



COMING UP ... JAN 27 Exodus pt 4 FEB 3 NO CLASS (Super Bowl) FEB 10 Exodus pt 5 FEB 17 Exodus pt 6

ISRAEL IS REDEEMED FROM EGYPT

- God called out a deliverer ... Moses
- God freed His people to follow Him ...
The Passover lamb
- How will God begin to mature those who'll represent and serve Him in the future?
- By teaching them to turn the obstacles they encounter into opportunities for faith in Him



LESSON THEME: Faith learns that God leads *through* obstacles, not *around* them

The Destination: Mt. Sinai

(see "Topography of Sinai" map, p. 3)

Mt. Sinai's Location?

(see "Exodus Route and Location of Mt. Sinai" map, p. 3)

Obstacles God Led Them Through

1. The Red Sea (13-15)

The Israelites' escape route has been a long and winding one, not at all the most direct way
 Now their way is blocked in front and behind
 There's no way out; they're trapped
 Fear and panic set in
 But God makes a way where there wasn't a way before ... He opens the Sea and His people pass through it on dry ground ... and they praise Him

2. Marah and the Sin Desert (15-16)

No water or food; the provisions they've brought from Egypt certainly have been exhausted over these past 30 days of desert travel
 Desperation, fear, anxiety and faithlessness set in
 But God provides for them in unexpected and generous ways ... He turns the bitter water sweet, leads them to Elim and gives them manna & meat

3. Rephidim (17-19)

There's no water—again—where the Lord has led
 The people are weary, discouraged and angry
 The Amalekites attack the weak (Dt 25:17-19)
 But God delivers them using Joshua's sword (human) and Moses' staff (divine)

Lessons From The Journey

Regarding God ...

- He takes responsibility for His people's welfare
- He is completely trustworthy, faithful and dependable
- He provides for both His people's physical and spiritual needs (food, water and Sabbath)

Regarding the Israelites ...

They'd left Egypt, but Egypt hadn't left them
They're fearful, not faithful, when they hit adversity because they walk by sight
They're often distracted on their pilgrimage by the discomforts of unmet appetites
When trials come they're impatient for relief, ungrateful, forgetful complainers & prayerless

Regarding faith ...

Many times God doesn't take the direct route
Faith waits on God to provide what He's promised, rather than dictating *how* He must deliver and then grumbling *when* He doesn't
Faith is revealed most when prayer, obedience, patience and thanksgiving precede planning or "knee-jerk" scheming

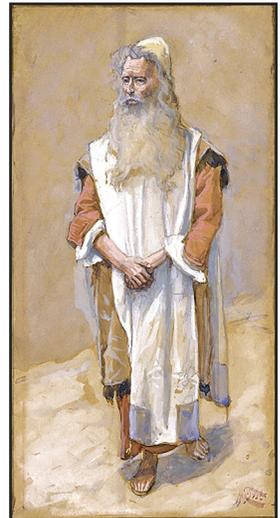
Application: Faith learns that God leads **THROUGH** obstacles, not **AROUND** them

Are You Facing an Obstacle?

Are you at a "Red Sea?"
An overwhelming situation or circumstance with no way out? You're "boxed in?"
Are you in a "Marah" with no "Elim?"
"Dry" days are growing, provisions are lacking ... and as the supplies dwindle, does your faith?
Are you at a "Rephidim?"
Provisions are low—again—and the enemy is attacking you where you're most vulnerable?

Turn Obstacles Into Opportunities

"Do not be afraid" (Ex 14:13)
It's what God told Abraham (Ge 15:1) as well as Joshua (Josh 1:9)
"Stand firm" (Ex 14:13-14)
For the Lord will fight for you
"Be still" (Ex 14:14)
Stop all self-rescuing action and rest in Him
Pray, obey and follow Him
God will act
He may act by changing things ...
As He did at the Red Sea and at Marah
He may act by giving us something else ...
As He did at Elim, the manna and the meat
Or He may act by giving us the grace to persevere with joy and not complain ...
As He did for Jesus and for Paul



"Moses" by James Tissot



"Aaron" by James Tissot

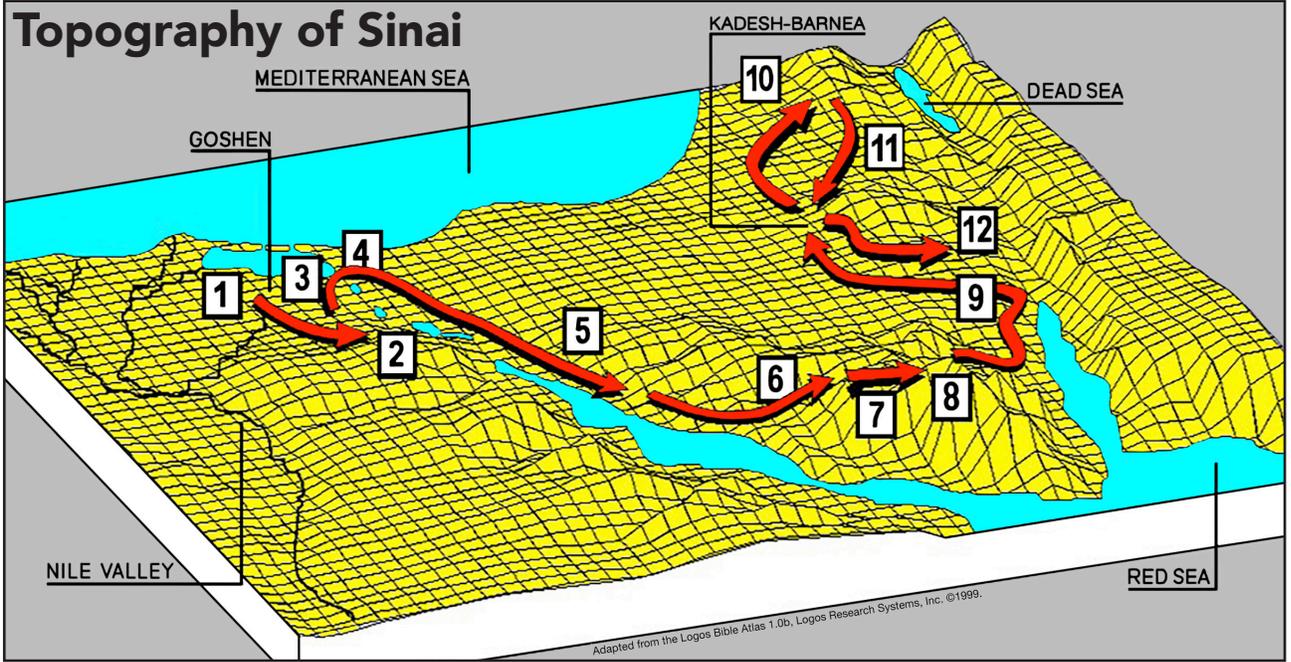
Faith learns that God leads THROUGH obstacles, not AROUND them

FOR NEXT TIME: _____

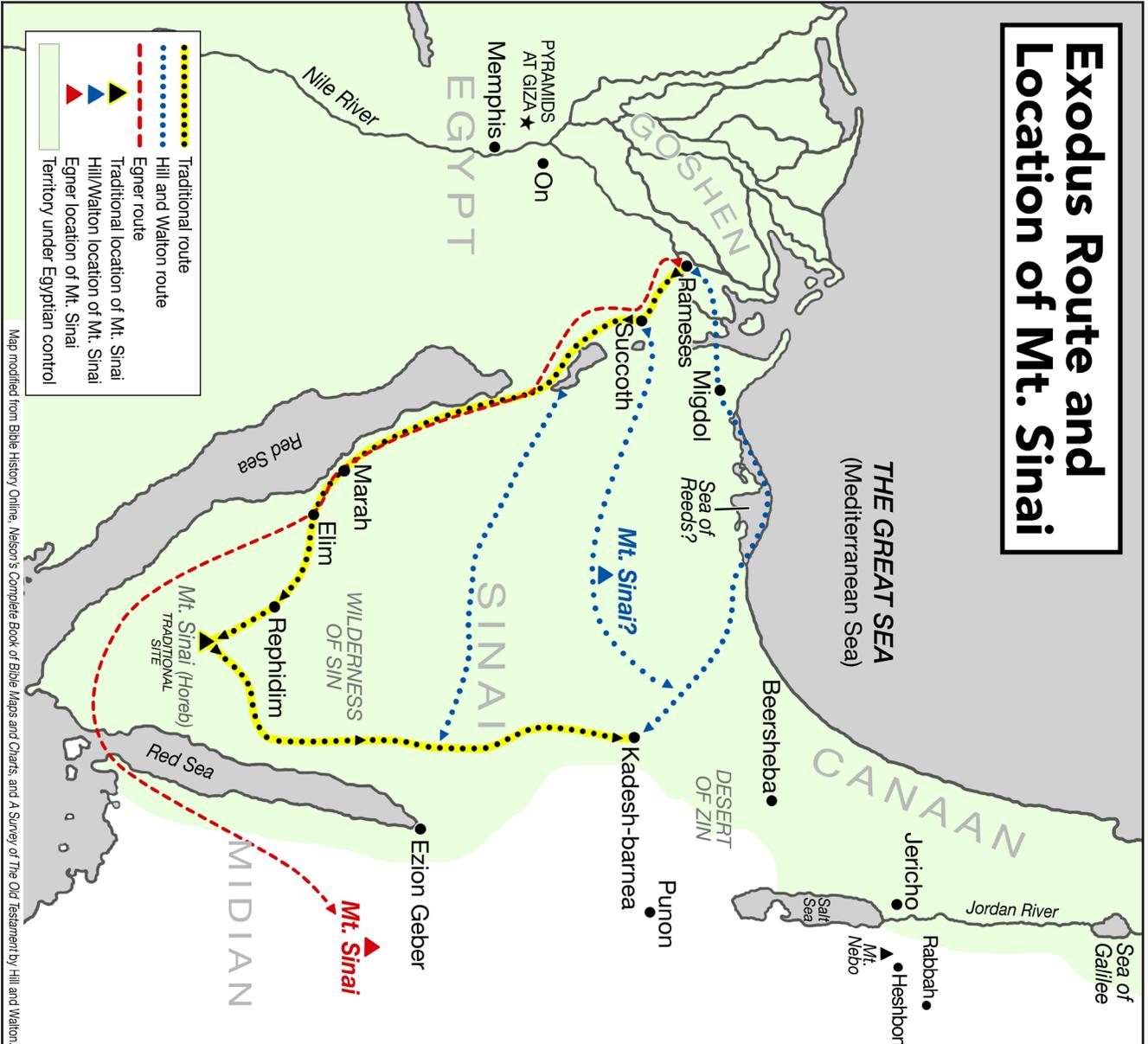
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AUDIO PODCASTS (no handouts) **ON ITUNES:** search "Christ Chapel Bible Church Old Testament 2018"

Topography of Sinai



Exodus Route and Location of Mt. Sinai





"The Exodus" by James Tissot



"The Egyptians Are Destroyed" by James Tissot



"The Songs Of Joy" by James Tissot



"The Waters Are Divided" by James Tissot