



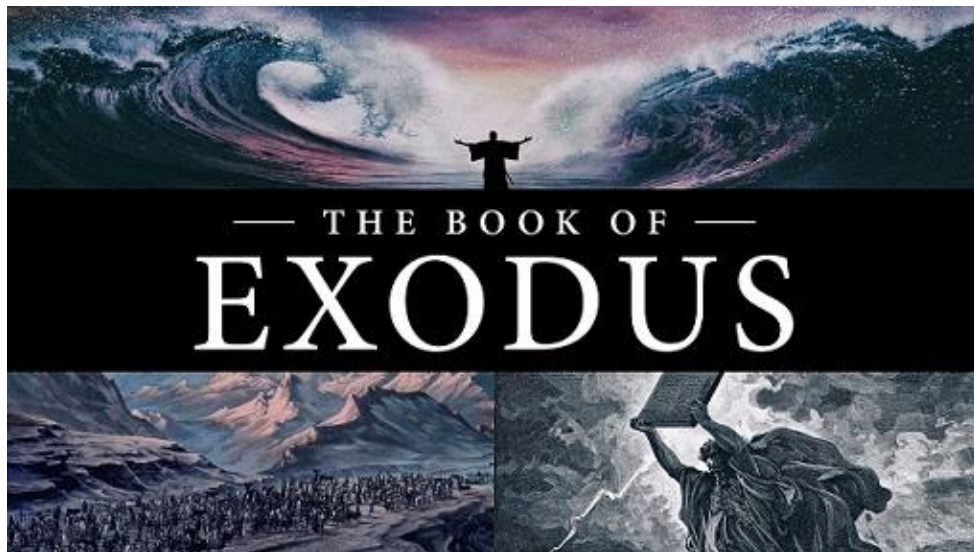
My Drift

Title: Bible – The Book of Exodus

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The book of Exodus is the story of God rescuing the people of Israel from Egypt and forging a special relationship with them. Exodus is the second book of the Pentateuch (The Torah, known as the 5 Books of Moses), and it's **where we find the stories of the Ten Plagues, the first Passover, the parting of the Red Sea, the Ten Commandments and the 40-year Wilderness Wandering.**

The 5 Books of Moses

	תּוֹרָה	
Genesis	בְּרֵאשִׁית	Beresheet
Exodus	שְׁמוֹת	Shemot
Leviticus	וַיִּקְרָא	Vayikra
Numbers	בְּמִדְבָּר	Bemidbar
Deuteronomy	דְּבָרִים	Devarim

The book of Exodus gets its name from the nation of Israel's mass emigration from Egypt, but that's only the first part of the story. This book follows Israel out of Egypt into the desert, where the nation is specifically aligned with God (as opposed to the idols of Egypt and the surrounding nations). This is the book in which God first lays out his expectations for the people of Israel—we know these expectations as the Ten Commandments. Most of the Old Testament is about how Israel meets (or fails to meet) these expectations. So, if you want to understand any other book of the Old Testament, you'll need a basic understanding of what happens in Exodus.

Important characters in Exodus

God (Yahweh)—the creator of heaven and earth and the divine being who chooses the nation of Israel to represent him on earth. God goes to war against the gods of Egypt, frees Israel from their tyranny, and then makes a pact with the new nation. While the rest of the Nations serve lesser gods, Yahweh selects the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as the people group that will serve him and him alone.

Note: "Yahweh" is the Hebrew word for the self-revealed name of the God of the Old Testament. It comes from the Hebrew verb "To be."

Moses—the greatest of the Old Testament prophets who serves as a go-between for God and the other humans in the book of Exodus. Moses negotiates with Pharaoh for Israel's freedom, passes God's laws on to the people of Israel, and even pleads for mercy on Israel's behalf when they anger God.

Aaron—Moses' brother and right-hand man. Aaron assists Moses as a spokesperson, and eventually is made the high priest of the nation of Israel.

Pharaoh—the chief antagonist in the Exodus story. The Pharaoh enslaves the nation of Israel, commits genocide, and is generally a huge jerk. The Pharaoh is worshiped as part of the Egyptian pantheon: a lesser god laying an illegitimate claim to God's people. God defeats Pharaoh and the gods of Egypt by sending a series of ten devastating plagues, and finally destroying Pharaoh's army in the Red Sea.

Key themes in Exodus

Exodus is all about God making Israel his own. God rescues the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (whom he made some important promises to back in Genesis). Then, he gives them his expectations—a list of dos and don'ts.

Finally, God sets up camp in the midst of the new nation: they are his people, and he is their God.

When God gives Moses and Israel the Ten Commandments, he frames them by stating his relationship to the Hebrews. This verse sums up the themes of Exodus nicely: **“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.” (Exodus 20:2)**

Let’s take a quick spin through some of Exodus’ themes.

Redemption

It’s hard to miss this one! The entire book is about God hearing Israel’s cries for help, rescuing them from their oppressors, and making them his own.

Covenant

Like the rest of the Torah, covenant is a big theme here. God makes a solemn, binding agreement with the people of Israel, establishing himself as their god and them as his people. This relationship comes with certain expectations, with benefits for the Israelites if they uphold their end of the agreement, and consequences if they do not.

God’s presence

Toward the beginning of the book, the cries of Israel rise up to God, who hears them and remembers his promises to Abraham back in Genesis. In the middle of the book, God meets Israel in the wilderness: he is high atop a mountain, and they are on the plain below. God is closer to the people, but still a ways off. However, by the end of the book, God is dwelling in the middle of Israel’s camp in the wilderness. Moses believes that it is God’s presence among the people that sets Israel apart from every other nation in the world (Exodus 33:16).

Law

This is related to the theme of covenant—specifically, the expectations God has for the people of Israel. From chapter 20 onward, we start seeing more and more directives for the people on how to live as the people of God.

Exodus in context

Exodus is where the story of the Bible really starts picking up. God has already made his promises to Abraham: his descendants would be a mighty people, they would possess the land of Canaan, and through them the whole earth will be

blessed by God. While in Genesis we see God working through a family, in Exodus we see God working with an entire nation.

Exodus is a starburst of Old and New Testament theology. God is faithful and keeps His promise to Abraham (Genesis 15:13–21) by judging the Egyptians and liberating Israel. The Lord also gives Israel the first iteration of the Law and begins to dwell among His people in the tabernacle. God’s liberation of Israel from slavery foreshadows His work to redeem the nations (Romans 6:17–18), just as His judgment on His people serves as an example for Christians now (1 Corinthians 10:6–13). Exodus is also where God reveals His memorial name: YHWH, or LORD (Exodus 3:14; 6:3).

An overview of Exodus’ story and structure

Act 1: Prologue (Exodus 1–2)

Exodus picks up where Genesis leaves off: the young nation of Israel is in Egypt (where they were invited by Joseph). A new Pharaoh notices the Israelites multiplying and enslaves them. Afraid of an uprising, he orders that all Hebrew sons should be cast into the Nile at birth.

But one baby boy escapes this fate: the Hebrew Moses grows up in Pharaoh’s household. When adult Moses kills an abusive Egyptian slave driver, he flees the country.



Moses

Act 2: God saves Israel (Exodus 3–19)

Forty years later, God appears to Moses as a burning bush and sends him to deliver Israel from the hand of Pharaoh.

Moses, with the help of his brother Aaron, confronts Pharaoh on God’s behalf: “Let My people go” (Exodus 5:1). Pharaoh refuses, and so God sends those famous 10 plagues upon the Egyptians. When the last plague kills Pharaoh’s son, he finally allows Israel to leave.



Waters Turn to Blood
Exodus 7:14-25



Amphibians (Frogs)
Exodus 7:26-8:11



Gnats (Lice)
Exodus 8:12-15



Flies
Exodus 8:16-28



Disease on Livestock
Exodus 9:1-7

The Ten Plagues of Egypt



Unhealable Boils
Exodus 9:8-12



Hail and Fire
Exodus 9:13-35



Locusts
Exodus 10:1-20



Darkness
Exodus 10:21-29



Death of First-Born
Exodus 11:1-12:36

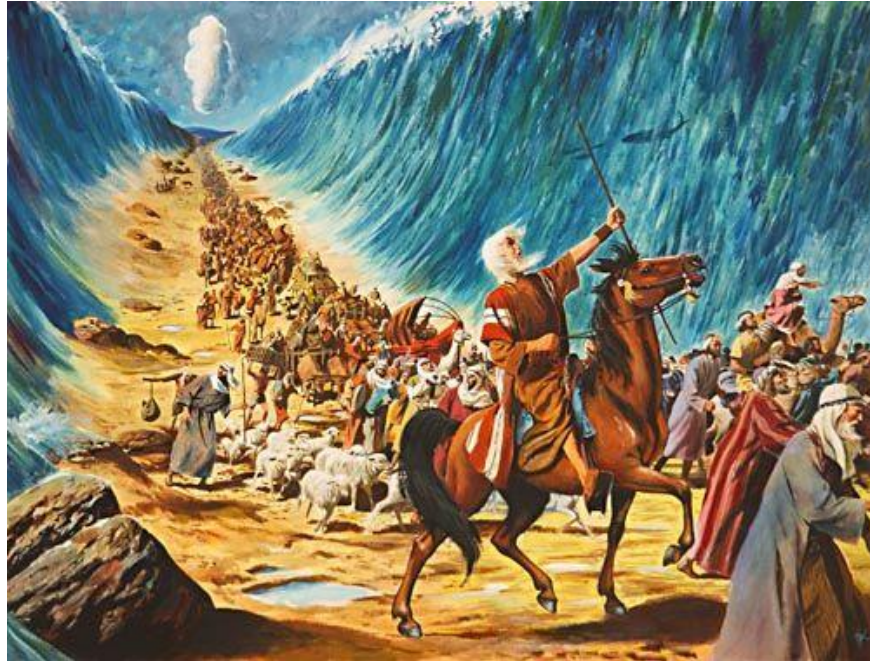
The Israelites celebrate the first-ever Passover, and then set out into the wilderness. Pharaoh changes his mind and sends his army to recapture them. God saves Israel miraculously by parting the Red Sea and allowing Israel to escape their would-be captors—and then uses the sea to wash away Pharaoh’s army. The Israelites leave Egypt and make their way to the foot of Mount Sinai in the wilderness. God descends on the top of the mountain and gives His laws to Moses.



First Passover



God saves Israel miraculously by parting the Red Sea



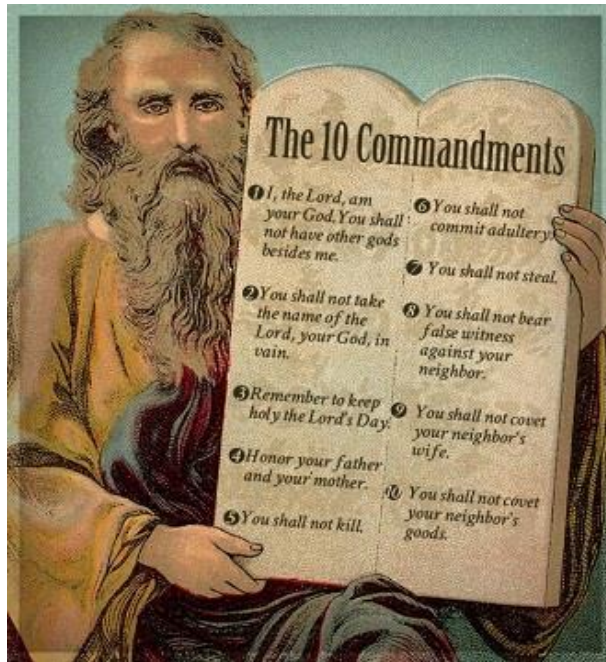
The Israelites escape their would-be captors by crossing the Red Sea



Then God uses the sea to wash away and kill Pharaoh's army

Act 3: God makes a Covenant with Israel (Exodus 20–40)

God gives His laws to Moses and makes a covenant with the nation of Israel and the generations to come: Because He rescued them from Egypt, Israel is to observe His rules. God speaks the Ten Commandments directly to the whole nation of Israel, and He relays specific ordinances to Moses on the mountain. And the people agree to it!

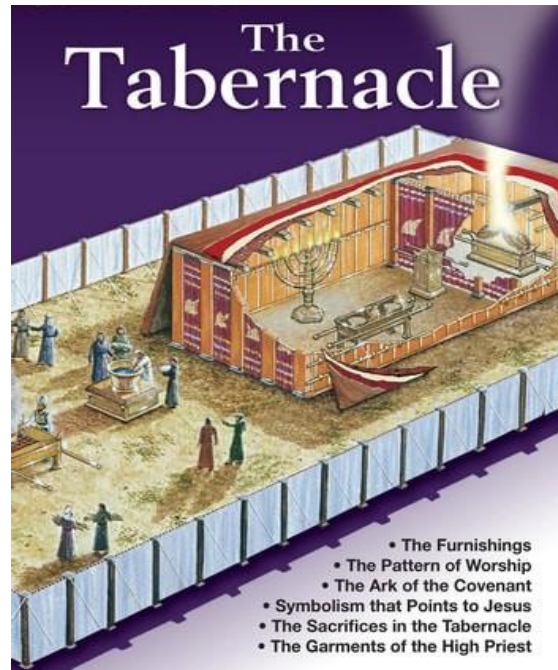


“The 40-year Wilderness Wandering” refers to the plight of the Israelites due to their disobedience and unbelief in God. Nearly 3,500 years ago, God delivered His people from Egyptian bondage as described in Exodus, chapters 1–12. They were to take possession of the land God had promised their forefathers, a land “flowing with milk and honey” (Exodus 3:8). Prior to entry, however, they became convinced they could not oust the current inhabitants of the land, even though God told them they could. Their lack of belief in God’s word and promises brought forth the wrath of God. He cursed them with forty years of wilderness wandering until the unbelieving generation died off, never stepping foot in the Promised Land.



Israelites cursed with forty years of Wilderness Wandering

After this, God makes plans for a place of worship. He's going to come down from the mountaintop and dwell in the midst of the people of Israel—but in order for this to happen, the people need to prepare a portable tabernacle for him. God gives Moses the plans for the tabernacle, the sacred furniture, and the garments for the priests.



But already things aren't going as planned. While God is giving Moses laws for the people, the people start worshiping a golden calf. Moses pleads with God on Israel's behalf, and the nation is given another go at keeping God's commands.

And so, Israel builds the tabernacle: a holy tent. The book of Exodus ends with the glory of the LORD filling the tabernacle. God is now dwelling among His chosen people, Israel. However, now there's another problem: how will the people live in the presence of such a holy and powerful being?

That's what the next book, Leviticus is all about.

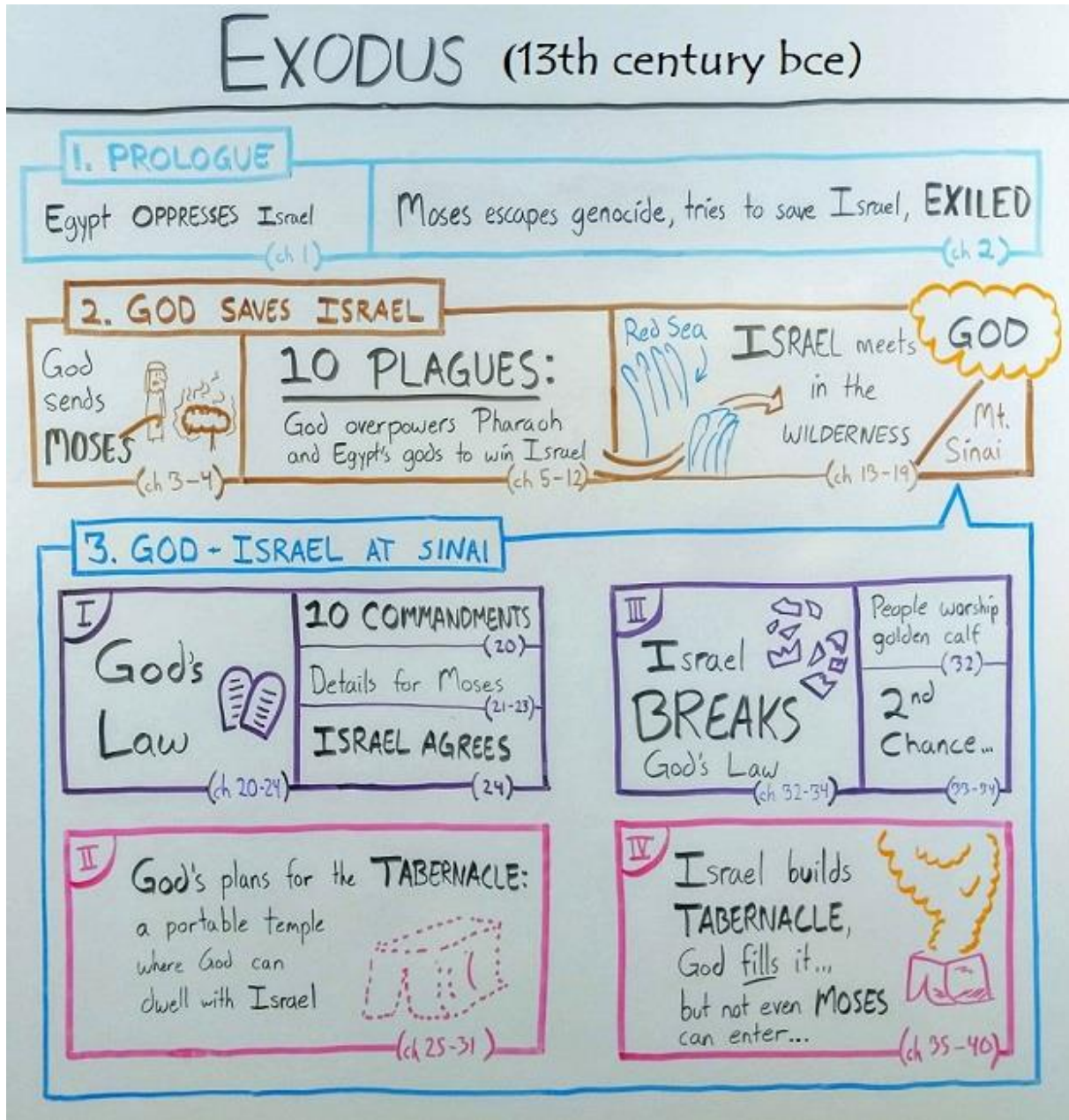
Who wrote Exodus?

Moses is traditionally credited as the human author of the Old-Testament book of Exodus. This is because Exodus is part of the Torah, which is known as the Law of Moses. That doesn't necessarily mean Moses penned every single word of this book—but since Moses is the main human character in these books, and since Moses is the one receiving directives from God, the books are usually attributed to him.

BOOK OF EXODUS TIMELINE

What were the dates of the exodus?

Most proponents of the late date believe the biblical and archaeological data discovered so far indicate the Exodus happened in the thirteenth century B.C. sometime around 1267 B.C. in the nineteenth dynasty, twenty years into the reign of Pharaoh Ramesses II (1279-1213 B.C.).



Questions and Discussion

There seems to be two schools of thought on:

- ✚ where God and Moses parted the Red Sea?
- ✚ location of Mount Sinai where Moses received the Ten Commandments from God?



Original or Traditional Exodus Route

Red Sea Crossing Site – The Gulf of Suez

The Wilderness and Mt. Sinai – Sinai Peninsula, Egypt



Modern Exodus Route (Based on new evidence)

Red Sea Crossing Site – The Gulf of Aqaba

The Wilderness and Mt. Sinai – Saudi Arabia

Is there irrefutable evidence that proves the parting of the Red Sea detailed in the Book of Exodus? You decide.

Quick Recap

In Genesis (GEN 47:11 and 47:27), we learned that the Israelites were given some land in the Delta Region called “the land of Rameses” or “the land of Goshen” by the pharaoh. This is where the people of Israel were living and where the exodus from Egypt started.

In Exodus, Moses leads the Israelites away from Egypt and slavery, towards the Red Sea, but their escape isn’t easy. The Egyptian Army follow Moses and his people with chariots and horses, hoping to hunt them down. How does Moses save his people? With a miraculous parting of the Red Sea. According to Exodus 14:21, Moses stretched his hand out over the sea, “and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided.” This allowed the Israelites to cross about 12 miles through the Red Sea to safety. The Egyptians pursued them, but as Moses again obeyed God’s instruction to extend his hand, the water enveloped the army.

Evidence and Findings

While this historic miracle has been disputed by many including scientists who have tried to rationalize it as merely a weather event. However, below is various evidence and findings over the course of many years that proves one of the most dramatic records of divine intervention in history.

Over the years, many divers have searched parts of the Red Sea (Gulf of Suez) in vain for artifacts to verify the Biblical account. But as it turns out, they were looking in the wrong places. Later, by carefully following the Biblical and historical records of the Exodus, it brought the Bible experts and a team of scientists to Nuweiba, Egypt, and a large beach on the Gulf of Aqaba, an extension of the Red Sea. This is now believed by many to be the true site of the Red Sea Parting and Crossing Site.

The chariot parts were discovered by Ron Wyatt and his team using a molecular frequency generator from his boat above, after he set the equipment to look for gold. The Bible stated that 600 choice chariots of Egypt were gold veneered models and were in the army pursuing God's people.

Reference: https://www.ronwyatt.com/red_sea_crossing

Repeated dives in depths ranging from 60 to 200 feet deep has shown that the chariot parts are scattered across the seabed. Artifacts found include wheels, chariot bodies as well as human and horse bones. Divers have located wreckage on the Saudi coastline opposite Nuweiba as well.



Chariot Wheels



Golden Chariot Wheel



3500 Years Old Bones Found in The Red Sea

I don't know about you, but I believe that God and Moses parted the Red Sea as explained in the Bible Book of Exodus.

If you Google “Mount Sinai”, it says, Mount Sinai, also called Mountain of Moses or Mount Horeb is a granitic peak located in the south-central Sinai Peninsula, Egypt.”

Same Mountains, Different Names

There are many examples of the same mountain having different names given to it. The highest mountain in North America had its official name changed in 2015 from Mount McKinley to Denali. Because it has been referred to as Mount McKinley since 1896, there will be a lot of people who will still be calling this mountain by its old name for many years to come. Others will use the new name. Two different names, yet the same mountain.



Mt. Sinai in Egypt

As for Mount Sinai and Mount Horeb, a little research will show these two names have always been considered to be referring to the same place. Even the biggest skeptic would have a hard time denying a mountain can have more than one name.

However, the Bible is not clear (to me and many other people) where the Mt. Sinai is located where Moses received the Ten Commandments. Egypt or Saudi Arabia? Here is evidence indicating it is in Saudi Arabia:

- Archaeologists claim that Saudi Arabia's Jabal Maqla mountain may be Mount Sinai from the Bible.
 - ❖ The Bible says, “Moses leads the Israelites to a mountain that was enveloped in smoke, fire and thunder and where Moses received the Ten Commandments from God.”
 - ❖ So now, many Bible scholars believe that Mount Sinai, one of the most sacred places in the Jewish, Christian and Islamic religions, is currently named Mt. Jabal Maqla, which lies in the Jabal al-Lawz mountain range in northwestern Saudi Arabia.
- Mt. Jabal Maqla has a blackened peak as if scorched by the sun or fire, and lies near Nuweiba Beach, where scientists have found a land path underneath the water, where God could have parted the waters for Moses and the Israelites.



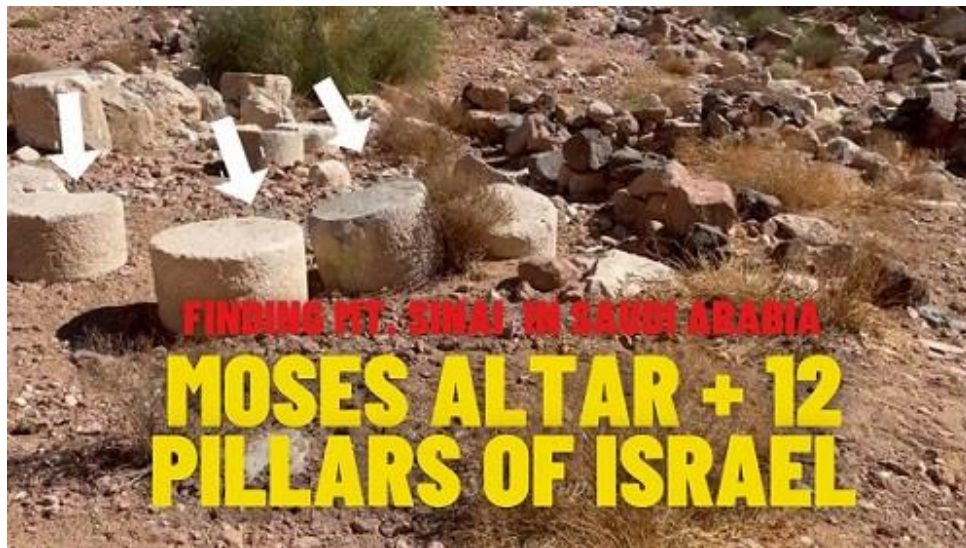
Mt. Jabal Maqla in Saudi Arabia

- Blackened rock at the summit of Mt. Horeb where Moses met with God and the Ten Commandments were given. “And Mount Sinai was altogether in a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire; and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.” Exodus 19:18
- “For this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia. . .” (Galatians 4:25) This passage may tell us where the mountain is located - in Saudi Arabia.



Split Rock of Mt. Horeb

- Split Rock of Mt. Horeb is where Moses and the Children of Israel first encamped before reaching Mt. Sinai. It was here that Moses struck the rock, which gushed forth large quantities of water. The giant 60-foot rock is on a 300-foot-tall hill, and has obvious signs of water erosion, yet it is located in an extreme desert region. The split in the rock is so large that an adult can easily walk through it.
- After God spoke to Moses and gave him the Ten Commandments, Moses got up early the next morning and stood up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel (Exodus 24:4). And for Joshua, he set up twelve stones from the river Jordan to remember God's clearing of the river for safe passage. The remnants of these 12 stone pillars can be found at the foot of Mount Sinai in Saudi Arabia. No such evidence has ever been found at the supposed site in the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt.



Well, there is a lot of evidence that may or may not prove the parting of the Red Sea took place at the Gulf of Aqaba and the Mount Sinai in Saudi Arabia was where Moses received the Ten Commandments from God. You decide.

Again, as with the Book of Genesis, much of the Book of Exodus is confusing to me. I have read the Book of Genesis and the Book of Exodus, and they are both not easy to understand. I believe the overall events are true but some of the details are not exactly as they seem based on what we know today.

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