

~BENE-JAAKAN (103)

(Ben'e-ja'a-kan) [Sons of Jaakan]

- A station of the Israelites on their journey through the wilderness.
- Then they pulled away from Moseroth and went camping in **Bene-jaakan**. (Numbers 33:31)
- After that they pulled away from **Bene-jaakan** and went camping in Hor-haggidgad. (Numbers 33:32)
- **Jaakan** appears to be the **Akan** of;
- These are the sons of Ezer, Bilhan and Zaavan and **Akan**. (Genesis 36:27)
- The sons of Ezer were Bilhan and Zaavan and **Akan**. The sons of Dishan were Uz and Aran. (1 Chronicles 1:42)
- Where the **Masoretic** text reads **Jaakan**. The account in the book of Numbers states that the Israelites pulled away from Moseroth and went camping in **Bene-jaakan**. After that they pulled away from **Bene-jaakan** and went camping in Hor-haggidgad.
- And the sons of Israel pulled away from **Beeroth Bene-jaakan** for Moserah. There Aaron died, and he got to be buried there, and Eleazar his son began to act as priest instead of him. (Deuteronomy 10:6)
- Reference is made to **Beeroth Bene-jaakan** in connection with Moserah, singular of Moseroth, probably indicating that **Beeroth Bene-jaakan**, meaning **Wells of the Sons of Jaakan**, is the same location as **Bene-jaakan**.
- However, the account at Deuteronomy lists the direction of Israel's travel in reverse order from the Numbers account, stating that the sons of Israel pulled away from **Beeroth Bene-jaakan** for Moserah.
- In view of the many years spent in the wilderness, it is quite possible that the Israelites passed twice through this region. As **The Pentateuch and Haftorahs** says on this text; **A probable explanation is that**

the Israelites, after journeying in a southern direction to the land of Edom, had to turn sharply to the north. (Edited by J. Hertz, London, 1972)

- They may have had to retrace their steps for a short distance and revisit some of the places they had passed through, this time in the reverse order. It is to be noted that the record of;
- And the sons of Israel pulled away from **Beeroth Bene-jaakan** for Moserah. There Aaron died, and he got to be buried there, and Eleazar his son began to act as priest instead of him. (**Deuteronomy 10:6**)
- Refers to Aaron's death immediately after referring to the station of Moserah, whereas the;
- Then they pulled away from Moseroth and went camping in **Bene-jaakan**. (**Numbers 33:31**)
- After that they pulled away from **Bene-jaakan** and went camping in Hor-haggidgad. (**Numbers 33:32**)
- Next they pulled away from Hor-haggidgad and went camping in Jotbathah. (**Numbers 33:33**)
- Later they pulled away from Jotbathah and went camping in Abronah. (**Numbers 33:34**)
- Then they pulled away from Abronah and went camping in Ezion-geber. (**Numbers 33:35**)
- After that they pulled away from Ezion-geber and went camping in the wilderness of Zin, that is to say, Kadesh. (**Numbers 33:36**)
- Later they pulled away from Kadesh and went camping in Mount Hor, on the frontier of the land of Edom. (**Numbers 33:37**)
- And Aaron the priest proceeded to go up into Mount Hor at the order of Yehowah and to die there in the fortieth year of the going out of the sons of Israel from the land of Egypt, in the fifth month, on the first of the month. (**Numbers 33:38**)
- And Aaron was a hundred and twenty-three years old at his death on Mount Hor. (**Numbers 33:39**)

- Account describes the Israelites travels to Ezion-geber and then Northwest to Kadesh before dealing with the matter of the death of Aaron. This, together with the long period of years involved, would certainly allow for a measure of backtracking, if such were the case.
- **Bene-jaakan, Beeroth Bene-jaakan**, is usually identified with a site a few miles North of Kadesh-barnea.

See Also BEEROTH

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