

A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR LIFE



A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR LIFE

Epistemology

- The study of knowledge
 - Its scope
 - Its limits
- How do you know what you know?
- What basis do you have for what you believe?
- 'Evidence'



A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR LIFE

Evidence

- Two types:
 - Empirical
 - Faith Based
- We all employ both in varying degrees



Faith

3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith

Romans 12:3

- Think: Gr. *'phroneo'* (fron-eh'-o);
 - 'to exercise the mind'
- Soberly: Gr. *'eis'* (ice);
 - With intent

Faith

- All men have faith
- Faith is *not* a blind leap in the dark
- Faith *is* the result of deductive logic
 - Who believes the Sun will rise in the morning?
 - Who would sit on a one legged chair?
 - Who drives a car?
 - You are putting your faith in the power a painted white line exerts over the mind and will of an oncoming driver!
- We employ empirical data we have collected to help us make *faith* choices

Epistemology

- How do you know what you know?
- What basis do you have for what you believe?
- The majority of 'knowledge' is *faith* based
 - i.e. Things you have not personally verified
 - You have accepted another's belief
 - Starting with your parents...
 - Then school teachers...
 - Then further education, inc. media

Epistemology

- The Bible exhorts us to think soberly, particularly in regard to our *faith* choices
 - i.e. Whom or what do we trust?
- Do you believe the Bible is true?
- If not, what is your foundation?
- Your own opinion?
 - Dangerous ground!
- The opinion of others?
 - Even worse!!

Basis for Belief

16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

2 Peter 1:16

Basis for Belief

- 1 Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,
- 2 Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;

Luke 1:1-2

Basis for Belief

- 1 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,
- 2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:
- 3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion **by many infallible proofs**, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

Acts 1:1-3

Basis for Belief

- 21 Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,
- 22 Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.

Acts 1:21-22

Basis for Belief

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

1 John 1:1

- Empirical evidence!

The Bible - Our Foundation

The Bible can be trusted:

- Scientifically
- Geographically
- Historically
- Archeologically
- Prophetically
- Astronomically
- Mathematically

The Bible - Our Foundation

Scientifically

- In the beginning... (Gen 1:1)
- After its kind... (Gen 1:11,12,21,24,25)
- Earth is a sphere... (Isaiah 40:22)
- Pathways in the sea... (Psalm 8:6-9)
- Circumcision on 8th day... (Lev 12:3)
- Life of the flesh is in the blood (Lev 17:11)
- Arcturus / a sun on the move (Job 38:32/Ps 19:6)

The Bible - Our Foundation

Historically

- Professor Robert D Wilson
- Scientific Investigation of The Old Testament
- He could read & write 45 ancient Semitic languages
- At 25 yrs old he could read the NT in 9 languages
- He had memorised the NT from Matthew – Revelation
- He also had many of the OT book memorised in Hebrew

Professor Robert D Wilson

“For 45 years continuously I have devoted myself to one great study of the Old Testament. In all of its languages, in all of its archaeology, in all of its translations.

The critics of the Bible who go to it in order to find fault claims to themselves all knowledge, all virtue, all love of the truth. One of their favourite phrases is ‘*all scholars agree*’. Well, when a man says that I wish to know who the scholars are and what they agree on? Where do they get their evidence? I defy any man to make an attack on the Old Testament on the ground of evidence that I cannot investigate.”

Professor Robert D Wilson

“After I learned the necessary languages, I set about the investigation of every single consonant in the Hebrew Old Testament – there are about one million, two hundred and fifty thousand of them.

It took me many years to achieve my task. I had to observe variations in the text, in the manuscripts, notes of the masorites in all their various versions, parallel passages, and contextual emendations of critics; and then I had to classify the results of every character, every consonant, to reduce the Old Testament criticism to an absolutely objective science, something that is based on evidence and not opinion.

Professor Robert D Wilson

The result of those 45 years of study which I have given to the text has been this:

Professor Robert D Wilson

“I can affirm that there is not a page of the Old Testament concerning which you need have any doubt!”

“For example, to illustrate its accuracy: there are 29 ancient kings whose names are mentioned, not only in the Bible, but also on monuments we’ve uncovered of their own time.

There are 195 consonants in those 29 proper names. Yet we find that in the documents of the Hebrew Old Testament there are only two consonants out of the 195 that have ever been called into question.”

Professor Robert D Wilson

“[The names] are all in exactly the same way as they have been inscribed on their monuments which archaeologists have dated and discovered. Some of these go back four thousand years.

“Compare this accuracy with the greatest scholar of his age, the librarian at Alexandria in Egypt, (200 B.C.) He compiled a catalogue of the kings of Egypt, 38 in all. Of the entire number only three or four were recognisable.

He also made a list of the kings of Assyria and in only one case can we tell who he's talking about - and that one is not spelt correctly!

Professor Robert D Wilson

“Or take Ptolemy who drew up a register of eighteen kings of Babylon; not one of them is properly spelt. You could not make them out at all if you did not know some of the outside sources.”

Professor Robert D Wilson

“If anyone talks about the Bible, ask him about the kings mentioned in it. There are 29 kings referred to, 10 different countries among these 29, all of which are included in the Bible and on the monuments.

Every one of these is give their right name in the Bible, their right country and their right place in correct chronological order.

Think what this means!”

The Bible - Our Foundation

The Bible can be trusted:

- Scientifically
- Geographically
- Historically
- Archeologically
- Prophetically
- Astronomically
- Mathematically

The Exodus



The Exodus



The Exodus



Goshen

Way of the Philistines

Egypt

Midian

Red Sea

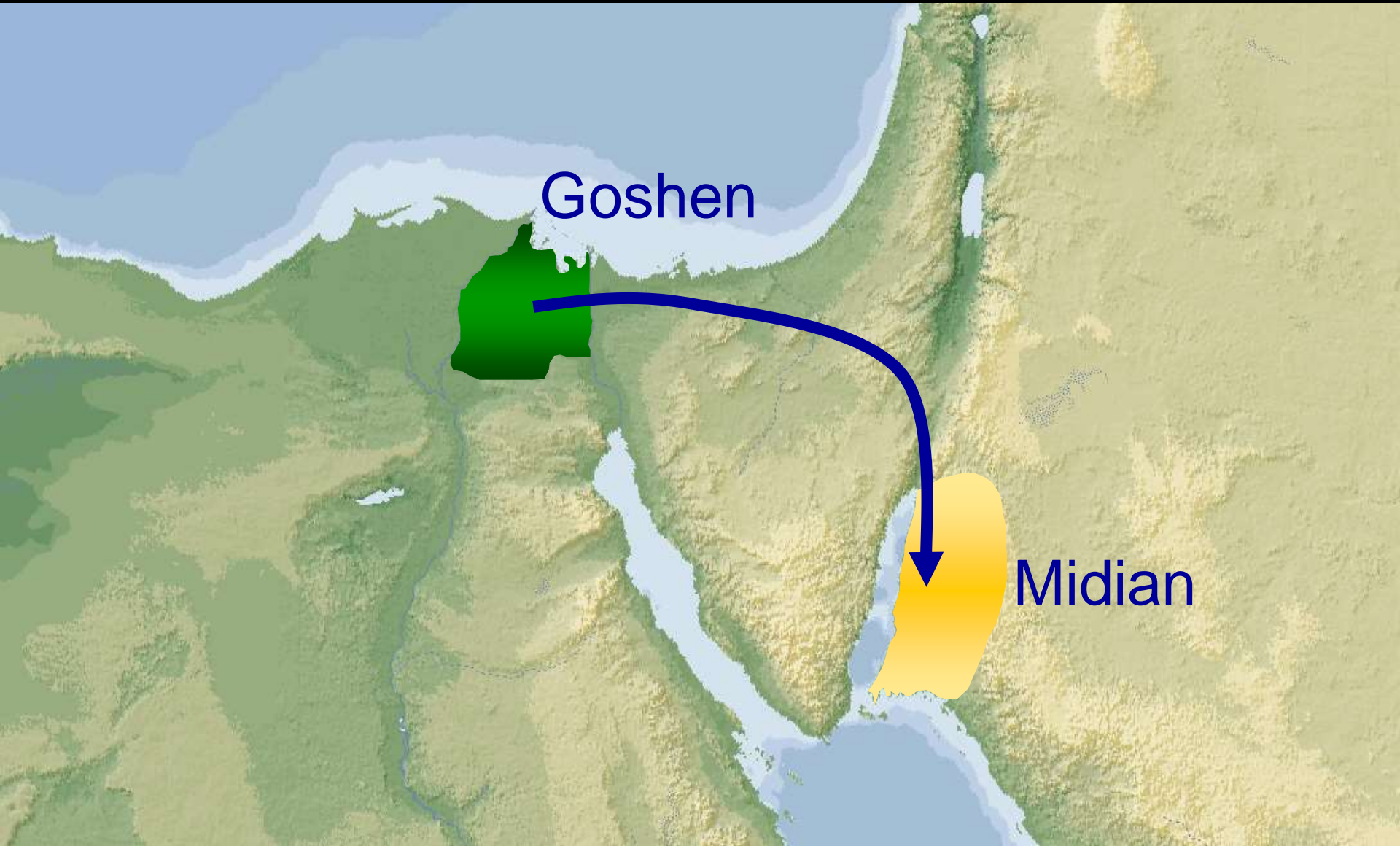
¹⁴ And he said, Who made thee a prince and a judge over us? intendest thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian? And Moses feared, and said, Surely this thing is known.

¹⁵ Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Midian: and he sat down by a well.

Exodus 2:14-15

- **Moses – their ‘deliver’, rejected 1st time**
- **Flees to Midian**

Moses in Midian



Goshen

Midian

Moses in Midian

¹ Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.

Exodus 3:1

Moses in Midian

¹² And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.

Exodus 3:12

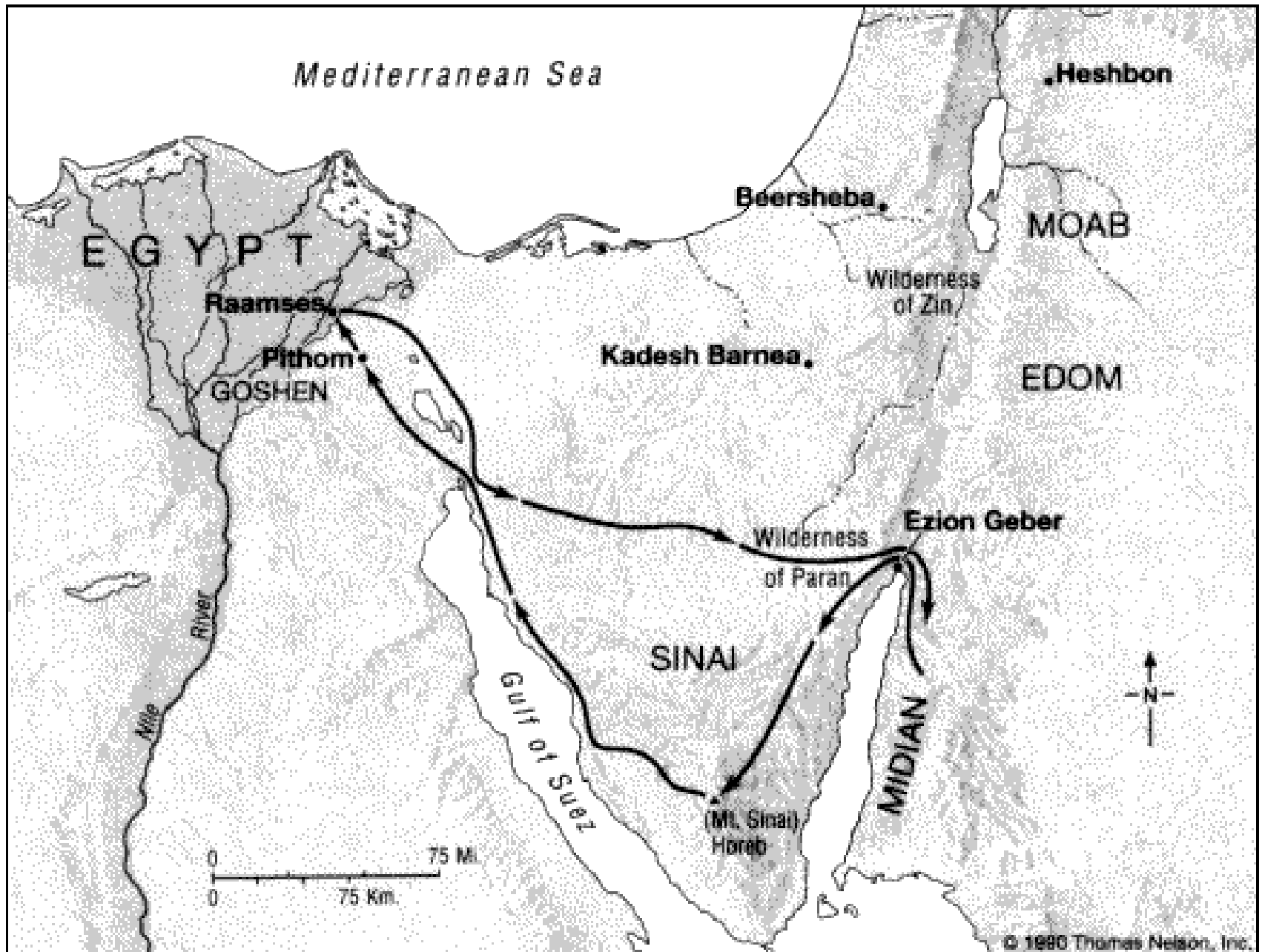
The Tradition

- Mt. Sinai located in Sinai Peninsula
- Most maps in the back of Bibles maintain this tradition

The Tradition



Moses' Flight & Return to Egypt



The Tradition

- Many Problems:
- No archeological evidence
- No geographical evidence
- Forces crossing the sea to a paddle
- Northern Sinai had an Egyptian military presence
- 'Sinai' was still 'in Egypt'

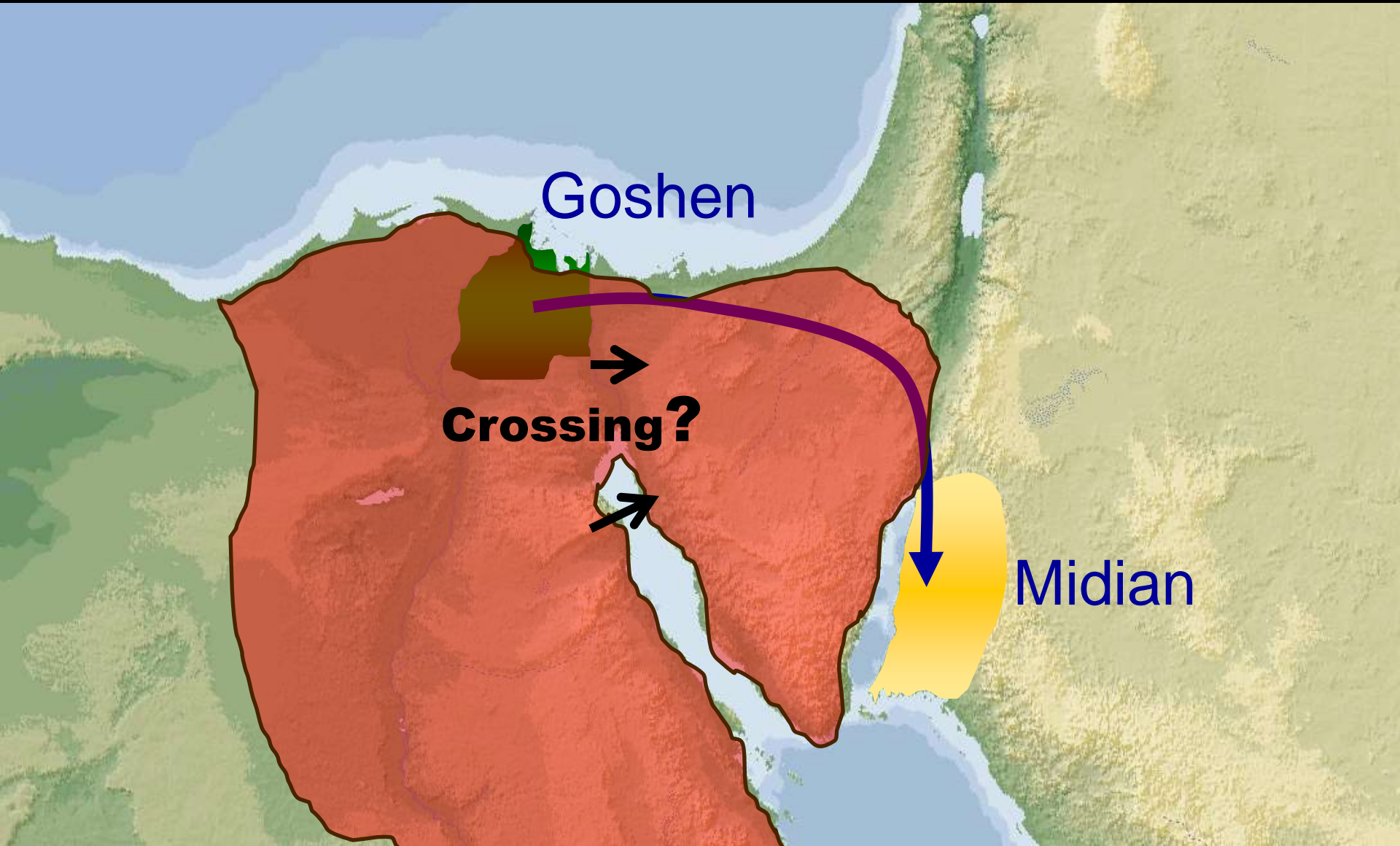
- *What does the Bible say?*

Mt. Sinai in Arabia

25 For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.

Galatians 4:25

Mt. Sinai in Arabia

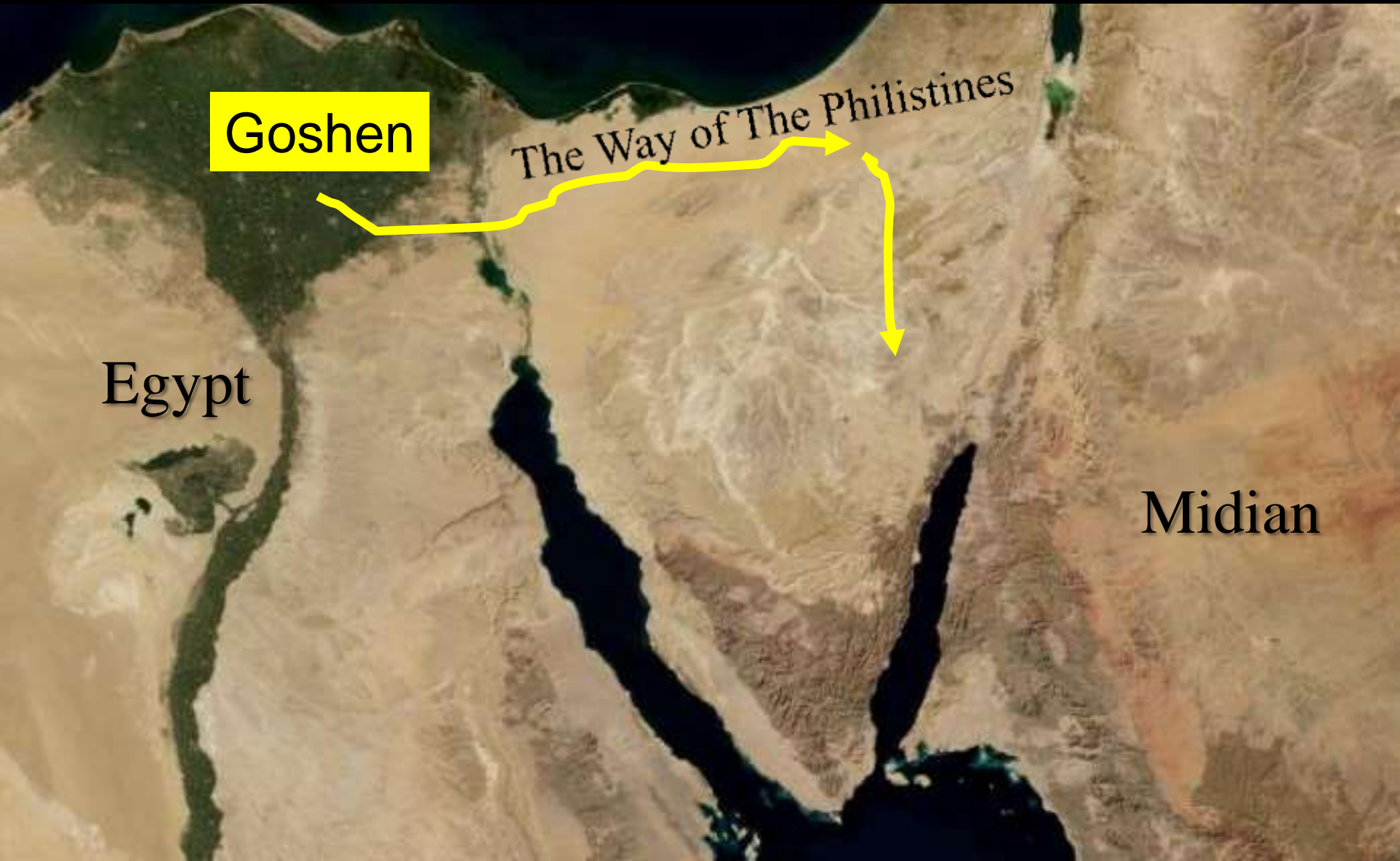


Goshen

Crossing?

Midian

The Escape from Egypt



Goshen

The Way of The Philistines

Egypt

Midian

¹ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
² Speak unto the children of Israel, that they turn and encamp before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, over against Baal-zephon: before it shall ye encamp by the sea.

Exodus 14:1-2

- Pi-hahiroth – ‘between Migdol & Red Sea’
- ‘Mouth of the gorges’

Trapped?

- God leads them to a dead-end in the desert
- Pharaoh believes they have made a mistake
- God will “harden Pharaoh’s heart”
- God will be exalted

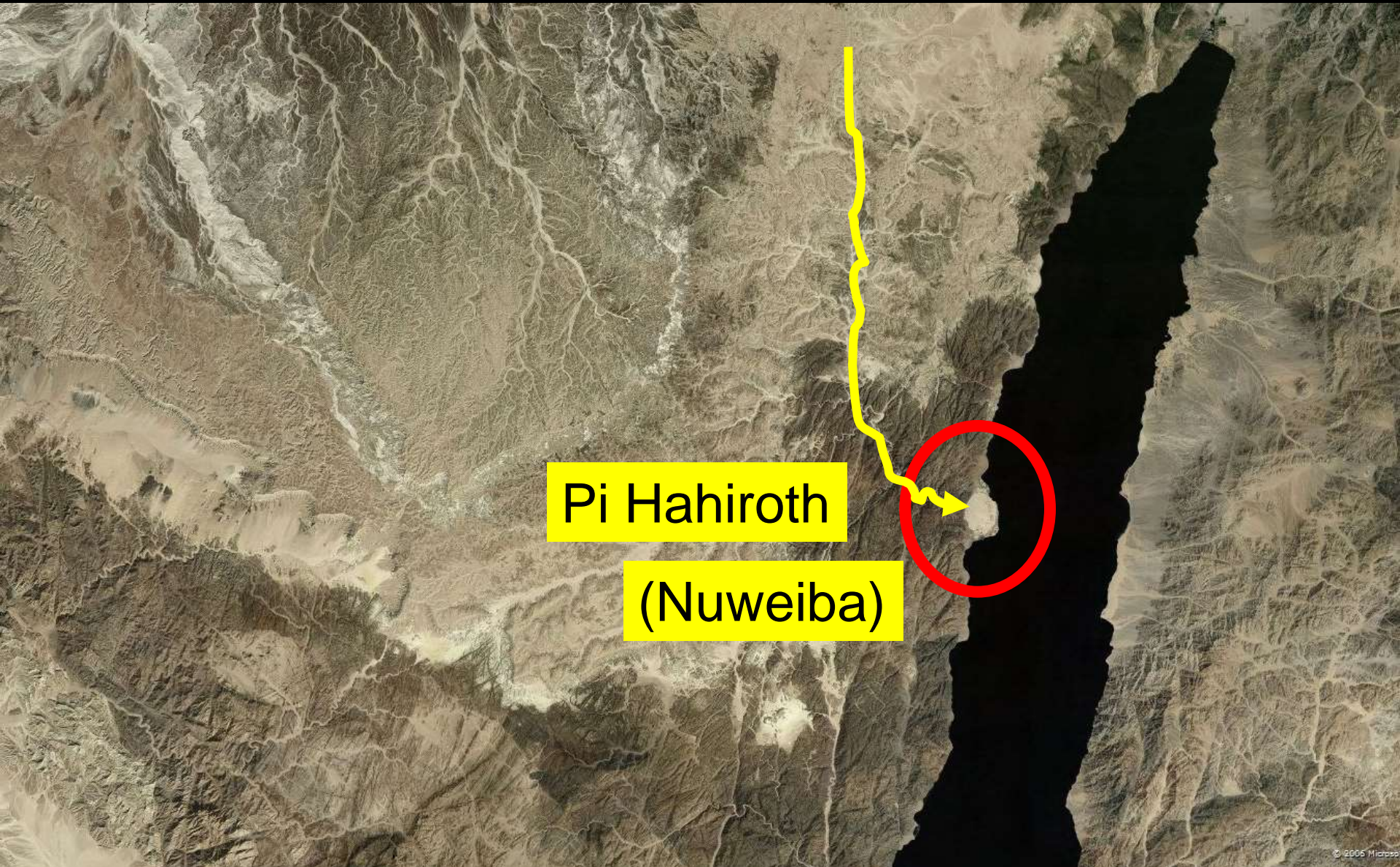
Pi-hahiroth?



Etham

Mt Sinai
Midian

The Escape from Egypt



Pi Hahiroth

(Nuweiba)

The Escape from Egypt



The Escape from Egypt



The Escape from Egypt



The Escape from Egypt



The Escape from Egypt



3 For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, They are entangled in the land, the wilderness hath shut them in.

Exodus 14:3

- Pi-hahiroth – ‘between Migdol & Red Sea’
- ‘Mouth of the gorges’



Pi Hahiroth (Nuweiba)



The Blueprint

- The Red Sea is the limit of Egypt's authority
- Passing through the Sea was necessary
- It separated the workers of iniquity and the children of God
- It was a step of faith that required separation
- The same is true for believers who leave the world's authority behind through baptism by faith

¹⁵ And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward:

¹⁶ But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

Exodus 14:15-16

21 And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

22 And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

23 And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

Exodus 14:21-23

Red Sea Parted

8 And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap, and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea.

Exodus 15:8

- Congealed
- 'To become like ice'

24 And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians,

25 And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians.

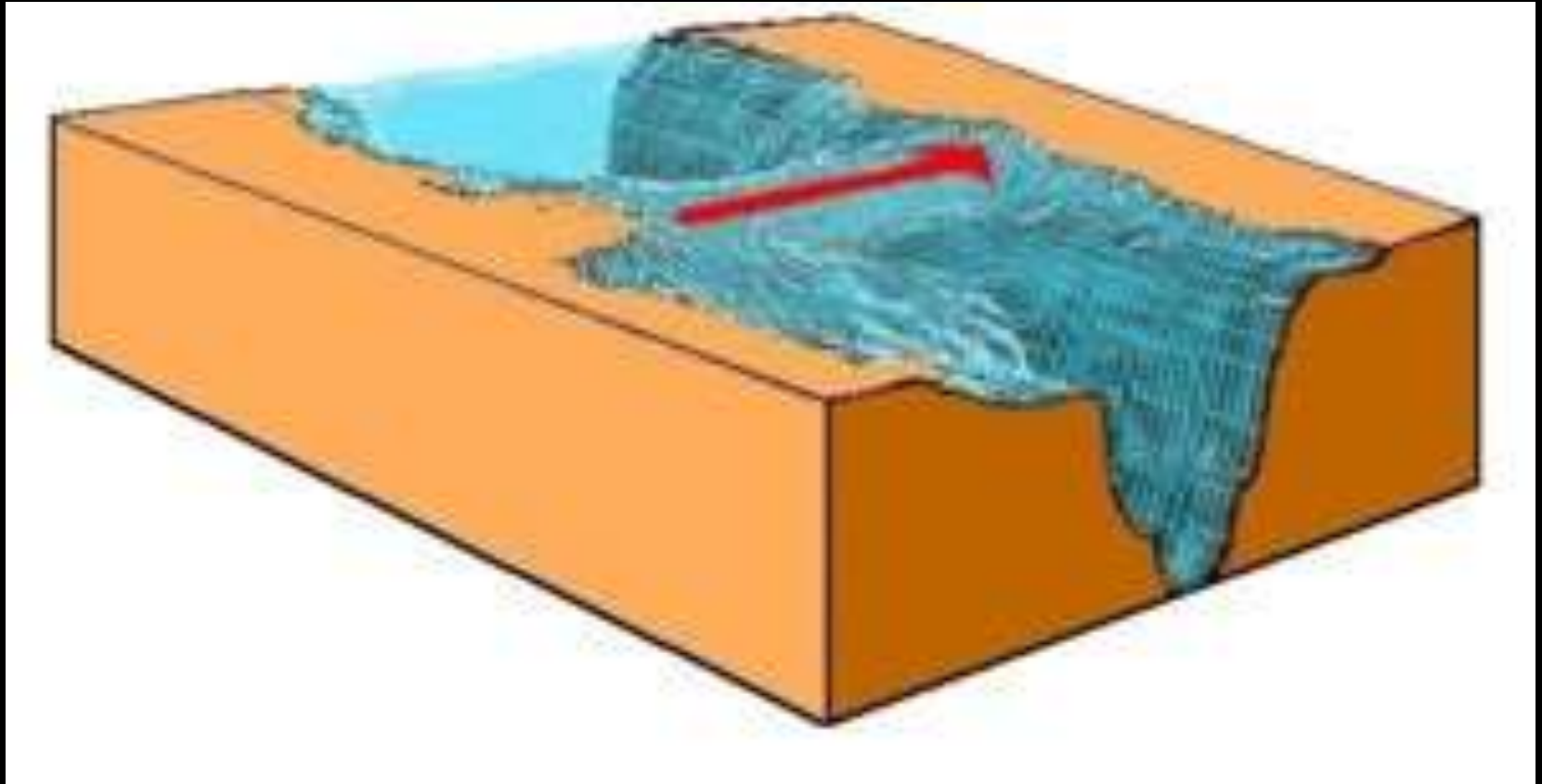
26 And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.

27 And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.

28 And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them.

Exodus 14:27-28

Evidence of the Crossing



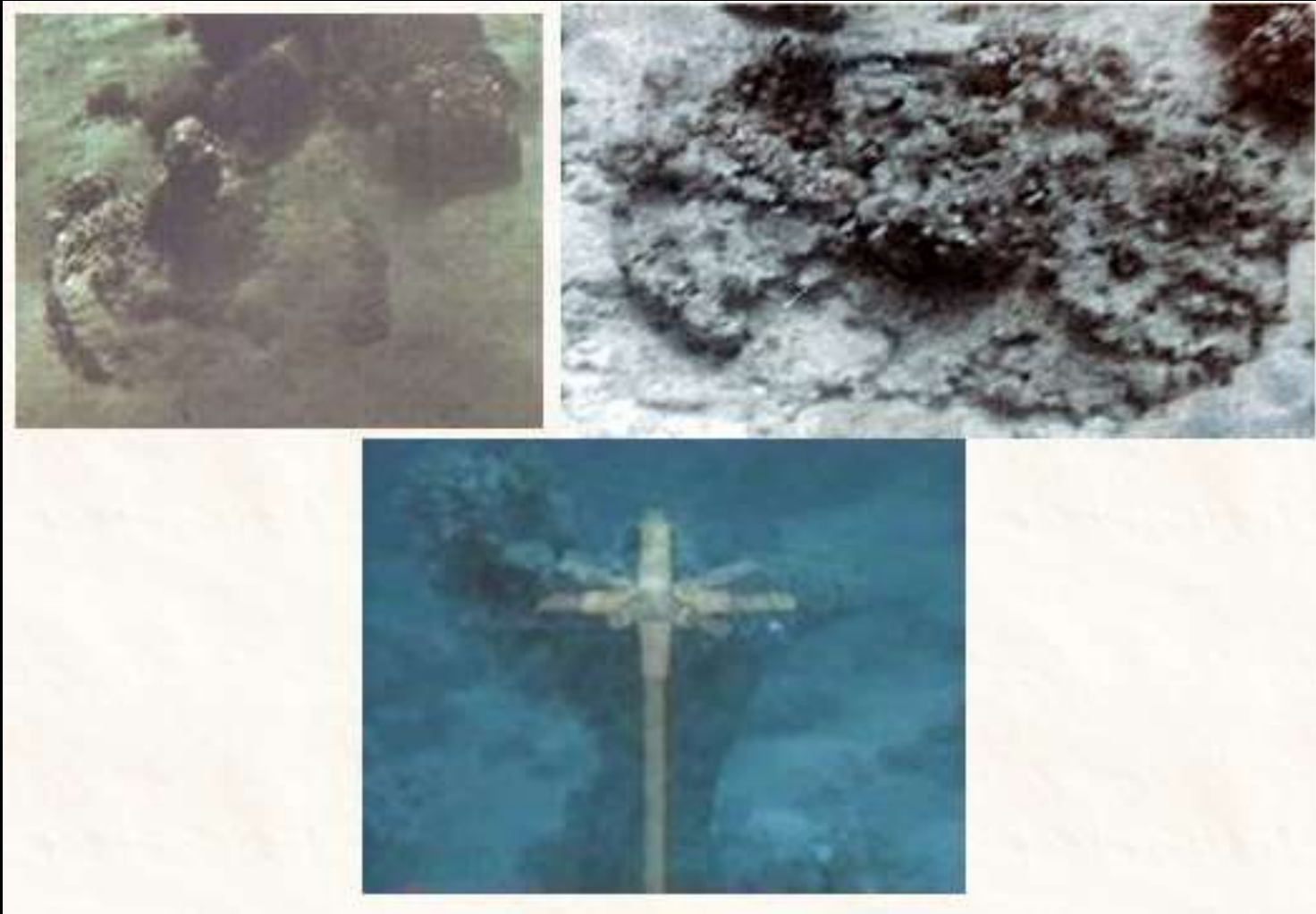
- Underwater bridge

Evidence of the Crossing



- These are on the sea bed by Nuweiba

Evidence of the Crossing



- These are on the sea bed by Nuweiba

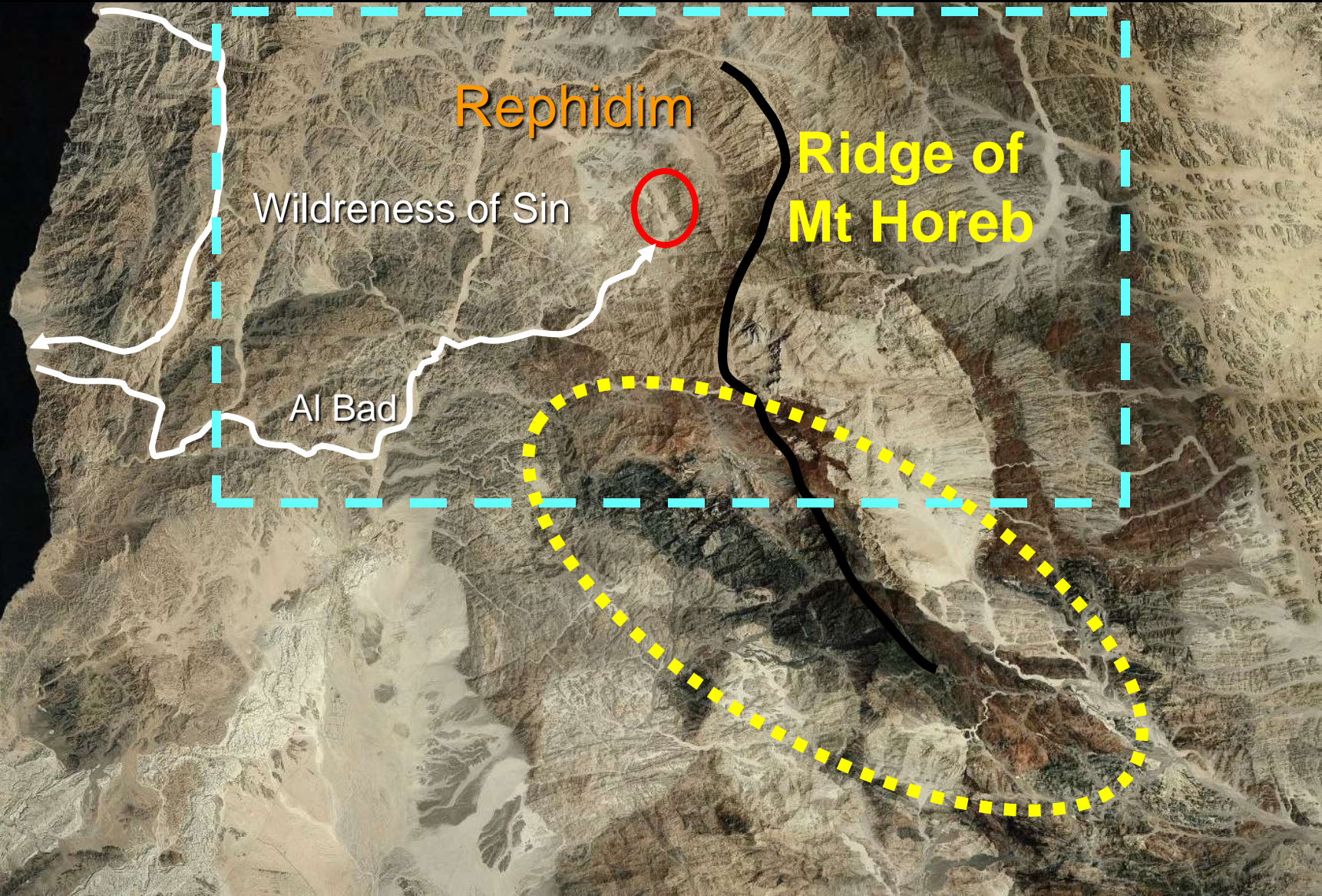
Evidence of the Crossing



- Solomon marked the crossing site with these pillars
- One on the beach at Nuweiba, the other on the Saudi side, (which has now been removed).

The Journey To Sinai

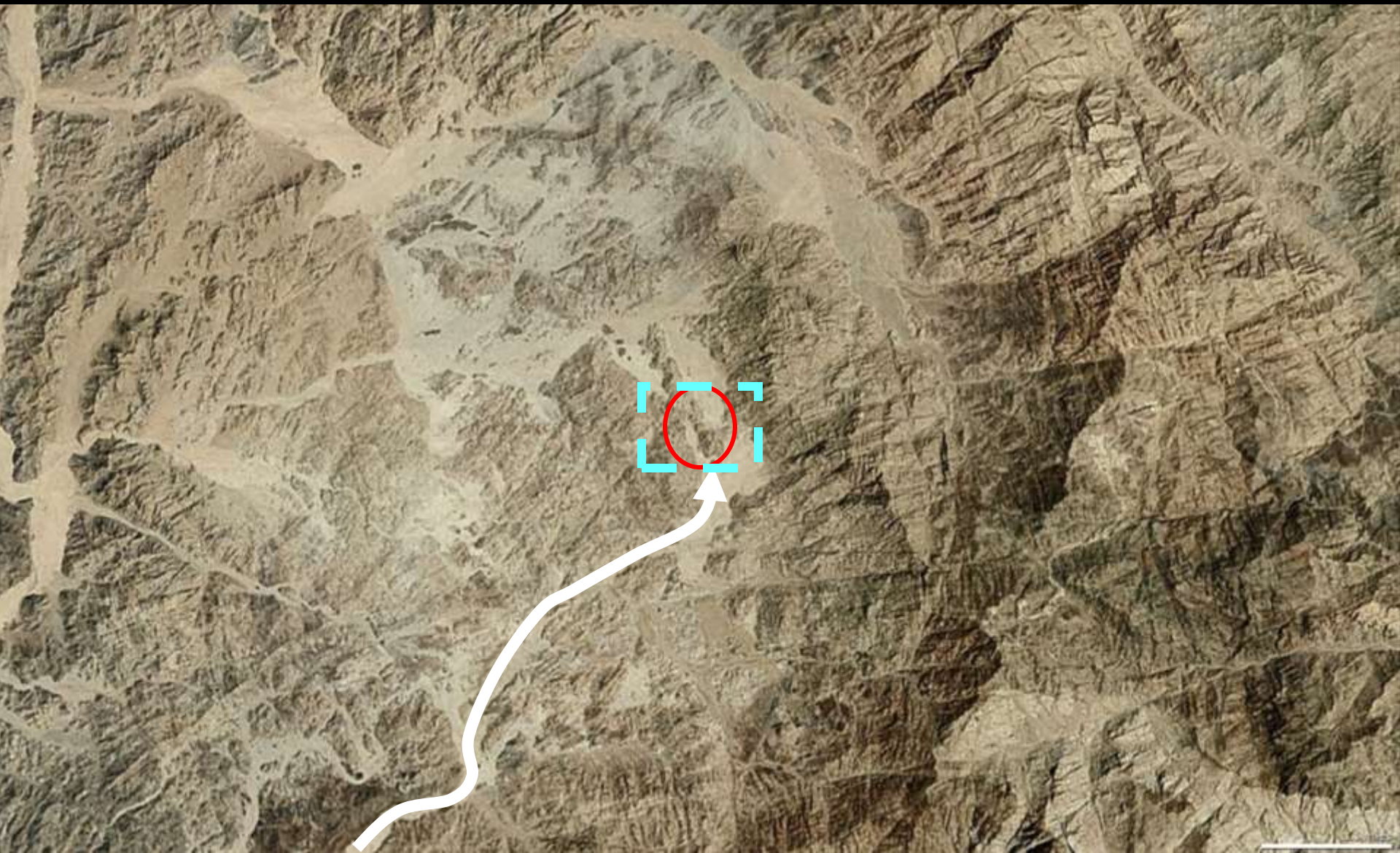
Red Sea (Gulf of Aqaba)



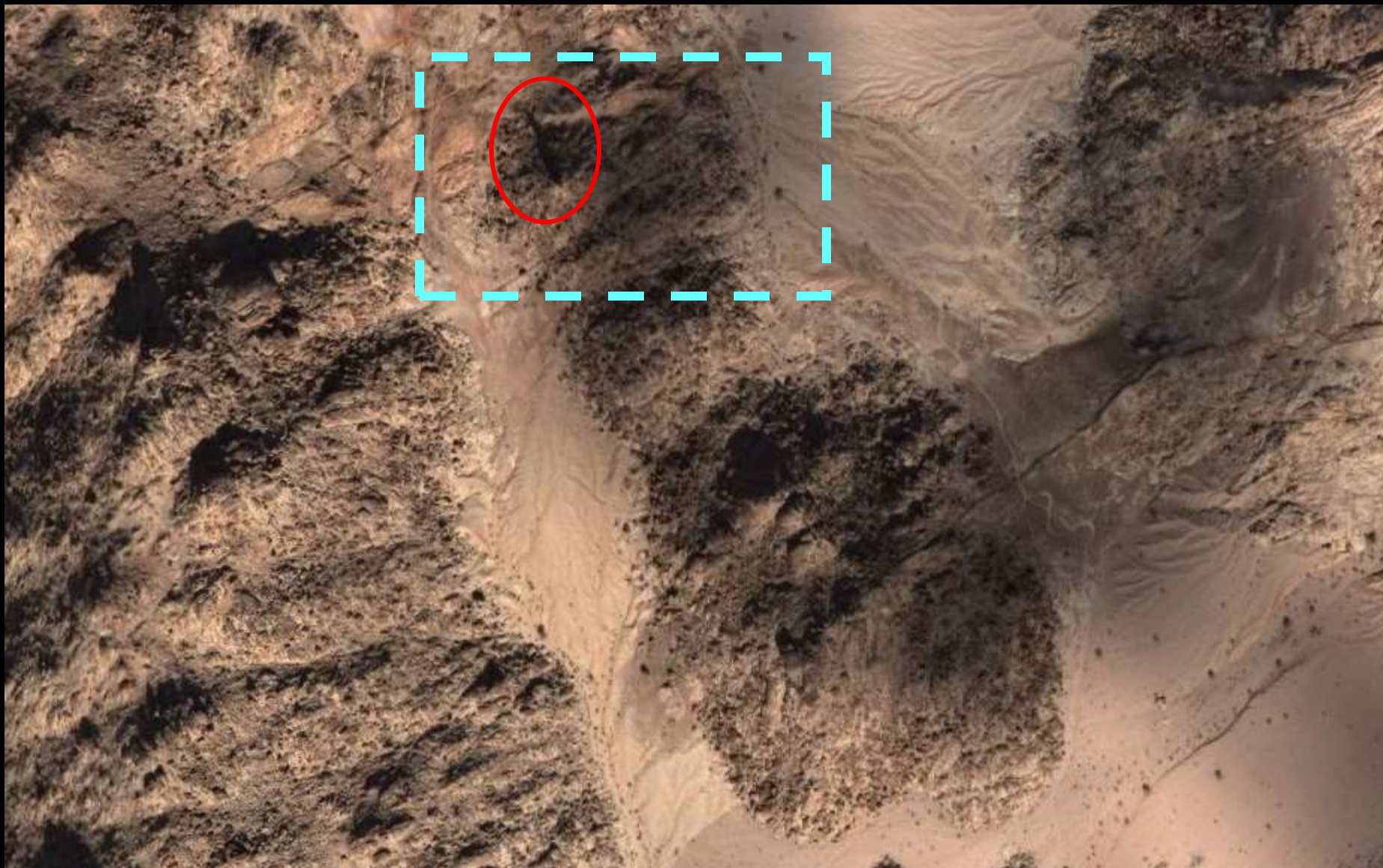
The Journey To Sinai



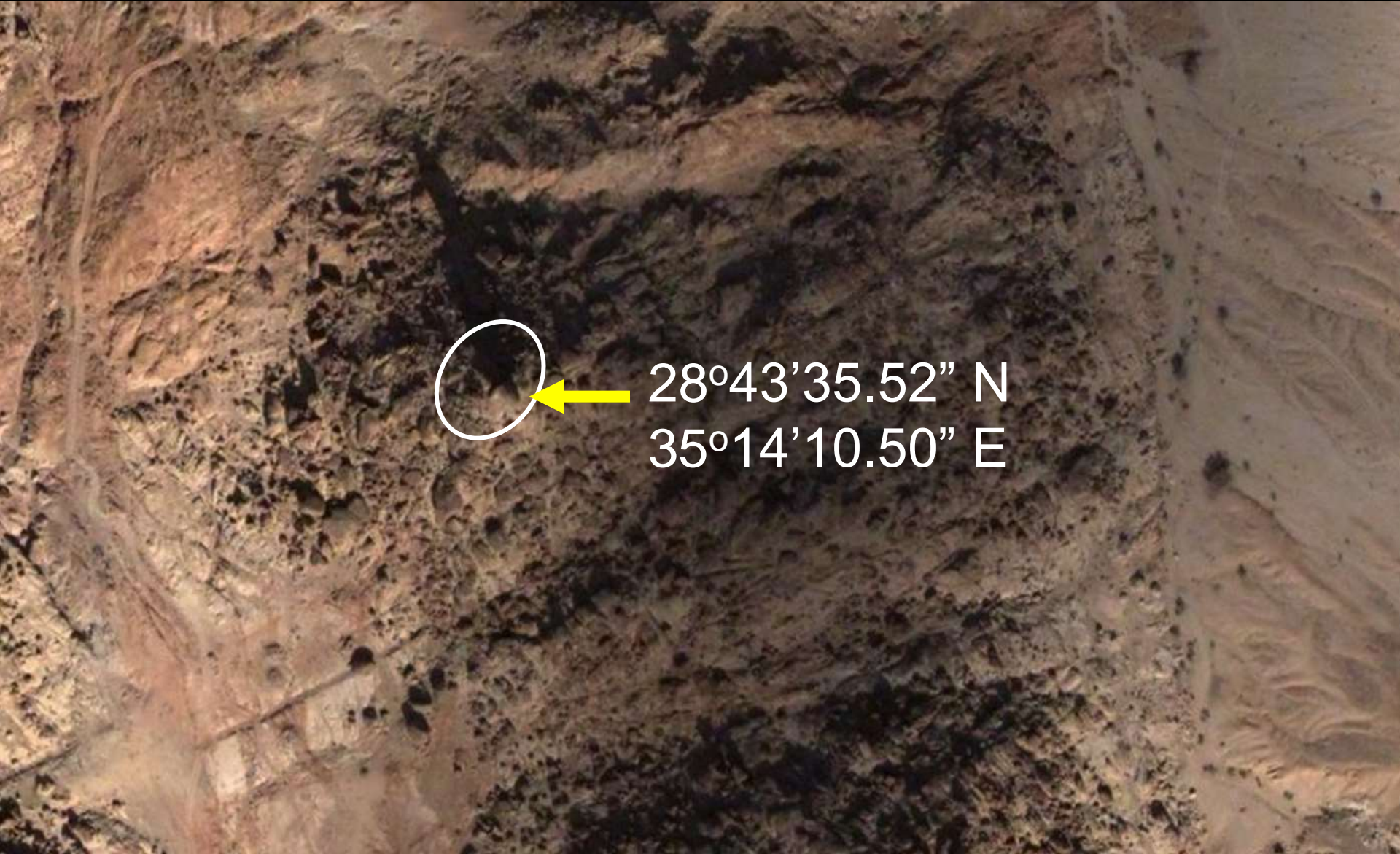
The Camp at Rephidim



The Camp at Rephidim



The Camp at Rephidim



28°43'35.52" N
35°14'10.50" E

The Camp at Rephidim



The Split Rock at Rephidim



The Split Rock at Rephidim



Water from the Rock



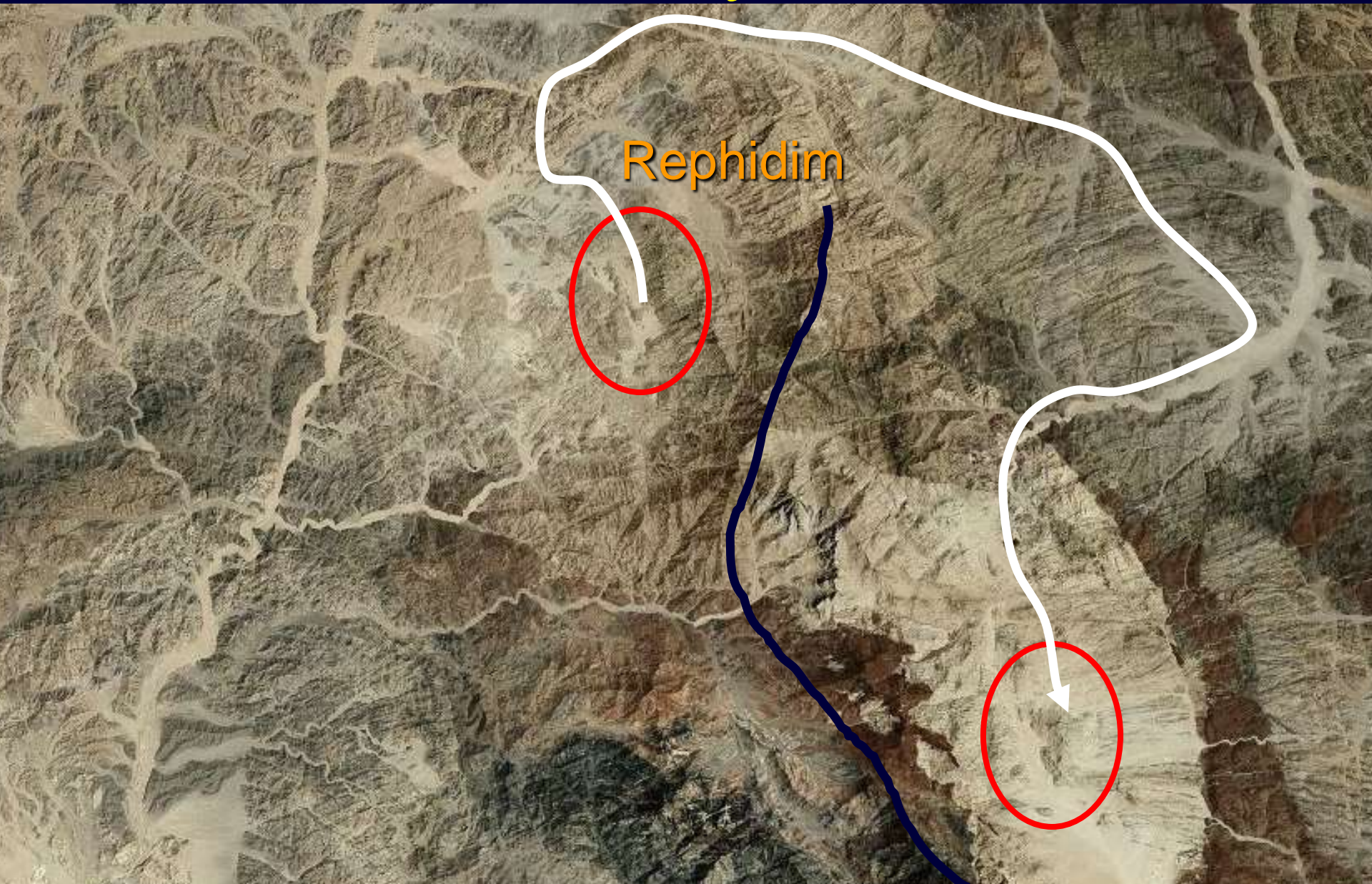
Alter At Rephidim

Located about 200 yards from the split rock



“And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovah-nissi” (Ex 17:15)

The Journey To Sinai



Rephidim

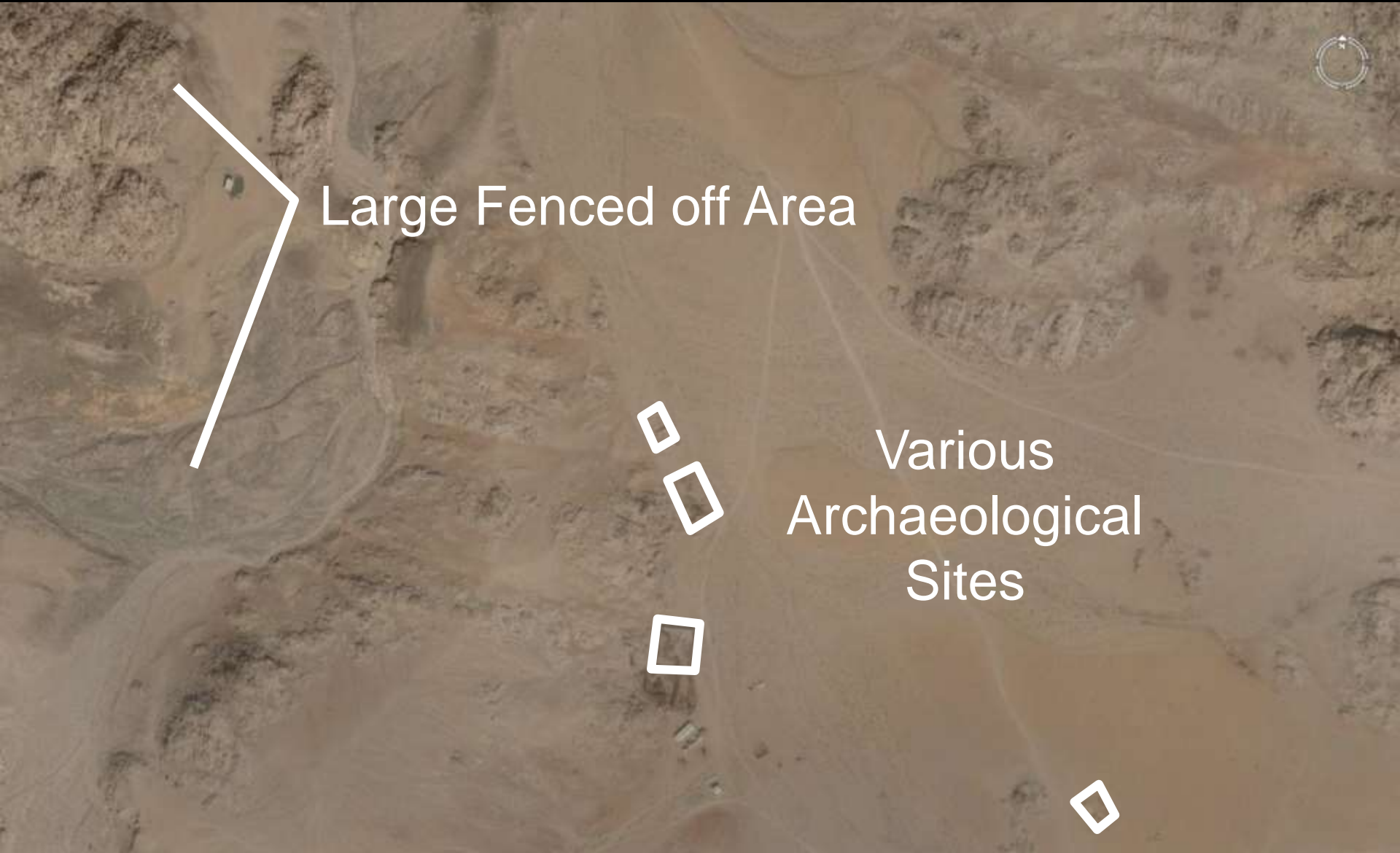
The Journey To Sinai



Arrival at Mt Sinai



Israel's Camp before Mt Sinai



Large Fenced off Area

Various
Archaeological
Sites

Israel's Camp before Mt Sinai

- Evidence of Dwelling Structures



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Water in the Wilderness?



Altar of Moses



Altar of Moses



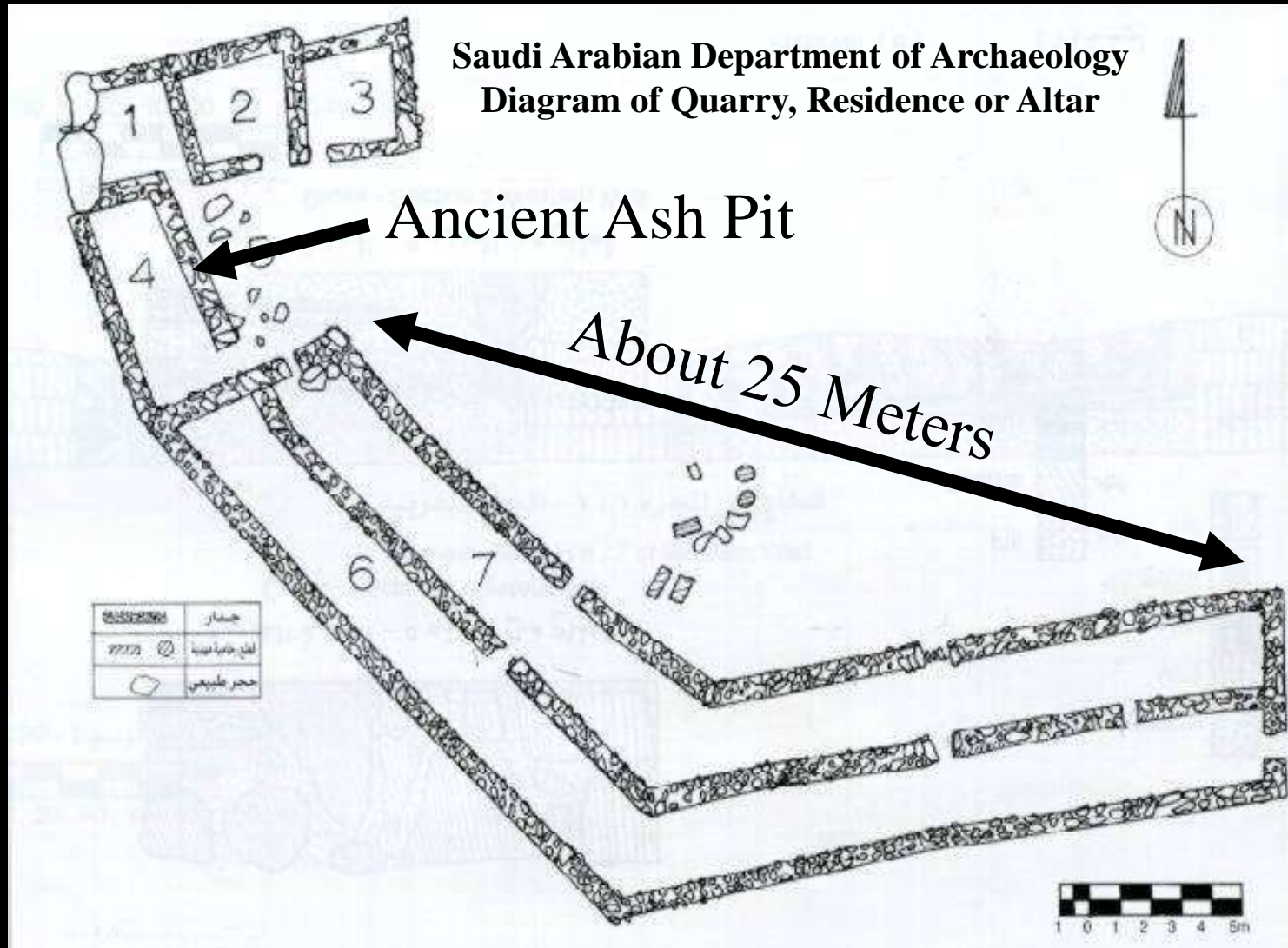
Altar of Moses



Altar of Moses



Altar of Moses



Alter & 12 Pillars

⁴ And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and **twelve pillars**, according to the twelve tribes of Israel.

Exodus 24:4

12 Pillars?



12 Pillars?



Altar of the Golden Calf



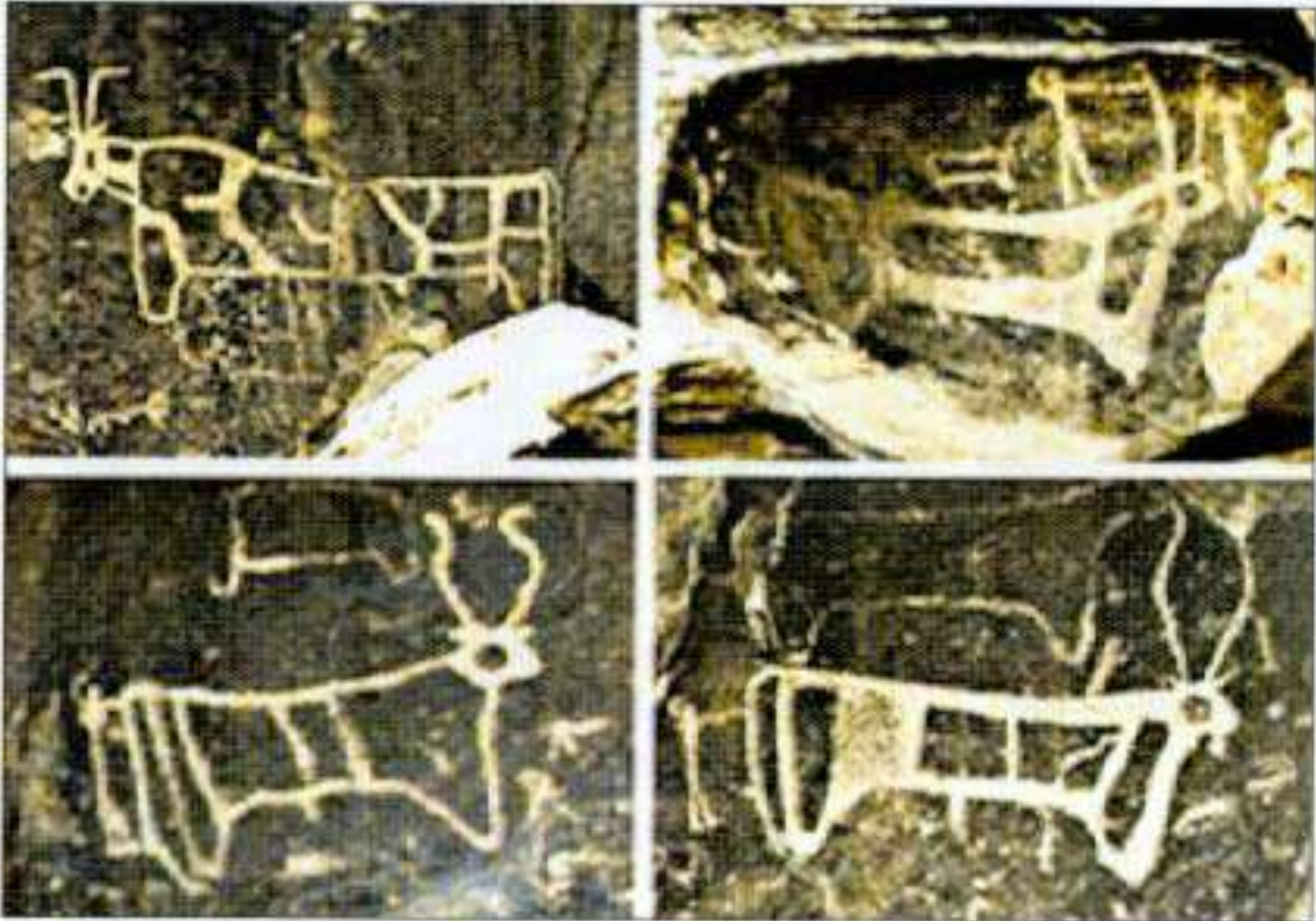
Altar of the Golden Calf



Altar of the Golden Calf



Altar of the Golden Calf



Altar of the Golden Calf

تحذير
منطقة آثار
يحظر التمدد عليها تحت طائلة العقوبات الواردة بنظام
الآثار الصادر بالمرسوم الملكي رقم ٢٦ وتاريخ ٢٣/٦/١٩٢٢م

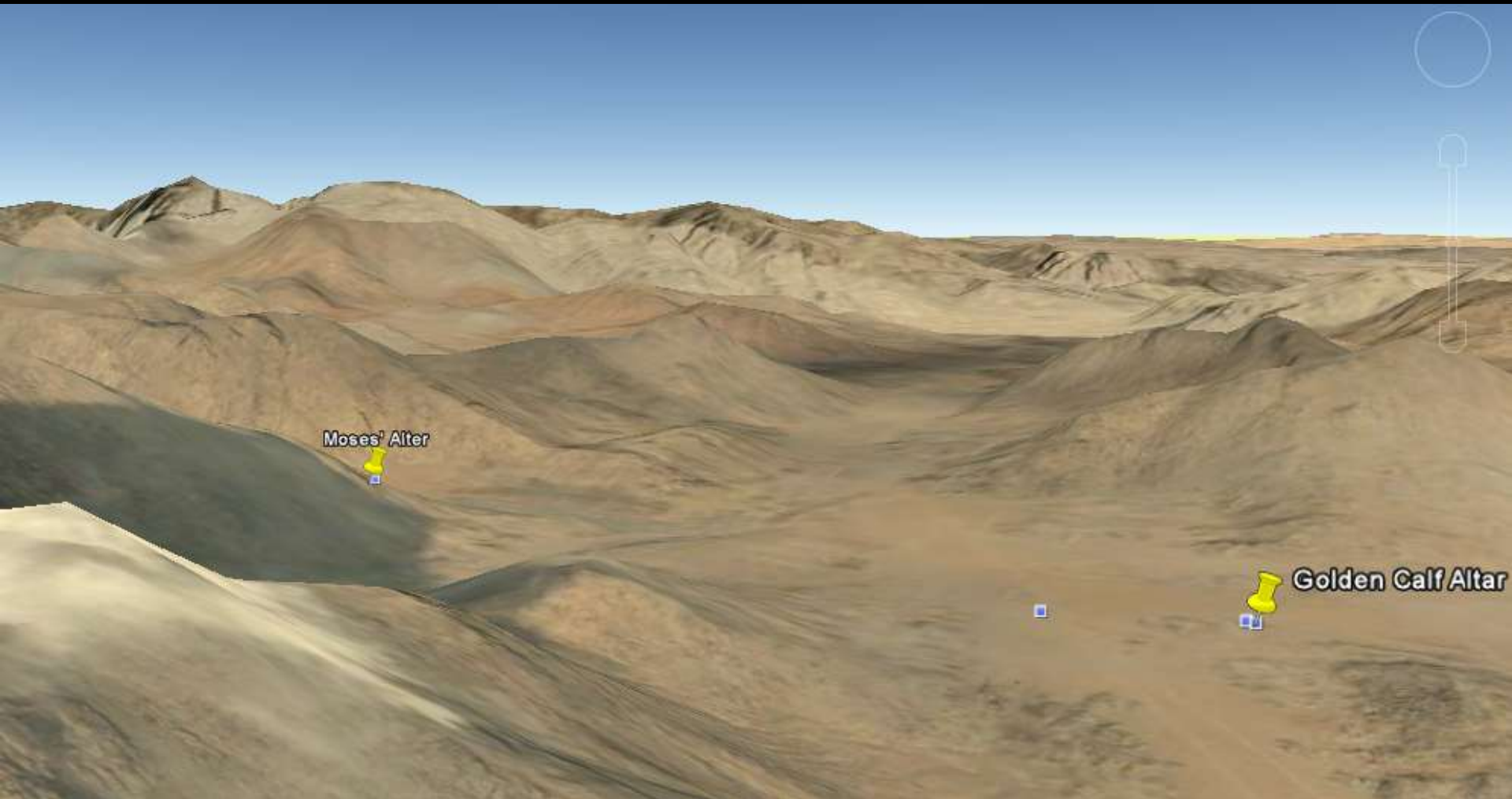
ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA
WARNING
IT IS UNLAWFUL TO TRESPASS
VIOLATORS ARE SUBJECT TO PENALTIES
STIPULATED IN THE ANTIQUITIES REGULATIONS
PASSED BY ROYAL DECREE No. 26, D. 23.6.1922

Mt Sinai



“And mount Sinai was altogether on 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” (Ex 19:18)

Empirical Evidence



Empirical Evidence



Empirical Evidence

- Split Rock in Rephadim
 - $28^{\circ}43'35.57''\text{N}$
 - $35^{\circ}14'10.56''\text{E}$
- Moses' Atar
 - $28^{\circ}35'3.63''\text{N}$
 - $35^{\circ}22'43.45''\text{E}$
- Golden Calf Atar
 - $28^{\circ}34'52.73''\text{N}$
 - $35^{\circ}23'46.10''\text{E}$

Hebrew Art?



The Lampstand



Rough Sketch?



“And thou shalt make a lampstand of pure gold: of beaten work shall the lampstand be made... And six branches shall come out of the sides of it; three branches of the candlestick out of the one side, and three branches of the candlestick out of the other side... And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount” (Ex 25:31-40)

Conclusion

- The Bible is trustworthy and true
- Just as with Wreck-It-Ralph people have been deceived into believing a lie
 - ‘there is no God..’
 - We are just the product of Evolution...
- Just as the Israelites in Egypt, mankind is being held by the power of a usurper
- But there is a Deliverer!
- His name is JESUS



calvary
chapel
portsmouth

www.calvaryportsmouth.co.uk