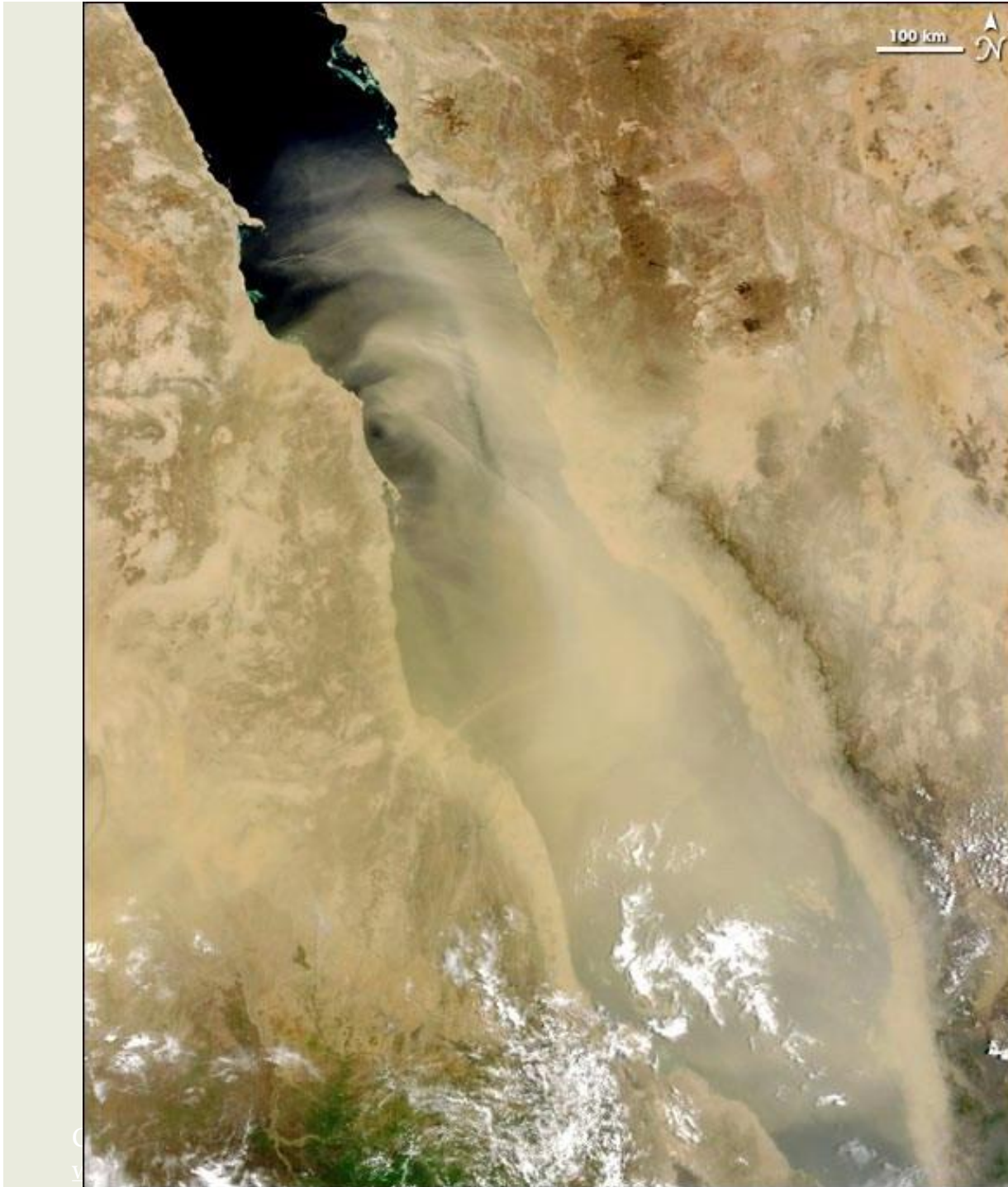


Into the Wilderness: On the Way to Mt. Sinai



EXODUS 15:22-18:27



NASA photos of the Red Sea during a dust storm (left, 7/26/05) and the Sinai (below).



Israel on the Way to Mt. Sinai



Place	Occasion or Event	Passage
Wilderness of Shur (three days journey)		Exodus 15.22
	Bitter Waters of Marah	Exodus 15.23
	Twelve Springs of Elim	Exodus 15.27
Wilderness of Sin (reached on the 15th day of 2nd month)	Manna and Quails	Exodus 16.1
Journeyed by stages from wilderness of Sin		Exodus 17.1; See also Num 33:10-13
Camped at Rephidim		Exodus 17.1
	Rock at Horeb; Water Supplied	Exodus 17.6
	Massah and Meribah	Exodus 17.7
	Amalek fights Israel	Exodus 17.8
	Altar named "The Lord is my Banner"	Exodus 17.15
	The wilderness at the mount of God	Exodus 18.5
Wilderness of Sinai (entered in third month)		Exodus 19.1

Into the Desert of Shur, 15:22-27



The chiastic structure highlights the point of the passage, the miracle of the Lord turning the bitter water sweet.

Journey into the Desert, v. 22a

No water/bitter water at Marah, v. 22b-23

Complaints by Israel, “they murmured”, v. 24

Miracle of sweet water, v. 25

Instructions for Israel, “He tested them”, v. 26

12 springs of water at Elim, v. 27a

Camped beside the waters, v. 27b

Themes of Israel's Wandering in the Desert



- Lack of a necessity
 - Complaining by Israel
 - Instruction by God (often by a theophany)
 - Testing
 - Provision
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- Moses' behavior shows the correct response – prayer to God to supply Israel's need.

Lessons for Believers



- We have but one person to please. We have but one thing to do. (Ex 15:13; 1 Cor 7:23)
- If we are to learn, we must be taught by Christ. (Ex 15:25; Matt 11:29)
- We are not ready to do anything, until we are ready to be nothing. (Ex 17:15; Phil 2)
- I have all things because I have Christ. (Ex 17:6; 1 Cor 10:4; Rom 8:32)

In the Desert of Sin, 16:1-36



- Murmuring over lack of bread, 1-3
- The instruction to Moses, 4-5
- Moses and Aaron's instruction to the people, 6-9
- The appearance of the glory and the promise of bread, 10-12
- The provision, 13-22
- Instructions for the Sabbath, 23-30
- The memorial manna, 31-36

Israel at Rephidim, 17:1-16



- The complaint, 1–3
- The cry and the miracle, 4–6
- The commemoration by naming, 7

- The attack of Amalek and the preparation for the battle, 8, 9
- The battle and its outcome, 10–13
- The memorial altar, 14–16

Jethro Comes to Visit, 18:1-27



- Jethro visits Moses, hears his report, worships God and blesses Israel, vv. 1–12
- The advice of Jethro, vv. 13–23
- Moses accepts Jethro's advice, and Jethro goes home, vv. 24–27

Two Responses to Israel, Ex 17-18



Amalek Narrative (17:8-13)	Jethro Narrative (18:1-23)
Amalek attacks Israel	The Kenites take no part in the attack (cf. 1 Sam. 15.6; cf. Judges 1:16)
And Amalek came and fought with Israel (17.8)	And Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, came ... and they asked each other of their welfare (lit., "peace" 18.5, 7)
Choose for us men and go out and fight against Amalek (17.9)	And Moses chose able men (18.12)
And they took a stone and put it under him [Moses], and he sat on it (17.12)	Moses sat to judge the people (18.13)
Moses' hands grew heavy (17.12)	For the task is too heavy for you (18.18)
I will stand on top of the hill (17.9)	And the people stood about Moses (18.13)
Until the sun set (17.12)	From morning until evening (18.13)
Tomorrow (17.9)	On the next day (18.13)
War ... from generation to generation (17.16)	These people will go to their place in peace (18:23)

Rabbi Abraham ben Meir ibn Ezra (d. 1161) first noted the antithesis of these narratives. Cassuto has enlarged upon the idea in his commentary noting the above structural similarities as well [A *Commentary on the Book of Exodus*, pp. 211-212].

Comparison of Elder Qualifications



Exodus 18:25	1 Timothy 3:2-7	Titus 1:6-9
<p>Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain.</p>	<p>2 <u>An overseer, then, must be</u> above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, <u>able to teach</u>, 3 not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, <u>free from the love of money</u>. 4 He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity 5 (<u>but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?</u>), 6 and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. 7 And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.</p>	<p>6 Namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. 7 For the <u>overseer must be</u> above reproach <u>as God's steward</u>, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, <u>not fond of sordid gain</u>, 8 but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, 9 <u>holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching</u>, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.</p>