 11:17} but allowed them to pass along their borders. {#De 2:4,6,29} On this occasion, they stayed a while at Kadesh, {#Jud 11:17} then went forward again.

34) The thirty-fourth camp was in mount Hor, on the borders of Edom, {#Nu 20:22,23 33:37} or Mosera {#De 10:6}. The Israelites are said to have come to this place when they left Beeroth Bene Jaakan, or the wells of the sons of Jaakan, their twenty-eighth camp. They camped in Gudgodah, or Horhagidgad, Jotbathah and other places. For it is said {#De 10:7} that from there they came to Gudgodah, and from Gudgodah to Jotbathah. These words from there are not to be understood of Mosera, but of Beeroth, as has been the view of many learned men on this passage over a long time.

270. On the first day of the fifth month, (Tuesday, August 18th), Aaron died at the age of one hundred and thirty-three years and was buried on the top of Mount Horeb. His son Eleazar succeeded him as the high priest. {#Nu 20:23-28 33:38,39 De 10:6} The Israelites mourned thirty days for Aaron. {#Nu 20:29} This was for the whole month in which he died.

271. In the sixth month, the king of Arad who lived on the southern part of Canaan, after hearing of the Israelites' approach, went out and fought against them, taking many of them prisoners. As a result the Israelites made a vow to God, and upon defeating them, they destroyed both them and their cities. [L33] For that reason, the place was called Hormah, that is: the place where the vow was made of utterly destroying the Canaanites. {#Nu 31:1-3 33:40}

272. They left mount Hor and avoiding the plain country that led from Elath, and Eziongeber and the Red Sea, went straight to Edom. They went around Edom and came to the east side of it {#Nu 21:4 De 2:8} and there made another camp.

35) They camped at Zalmonah, {#Nu 33:41} named for the brazen serpent set up there. The people complained because of the fierce serpents sent among them by God. (Not a little

worm, breeding in their flesh, as Fortunius Licetus imagined. {Licetus, de spontanco Viventium ortu , l. 3. c. 51}) These poisoned them with their bite, and they could only be healed by looking up to the image of a brazen serpent which God appointed to be set up on a pole. {#Nu 21:5-9 Jos 3:14 1Co 10:9}

36) They camped at Punon. {#Nu 33:42}

37) They camped at Oboth. {#Nu 21:10 33:43}

38) They camped at Ijeabarim on the borders of Moab {#Nu 33:44} in the desert lying to its east {#Nu 21:11} and which is called the desert of Moab. {#De 2:8} They had continued their march through that wilderness and so had come to the east of Moab. {#Jud 11:18}

273. When they left there to pass by the valley or brook of Zared, God forbade them to make war on Moab. {#Nu 21:12 De 2:8,13}

274. They passed over Zared, thirty-eight years after they sent their spies from Kadeshbarnea.

275. All those over twenty years old who had rebelled against God there had now died. {#De 2:13-16}

39) They camped at Dibongad. {#Nu 33:45}

40) They camped at Almondiblathaim, {#Nu 33:46} also called Bethdiblathaim, in the wilderness of Moab. {#Jer 48:22 Eze 6:14}

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276. When the Israelites were passing the borders of Moab at Ar, and approaching the country of the Ammonites, God forbade them to make any war upon the Ammonites. {#De 2:18,19,37} He commanded them to pass over the Arnon River which at that time was the boundary between Moab and Ammon. {#De 2:24 Nu 21:13} They camped at Arnon and never entered the territory of Moab. {#De 2:24 Nu 21:13 Jud 11:18}

277. Next they arrived at Beer, where the well was dug by the princes, nobles of the people and Moses with their staffs. They came to Matthan, Nahaliel, Bamoth and the valley which is in the country of the Moabites near the approach to the hill overlooking the wilderness {#Nu 21:16-20} of Kedemoth. {#De 2:26} There they camped. [E23]

41) They camped at Abarim opposite Nebo. {#Nu 33:47} As for Maanah and the other places, these were not camps, as

Tremellius observed in Numbers, {#Nu 21:12} but only places through which they passed on their march before Moses sent messengers to the Amorites. The Chaldee paraphrase does not take them to be proper place names, but merely titles. [L34] They interpret them as the waters of that well (as the Rock, {#1Co 10:4}) which followed the Israelites to the brooks and from the brooks to the mountains and from the mountains to the valley of the Moabites.

278. From the wilderness of Kedemoth, Moses sent messengers to Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon. He asked permission to pass peacefully through his borders (as the Edomites and Moabites had done) because that was a short cut to the fords of Jordan. When he denied them passage and made war upon them, the Israelites killed Sihon and possessed all his cities and lived in them. {#De 2:24-36 Nu 21:21-31 Jud 11:19-22}

279. Moses sent his spies to Jazer which they conquered with the towns associated with it. {#Nu 21:32} They expelled the Amorites from there, all the land from the Arnon River, which is the boundary of Moab, {#Nu 21:13 22:36} to the brook of Jabbok which divided it from Ammon. {#De 3:16 Jos 12:2 13:10} They did not meddle with the country lying next to the Jabbok River, neither with any of the lands belonging at that time to the children of Ammon or Moab, as

God had commanded them. {#De 2:9,19,37} Therefore, two hundred and sixty-four years later when the Ammonites complained that the Israelites had taken their land from Jabbok to the Arnon River and even to the brooks of the Jordan River, Jephthah correctly answered them that this was not true. They had not touched the lands of either the Moabites or the Ammonites. When they had killed Sihon, they had taken all the lands belonging to the Amorites from the Arnon River to Jabbok and possessed it as their own inheritance. {#Jud 11:13,15,22,23} It was also true that Sihon, king of the Amorites, had formerly taken from Vaheb, king of the Moabites, Heshbon and all that country of his to Arnon. {#Nu 21:14,26,28} He had also taken from the Ammonites half their country, as far as to the Arnon River which lay opposite Rabbah. {#De 3:11} All that land belonged formerly to the Ammonites and was later taken from the Amorites and assigned to the tribe of Gad to settle in. {#Jos 13:25}

280. When the children of Israel marched on their way to Bashan, Og, king of Bashan, one of the giants, met and fought with them at Edrei. He and all his people were utterly destroyed. The Israelites possessed all his country which included sixty cities and all the land as far as Argob. {#De 3:1-11 Nu 21:33-35 Am 2:9}

281. Jair, the son of Manasseh, seized all the country of Argob, stretching to the borders of the Geshurites and Maachathites and called them Havothjair, after his own name. {#Nu 32:41 De 3:14} This Manasseh was the son of Segub, of the tribe of Judah. However, he was counted among the Manassites both in respect to the inheritance he had among them and also in reference to his grandmother. She was the daughter of Machir of the tribe of Manasseh. He was the father of Gilead who bore Segub, the father of this Jair, to Hezron when he was sixty years old. {#1Ch 2:21,22} This passage stated that this Jair possessed twenty-three cities in the land of Gilead. He took Geshur and Aram (according to the best expositors) with the villages of Jair and Kenath with its villages, sixty cities in all. Nobah, who was under him, took Kenath with its villages and called it Nobah after his own name. {#Nu 32:42}

282. After these victories the Israelites left the mountains of Abarim. They camped in the plain of Moab on this side of the ford of Jordan, which led to Jericho from Beth Jeshimoth to Abelshittim. {#Nu 22:1 33:48,49}

42) They camped at Shittim, {#Nu 25:1} or Abelshittim. {#Nu 33:49} Here they stayed until Joshua led them to the bank of the Jordan River. {#Jos 3:1}

283. Balak, the son of Zippor, was the king of Moab. When he saw what the Israelites had done to the Amorites, he was afraid lest they would also take his kingdom from him, under the pretence of passing through his country. Therefore, after taking counsel with the princes of the Midianites who were his neighbours, he sent for Balaam, the son of Beor. Balaam was a soothsayer from Mesopotamia. Balak asked him to come and curse the Israelites and promised him a large reward for his labour. Balak intended afterward to make war upon the Israelites. {#Nu 22:1-6 De 33:4 Jos 24:9}

284. Balaam was warned by God and at first refused to come. When he was summoned a second time, he pleaded with God to let him go and went with the intention of cursing Israel. God was offended by his intentions and caused the dumb ass on which he was riding to speak with a man's voice, to reprove his folly. {#Nu 22:7-35 2Pe 2:15,16}

285. Balaam twice offered sacrifices and attempted to curse Israel to gratify Balak but forced by the Spirit of God, he instead ended up blessing them. He foretold what good fortune was with them and what calamities would befall their enemies. {#Nu 23:1-24:25 De 23:5 Jos 24:10} [E24]

286. By Balaam's advice, the women of Moab and Midian were sent to turn the Israelites away and to make them

commit idolatry with them. {#Nu 25:1-3 31:16 De 4:3 Ps 106:28 Re 2:14} Therefore, God commanded Moses first to hang all the leaders of this rebellion and then to give orders to the judges to put to death all who had joined themselves to Baalpeor. Finally, God sent a plague upon the people, in which twenty-three thousand men died in one day. {#1Co 10:8} This number, plus those who were hung and killed with the sword, came to twenty-four thousand. {#Nu 25:4,5,9}

287. Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, killed Zimri, the son of Salu, chief of his father's family of the tribe of Simeon. He also killed Cozbi, the daughter of Sur, a prince of the Midianites. This appeased the wrath of God and the plague was ended. {#Nu 25:1-18 Ps 106:30} Therefore, God assigned the high priesthood to the house of Phinehas for ever. He then commanded the Israelites to make war against the Midianites. {#Nu 25:12,13,17,18}

288. God commanded Moses and Eleazar to count the people twenty years of age and over. This was done in the plain of Moab, near the Jordan River, opposite Jericho. The number of men was 601,730 in addition to the Levites. Twenty-three thousand Levites were counted who were at least a month or more old. Moses received God's command for the division of the land of promise among the Israelites. {#Nu 26:1-63}

289. The daughters of Zelophehad had their father's land divided among them because there was no male heir. Because of this situation, the law of inheritances was made. {#Nu 27:1-11}

290. God told Moses that he was about to die and that Joshua was to be his successor. Moses laid his hands upon Joshua and gave him instructions. {#Nu 27:12-23 De 3:26-28} [L35] Various laws were then made. {#De 28:29,30}

291. Twelve thousand of the Israelites, led by Phinehas, defeated the Midianites and killed all their males including their five princes and Sur, the father of Cozbi. All were under the subjection of Sihon the Amorite while he lived. Balaam the soothsayer was killed because, when he should have returned to his country of Mesopotamia, {#Nu 24:25} he had stayed instead, and so he died with the Midianites. {#Nu 31:1-8 Jos 13:21,22} Of the females, only the virgins were spared. {#Nu 31:9-54}

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292. Moses divided the lands, which belonged to Sihon and Og, among the tribes of Reuben and Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh. {#Nu 32:1-42 De 3:12-20 29:8 Jos 13:8-12 22:4} This was from the Arnon River to Mount Hermon (which is

also called Shenir and Sirion, and Sion) and is bounded by Anti-Lebanon. [L36] {#De 3:8,9 4:48 Jos 12:1 13:9,11}

293. When the Israelites were about to enter the land of Canaan, God commanded them to drive out the Canaanites and destroy their idols. {#Nu 33:50-56} They were to divide the land west of Jordan among the nine remaining tribes and the other half tribe of Manasseh. {#Nu 34:1-29} Of the forty-eight cities of the Levites and the six cities of refuge, {#Nu 35:1-34}, three were assigned by Moses on the east of Jordan. {#De 4:41-43}

294. Moses addressed Israel in the plain of Moab on the fifth day of the eleventh month (Saturday, February 20th) in the fortieth year after their departure from Egypt, as recorded in Deuteronomy. {#De 1:1,3,6 4:1-27:26}.

295. Moses, with the elders of Israel, commanded the people to set up large stones after they had crossed the Jordan River. These were to be plastered and the ten commandments written on them. They were to speak the blessings from Mount Gerizim and the curses from Mount Ebal. {#De 27:1-26} He exhorted them to observe the law of God by setting before them the benefits of obedience and the miseries that would happen to them for their disobedience. {#De 28:1-68}

296. God commanded Moses to renew the covenant between God and them and their children in Mount Horeb. Moses again attempted to persuade them to keep that covenant which was hedged in by all the blessings and curses which would accrue to the keepers or breakers of it. {#De 29:1-29} He gave a promise of pardon and deliverance if at any time, when they broke it, they should repent. He stated that God had declared his will to them so that no one who broke the law could plead ignorance of the law. {#De 30:1-20}

297. When Moses had written this law, he gave it to the priests, the sons of Levi and the elders of the people, to be observed. When he finished the book of the law, he ordered it to be put in the ark. {#De 31:1-30} The same day he wrote his song and taught it to the children of Israel. {#De 32:1-52} [E25]

298. Just before Moses died, he blessed every tribe with a prophecy, except the tribe of Simeon. His last will and testament is contained in Deuteronomy. {#De 32:1-52}

299. In the twelfth month of this year, Moses left the plain of Moab and climbed up Mount Nebo which was a part of the country of Abarim. From the top of it facing Jericho, he beheld all the land of promise and then died at the age of a hundred and twenty years. {#Nu 27:12,13 De 3:23-29}

32:49,50 34:1-5 31:2-4,7} [L37] Of this time he spent forty years minus one month in governing the people of Israel. This is confirmed by Josephus. {*Josephus, Antiq., l. 4. c. 5. s. 49. (327) 4:633} He stated that Moses died on the first day of the last month of the year. The Macedonians called this month, Dystros, but the Hebrews called it, Adar. This fits better with the account of historians who wrote shortly thereafter, than with the tradition of the Jews of later times. These historians say that he died upon the seventh of Adar, as in Seder Olam Rabba in his hryjp of book of the death of Moses in chapter ten. In the preface of Maimonides to the book called Misnaioth, this is also mentioned. It appears as well in the calendars of the Jews of this time. They still celebrate the memorial of his death by a solemn fast on this day.

300. God moved the body of Moses from the place where he died to a valley in the land of Moab opposite Bethpeor and buried him there. To this day, no one knows where the grave of Moses is. {#De 34:6} This valley was in the land of Sihon, king of the Amorites, which the Israelites took from him. {#De 4:46} Bethpeor was given to the Reubenites. {#Jos 13:20} Therefore, Moses is said to have been buried in the land of Moab. Likewise, the covenant is said to have been renewed in the land of Moab. {#De 29:1} It is to be understood that this land did formerly belong to the

Moabites, but it had recently been taken from them by Sihon king of the Amorites, {#Nu 21:26} and now the Israelites possessed it.

301. The archangel Michael disputed with the Devil over the body of Moses. {#Jude 1:9} The Devil wanted to expose the body that it might become an object of idolatry to the people of Israel. Chrysostom {Chrysostom, Commentary on Matthew, Homily 1.} and Thodores {Thodores, Deuteronomy, Question. 43.} and Procopius Gazan and others stated this, though there is no evidence that the Jews ever gave themselves to the worshipping of relics. This dispute between Michael and the Devil about the body of Moses is found in the apocryphal book called The Assumption of Moses. We read this in Origen {Origen, psi arcwn, l. 3. c. 2.} and in Gelasius Cyzicenus, {Cyzicenus, Acts of the Council of Nice, part. 2. c. 20.} and similar stories are found in twba by Rabbi Nathan.

302. The Israelites mourned for Moses in the land of Moab for thirty days, or the entire twelfth month. {#De 34:8}

303. Here ends the Pentateuch or the five books of Moses, containing the history of twenty-five hundred and fifty-two and a half years from the beginning of the world. The book

of Joshua begins with the forty-first year after the departure of the children of Israel from Egypt.