

## The Wilderness Of The People: Where Is it & Who Belongs There

It is fitting that we are going to learn about the wilderness at the start of the very Feast - Passover - in which YHVH's Revelation 12:6 woman will flee to the wilderness.

We're going to find out what YHVH means when He says "wilderness".

The first thing to know is that contrary to what some Hebrew Roots and Christian teachers say about the wilderness - that wilderness means any wild place on the earth - we're going to find out that YHVH's wildernesses (plural) are found only within the borders of Abraham's greater Israel territory from the Nile to the Euphrates and those areas east and west of the Jordan river.

YHVH's definition of wilderness has been part of our learning of late. Some say any wilderness is YHVH's wilderness but YHVH specifically defines the wilderness. None of YHVH's definitions of wilderness are outside of Abraham's given territory.

These are the wildernesses mentioned in scripture:

Wilderness of Egypt - refers to what we now call the Sinai Peninsula. It appears in the first Exodus.

Wilderness of Shur - Part of the Exodus route that extends into both the Midianite and Ishmaelite territories.

Wilderness of Sinai -

Wilderness of Sin - These 2 wildernesses abut each other around Mount Sinai. The wilderness of Sinai is north of Mount Sinai; the wilderness of Sin is to the south of Mount Sinai.

<https://www.bible.ca/archeology/bible-archeology-exodus-route-wilderness-of-sin.htm> This is where there was the manna given and YHVH provided quail for the COI Exodus 16:10. In this same area is where YHVH told the COI to keep the sabbath - gather 2 days worth of manna on preparation day and don't boil or bake food on the Sabbath Exodus 16:23).

Wilderness of Paran - Paran is a large wilderness area that extends from Petra (Kadesh Barnea) down to Midian, east of the Arabah valley.

Wilderness of Zin - north of Petra.

Wilderness of the red sea - self explanatory

Wilderness of Etham - There is are two Ethams in the Exodus route: One before they crossed the Red Sea and the "wilderness of Etham" after they crossed. There is a place called Etham on both sides of the Gulf of Aqaba at the straits of Tiran.

Wilderness of Moab - self explanatory

Wilderness of Kedemoth - Where Moses asked the Amorites to let the COI pass through the land (Deuteronomy 2:26-37)

wilderness of Edom - self explanatory

wilderness of Kadesh - Where Kadesh Barnea was located. This wilderness is an area that is inside both the wilderness of Zin and the wilderness of Paran.

The wildernesses on the west side of the Jordan river  
Wilderness of Beersheba  
Wilderness of Joseph's pit  
Wilderness of Ziph 1 Sam 23:14  
Wilderness of Engedi - where David fought the Philistines  
wilderness of Maon  
wilderness of Jeruel  
wilderness of Judah

Let's go to Ezekiel 20:33.

### [Wilderness of Egypt](#)

<https://www.bible.ca/archeology/bible-archeology-exodus-route-wilderness-of-egypt.htm>

The Wilderness of Egypt is the Sinai Peninsula

This wilderness of Egypt is between Goshen and where they crossed the Red Sea.

Abraham's inheritance was from the Nile to the Euphrates.

### [Wilderness of Shur](#)

### [Wilderness of Sin](#)

<https://www.bible.ca/archeology/bible-archeology-exodus-route-wilderness-of-sin.htm> The area around Mount SINai. The Wilderness of Sin abuts the central mountain range at the south.

The Wilderness of Sinai abuts the central mountain range at the east.

### [Wilderness of Sinai](#)

[Wilderness of Paran](#) See below

### [Wilderness of Zin](#)

### [The wilderness of Zin:](#)

<https://www.bible.ca/archeology/bible-archeology-exodus-kadesh-barnea-wilderness-of-zin.htm>

Most maps have the wilderness of Zin in the wrong place.

Kadesh Barnea was in the wilderness of Zin: Num 27:14; 33:26

Both the wilderness of Paran and the Wilderness of Zin included Kadesh Barnea

It is between the ascent of Akkrabbim and Kadesh. Josh 15:3

The Wilderness of Zin is located north and east of Kadesh Barnea, whereas the wilderness of Paran is located south and east of Kadesh Barnea.

It is large wilderness area just east of Petra that runs in a north-south direction.

It is adjacent to the land Moab: Num 34:3

The wilderness of Zin does not extend west of the Arabah Valley and is entirely "transjordan".

If Kadesh was at Qudeirat, then wilderness of Zin, would be inside the middle of Judah's Territory. Yet we never find any references to the wilderness of Zin in the Bible except in connection with the exodus. This proves the both Kadesh and the wilderness of Zin are transjordan (at Petra).

### Wilderness of Paran

<https://www.bible.ca/archeology/bible-archeology-exodus-route-wilderness-of-paran.htm>

### **Deut 1:1 proves the wilderness of Paran doesn't extend west of the Arabah Valley and is entirely "Transjordan":**

1. The book of Deuteronomy was revealed by Moses at wadi Zered on the way north to take possession of the promised land: Deut 1:1,5; 2:18. The wilderness of Paran was located transjordan, due south of the river Zered.

Deu 2:13 Now rise up, *said I*, and get you over the brook **Zered**. And we went over the brook **Zered**.

2. Notice that Israel was camped in the wadi Zered also called Ar, which is the border between Moab and Edom.

Deu 2:9 And the LORD said unto me, Distress not the Moabites, neither contend with them in battle: for I will not give thee of their land *for* a possession; because I have given **Ar** unto the children of Lot *for* a possession.

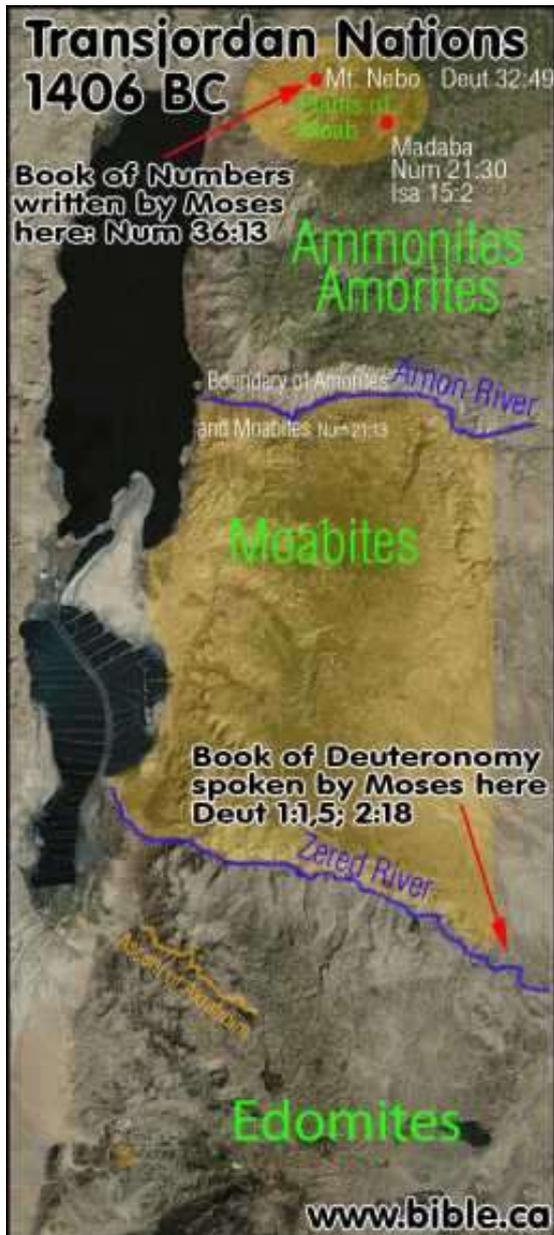
Deu 2:18 Thou art to pass over through **Ar**, the coast of Moab, this day:

Deu 2:29 (As the children of Esau which dwell in Seir, and the Moabites which dwell in **Ar**, did unto me;) until I shall pass over Jordan into the land which the LORD our God giveth us.

As Israel was heading north to finally cross the Jordan and take possession of the promised land, Moses stopped and reflected on the historic significance of crossing the border between Edom and Moab. This discourse is recorded in between Deuteronomy 1:1 and Deuteronomy 2:18.

3. While camped in wadi Zered, at the beginning of Moses' discourse he gives the physical description of where the border between Moab and Edom are located:

"These are the words which Moses spoke to all Israel **across the Jordan in the wilderness, in the Arabah opposite Suph, between Paran and Tophel and Laban and Hazeroth and Dizahab.** ... Across the Jordan **in the land of Moab**, Moses undertook to expound this law ... **Today you shall cross over Ar, the border of Moab.**" Deut 1:1,5; 2:18



- a. Deut 1:5 tells us Moses was in the land of Moab and at the end of Moses' discourse he states they are camped on the border between Edom and Moab: "From there they set out and camped in Wadi Zered." Numbers 21:12
- b. "'Now arise and cross over the brook Zered yourselves.' So we crossed over the brook Zered. "Now the time that it took for us to come from Kadesh-barnea until we crossed over the brook Zered was thirty-eight years, until all the generation of the men of war perished from within the camp, as the Lord had sworn to them." Deuteronomy 2:13-14
- c. The key is to notice the following places Moses used as reference points:
  1. Across the Jordan (Transjordan),
  2. in the wilderness (wilderness of Moab Deut 2:8),
  3. "in the Arabah" or valley plain (distinct from the Arabah valley between the Dead and Red Seas),
  4. Between Paran (which was due south),
  5. and Hazeroth (south of Paran, two stops after Mt. Sinai. Num 12:16; 33:17)
 There are only three unknown locations in in Deut 1:1 where we have no idea where they are: Dizahab, Tophel, Laban.
- d. So we can map this discourse at the Zered wadi.
- e. Notice Deut 1:1 says this location where the book of Deuteronomy was given is near the wilderness of Paran!

Wilderness of Beersheba

Gen 21:14 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and took bread, and a bottle of water, and gave *it* unto Hagar, putting *it* on her shoulder, and the child, and sent her away: and she departed, and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.

#### [The wilderness of Joseph's pit](#)

Gen 37:22 And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, *but* cast him into this pit that *is* in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again.

Just a few miles north of Shechem.

The wilderness of the red sea.

Exo 13:18 But God led the people about, *through* the way of the wilderness of the Red sea: and the children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt.

Numbers speaks of the wildernesses of Paran (southern Jordan) and Zin (north of Petra) which is where the COI lived out their life sentence and the wilderness of Sinai (but not as place where they lived but rather as the place where they were counted for warriors who fought the battle later on in Numbers 26:64.

Numbers mentions the wilderness of Etham which is located in southern Jordan. This was mentioned in Numbers 33 when Moses recounted the travels.

Numbers mentions the wilderness of Sin, the area around Sinai.