

~BAAL-ZEPHON (87)

(Ba'al-ze'phon) [Owner of the North or North Boundary]

- A geographic point used to define or give the situation of the camping site of the Israelites at Pihahiroth prior to their crossing the Red Sea.
- Speak to the sons of Israel, that they should turn back and encamp before Pihahiroth between Migdol and the sea in view of **Baal-zephon**. In front of it you are to encamp by the sea. (**Exodus 14:2**)
- These were the stages of the sons of Israel who went out of the land of Egypt in their armies by the hand of Moses and Aaron. (**Numbers 33:1**)
- And Moses kept recording the departure places by their stages at the order of Yehowah, and these were their stages from one departure place to another. (**Numbers 33:2**)
- And they proceeded to pull away from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month. Directly the day after the Passover the sons of Israel went out with uplifted hand before the eyes of all the Egyptians. (**Numbers 33:3**)
- All the while the Egyptians were burying those whom Yehowah had struck among them, that is, all the firstborn, and upon their gods Yehowah had executed judgments. (**Numbers 33:4**)
- So the sons of Israel pulled away from Rameses and went camping in Succoth. (**Numbers 33:5**)
- Then they pulled away from Succoth and went camping in Etham, which is on the edge of the wilderness. (**Numbers 33:6**)
- Next they pulled away from Etham and turned back toward Pihahiroth, which is in view of **Baal-zephon**, and they went camping before Migdol. (**Numbers 33:7**)
- Having left Rameses, they first camped at Succoth, then at Etham at the edge of the wilderness.

- And they proceeded to depart from Succoth and to encamp at Etham at the edge of the wilderness. (**Exodus 13:20**)
- At this point Yehowah told them to turn back and encamp before Pihahiroth between Migdol and the sea in view of **Baal-zephon**. It was here that Pharaoh's charioteers, cavalry, and military forces began to overtake them.
- Speak to the sons of Israel, that they should turn back and encamp before Pihahiroth between Migdol and the sea in view of **Baal-zephon**. In front of it you are to encamp by the sea. (**Exodus 14:2**)
- And the Egyptians went chasing after them, and all the chariot horses of Pharaoh and his cavalymen and his military forces were overtaking them while camping by the sea, by Pihahiroth in view of **Baal-zephon**. (**Exodus 14:9**)
- The location of **Baal-zephon** is uncertain. It was evidently a familiar place at that time. The major factor is, of course, the Israelites crossing of the Red Sea, the account of which shows that they went through a body of water of considerable depth. Such situation is found only when reaching as far South as the northern end of the Gulf of Suez.
- On this basis some scholars associate **Baal-zephon** with the mountains in that region. A *Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*, by Brown, Driver, and Briggs (1980, p. 128), says; near Red Sea in Egypt, probably Mount *'Ataka*.
- This mountain lies near the head of the Gulf of Suez, a short distance to the Southwest of the present city of Suez. Others suggest Jebel el Galala, some 40 kilometers (25 miles) or so farther South. Those favoring this site believe that Migdol, mentioned along with **Baal-zephon** in the accounts, was a watchtower located strategically on Jebel, or Mount *'Ataqah*.

See Also EXODUS

See Also PIHAHIROTH