

~HOR 1 (155)

[Hebrew, *Hor ha-har'*, Hor the Mountain]

- The mountain near Moserah on the border of Edom where Aaron died **shortly** before Israel's entry into the Promised Land. With the assembly of Israel watching, Aaron, Moses, and Aaron's son Eleazar ascended **Mount Hor**.
- On the mountaintop Moses removed Aaron's priestly garments and clothed Eleazar with them. After this, Aaron died, and Moses and Eleazar probably buried him there.
- And the sons of Israel, the entire assembly, proceeded to pull away from Kadesh and come to **Mount Hor**. (**Numbers 20:22**)
- Then Yehowah said this to Moses and Aaron in **Mount Hor** by the border of the land of Edom. (**Numbers 20:23**)
- Aaron will be gathered to his people, for he will not enter into the land that I shall certainly give to the sons of Israel, on the ground that you men rebelled against my order respecting the waters of Meribah. (**Numbers 20:24**)
- Take Aaron and Eleazar his son and bring them up into Mount **Hor**. (**Numbers 20:25**)
- And strip Aaron of his garments, and you must clothe with them Eleazar his son, and Aaron will be gathered and must die there. (**Numbers 20:26**)
- So Moses did just as Yehowah had commanded, and before the eyes of all the assembly they went climbing **Mount Hor**. (**Numbers 20:27**)
- Then Moses stripped Aaron of his garments and clothed Eleazar his son with them, after which Aaron died there on the top of the mountain. And Moses and Eleazar came on down from the mountain. (**Numbers 20:28**)
- And all the assembly got to see that Aaron had expired, and all the house of Israel continued weeping for Aaron thirty days. (**Numbers 20:29**)

- Then die on the mountain into which you are going up, and be gathered to your people, just as Aaron your brother died on **Mount Hor** and got to be gathered to his people. (**Deuteronomy 32:50**)
- 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**)
- According to the historian Josephus, **Mount Hor** was one of the high mountains encompassing the Edomite city of Petra. [*Jewish Antiquities, IV, 82,83, iv, 7*]
- Tradition has linked it with Jebel Harun, meaning **Mountain of Aaron**, a twin-topped, red sandstone mountain having an elevation of some 1,460 meters (4,790 feet) and situated less than 5 kilometers (3 miles) West-Southwest of Petra.
- However, Jebel Harun does not seem to fit the Biblical description of Israel's coming from Kadesh, Kadesh-barnea, to **Mount Hor**, on the frontier of the land of Edom.
- 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**)
- In time they pulled away from **Mount Hor** and went camping in Zalmonah. (**Numbers 33:41**)
- Jebel Harun is not on Edom's border, but within that country. Thus for Israel to have reached this traditional site would have meant trespassing on Edom's territory. But this could not have occurred, since the Israelites had previously been denied passage through Edom.
- Subsequently Moses sent messengers from Kadesh to the king of

Edom; This is what your brother Israel has said; You yourself well know all the hardship that has overtaken us. (**Numbers 20:14**)

- And our fathers proceeded to go down to Egypt, and we continued to dwell in Egypt many days, and the Egyptians began doing harm to us and our fathers. (**Numbers 20:15**)
- Finally we cried out to Yehowah and he heard our voice and sent an angel and brought us out of Egypt, and here we are in Kadesh, a city at the extremity of your territory. (**Numbers 20:16**)
- Let us pass, please, through your land. We shall not pass through a field or a vineyard, and we shall not drink the water of a well. On the kings road we shall march. We shall not bend toward the right or the left, until we shall pass through your territory. (**Numbers 20:17**)
- However, Edom said to him; You must not pass through me, for fear I may come out with the sword to meet you. (**Numbers 20:18**)
- In turn the sons of Israel said to him; By the highway we shall go up, and if I and my livestock should drink your water, I shall also certainly give the value of it. I want nothing more than to pass through on my feet. (**Numbers 20:19**)
- Still he said; You must not pass through. With that Edom came on out to encounter him with a great many people and a strong hand. (**Numbers 20:20**)
- So Edom refused to grant Israel to pass through his territory. Hence Israel turned away from him. (**Numbers 20:21**)
- And the sons of Israel, the entire assembly, proceeded to pull away from Kadesh and come to **Mount Hor**. (**Numbers 20:22**)
- Do not engage in strife with them, because I shall not give you of their land so much as the width of the sole of the foot, because I have given Mount Seir to Esau as a holding. (**Deuteronomy 2:5**)
- What food you may buy from them for money, you must eat, and also what water you may purchase from them for money, you must drink. (**Deuteronomy 2:6**)

- **For Yehowah your God has blessed you in every deed of your hand. He well knows of your walking through this great wilderness. These forty years Yehowah your God has been with you. You have not lacked a thing. (Deuteronomy 2:7)**
- **So we passed on away from our brothers, the sons of Esau, who are dwelling in Seir, from the way of the Arabah, from Elath and from Ezion-geber. Next we turned and passed on by the way of the wilderness of Moab. (Deuteronomy 2:8)**
- **Hence, many scholars favor as a possible identification the isolated, steep-sided white chalk **Jebel Madurah, Har Zin, Hor Ha Har**, a mountain about 40 kilometers (25 miles) Southwest of the Dead Sea, and about 60 kilometers (37 miles) East-Northeast of Kadesh.**