

~PARAN (498)
(Pa'ran)

- **The greater part of that vast wilderness region in which the nation of Israel wandered about for some 38 years before entering the Promised Land.**
- **Now it came about that in the second year, in the second month, on the twentieth day in the month, the cloud lifted itself from over the tabernacle of the Testimony. (Numbers 10:11)**
- **And the sons of Israel began to pull away in the manner of their departures from the wilderness of Sinai, and the cloud proceeded to reside in the wilderness of **Paran**. (Numbers 10:12)**
- **And the days that we walked from Kadesh-barnea until we crossed the torrent valley of Zered were thirty-eight years, until all the generation of the men of war had come to their end from the midst of the camp, just as Yehowah had sworn to them. (Deuteronomy 2:14)**
- **Having no fixed boundaries, **Paran** occupied the central and northeastern portion of the Sinai Peninsula. On the East was that part of the Rift Valley known as the Arabah and also the Gulf of `Aqaba, on the South the Wilderness of Sinai, on the Southwest the Wilderness of Sin, and on the Northwest and North the Wildernesses of Etham and Shur. Toward the Dead Sea to theNortheast, **Paran** blended with, and perhaps included, the Wilderness of Zin and perhaps even reached up to Beer-sheba near the mountains of Judah.**
- **In time Samuel died, and all Israel proceeded to collect together and bewail him and bury him at his house in Ramah. Then David rose up and went down to the wilderness of **Paran**. (1 Samuel 25:1)**
- **Now there was a man in Maon, and his work was in Carmel. And the man was very great, and he had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats, and he came to be engaged in shearing his sheep at Carmel. (1 Samuel 25:2)**

- For the most part **Paran** was a rough mountainous region of limestone, plateaulike in places, the central section being between 600 and 750 meters (2,000 to 2,500 feet) high.
- And he proceeded to say; Yehowah, from Sinai he came and he flashed forth from Seir upon them. He beamed forth from the mountainous region of **Paran**, and with him were holy myriads, at his right hand warriors belonging to them. (**Deuteronomy 33:2**)
- God himself proceeded to come from Teman, even a Holy One from Mount Paran. His dignity covered the heavens, and with his praise the earth became filled. (**Habakkuk 3:3**)
- It was also included as part of that great and fear-inspiring wilderness referred to at;
- These are the words that Moses spoke to all Israel in the region of the Jordan in the wilderness, on the desert plains in front of Suph, between **Paran** and Tophel and Laban and Hazeroth and Dizahab. (**Deuteronomy 1:1**)
- Then we pulled away from Horeb and went marching through all that great and fear-inspiring wilderness, which you have seen, by the way of the mountainous region of the Amorites, just as Yehowah our God had commanded us, and we eventually came to Kadesh-barnea. (**Deuteronomy 1:19**)
- Referred to at;
- Who caused you to walk through the great and fear-inspiring wilderness, with poisonous serpents and scorpions and with thirsty ground that has no water, who brought forth water for you out of the flinty rock. (**Deuteronomy 8:15**)
- Except during the brief rainy seasons, the gravel face of this rude country is devoid of green vegetation, springs are few and far between.
- These factors emphasize how completely the nation of Israel, numbering perhaps 3,000,000 persons, was dependent upon Yehowah for his miraculous provision of food and water during the many years they wandered in the wilderness.
- Later they departed from Elim, and the entire assembly of the sons of Israel finally came to the wilderness of Sin, which is

between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their coming out of the land of Egypt. ([Exodus 16:1](#))

- Then Yehowah said to Moses; Here I am raining down bread for you from the heavens, and the people must go out and pick up each his amount day for day, in order, that I may put them to the test as to whether they will walk in my Law or not. ([Exodus 16:4](#))
- I have heard the murmurings of the sons of Israel. Speak to them, saying; Between the two evenings you will eat meat and in the morning you will be satisfied with bread, and you will certainly know that I am Yehowah your God. ([Exodus 16:12](#))
- Accordingly it occurred that in the evening the quails began to come up and cover the camp, and in the morning there had developed a layer of dew round about the camp. ([Exodus 16:13](#))
- In time the layer of dew evaporated and here upon the surface of the wilderness there was a fine flaky thing, fine like hoarfrost upon the earth. ([Exodus 16:14](#))
- When the sons of Israel got to see it, they began to say to one another; What is it? For they did not know what it was. Hence Moses said to them; It is the bread that Yehowah has given you for food. ([Exodus 16:15](#))
- And the sons of Israel ate the manna forty years, until their coming to a land inhabited. The manna was what they ate until their coming to the frontier of the land of Canaan. ([Exodus 16:35](#))
- 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](#))
- Who caused you to walk through the great and fear-inspiring wilderness, with poisonous serpents and scorpions and with thirsty ground that has no water, who brought forth water for you out of the flinty rock. ([Deuteronomy 8:15](#))
- Who fed you with manna in the wilderness, which your fathers had not known, in order to humble you and in order to put you to the test so as to do you good in your afterdays. ([Deuteronomy](#)

8:16)

- **Apparently the first reference to this Wilderness of **Paran** was in the days of Lot when Chedorlaomer and his allies defeated a number of cities in the vicinities of the Dead Sea and Edom as far South as El-paran.**
- **Twelve years they had served Chedorlaomer, but the thirteenth year they rebelled. (**Genesis 14:4**)**
- **And in the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer came, and also the kings who were with him, and they inflicted defeats on the Rephaim in Ashterothkarnaim, and the Zuzim in Ham, and the Emim in Shavehkiriathaim. (**Genesis 14:5**)**
- **And the Horites in their mountain of Seir, down to El**paran**, which is at the wilderness. (**Genesis 14:6**)**
- **Later, after Ishmael was dismissed by his father Abraham, he settled down in the Wilderness of **Paran** and occupied himself mainly with the hunt.**
- **And God continued to be with the boy, and he kept growing and dwelling in the wilderness, and he became an archer. (**Genesis 21:20**)**
- **And he took up dwelling in the wilderness of **Paran**, and his mother proceeded to take a wife for him from the land of Egypt. (**Genesis 21:21**)**
- **However, the principal references to **Paran** are in connection with the wanderings of the Israelites. After leaving Mount Sinai, Israel camped at Taberah and Kibroth-hattaavah, then at Hazeroth on the southern edge of **Paran**, before moving North toward Kadesh-barnea.**
- **And the sons of Israel began to pull away in the manner of their departures from the wilderness of Sinai, and the cloud proceeded to reside in the wilderness of **Paran**. (**Numbers 10:12**)**
- **So they went marching from the mountain of Yehowah for a journey of three days, and the ark of Yehowah's covenant was marching before them for a journey of three days to search out a resting-place for them. (**Numbers 10:33**)**

- And the name of that place got to be called Taberah, because a fire of Yehowah had blazed against them. (**Numbers 11:3**)
- The name of that place came to be called Kibroth-hattaavah, because there they buried the people who showed selfish craving. (**Numbers 11:34**)
- From Kibroth-hattaavah the people pulled away for Hazeroth, and they continued in Hazeroth. (**Numbers 11:35**)
- And afterward the people pulled away from Hazeroth and took up camping in the wilderness of **Paran**. (**Numbers 12:16**)
- Not long after entering **Paran**, the 12 spies were sent out to investigate Canaan.
- So Moses sent them out from the wilderness of **Paran** at the order of Yehowah. All the men were heads of the sons of Israel. (**Numbers 13:3**)
- So they walked and came to Moses and Aaron and all the assembly of the sons of Israel in the wilderness of **Paran**, at Kadesh. And they came bringing back word to them and all the assembly and showing them the fruitage of the land. (**Numbers 13:26**)
- The bad report given by the majority upon their return resulted in Yehowah's decree that the nation prolong their stay in the wilderness until all the registered ones who had murmured against God had died off.
- But the men who went up with him said; We are not able to go up against the people, because they are stronger than we are. (**Numbers 13:31**)
- And they kept on bringing forth to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying; The land, which we passed through to spy it out, is a land that eats up its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in the midst of it are men of extraordinary size. (**Numbers 13:32**)
- And there we saw the Nephilim, the sons of Anak, who are from the Nephilim, so that we became in our own eyes like grasshoppers, and the same way we became in their eyes.

(Numbers 13:33)

- Then Yehowah said; I do forgive according to your word.
(Numbers 14:20)
- And, on the other hand, as I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of Yehowah. **(Numbers 14:21)**
- But all the men who have been seeing my glory and my signs that I have performed in Egypt and in the wilderness and yet kept testing me these ten times, and have not listened to my voice. **(Numbers 14:22)**
- Will never see the land about which I swore to their fathers, yes, all those treating me without respect will not see it. **(Numbers 14:23)**
- As for my servant Caleb, because a different spirit has proved to be with him and he kept following wholly after me, I shall certainly bring him into the land where he has gone, and his offspring will take possession of it. **(Numbers 14:24)**
- While the Amalekites and the Canaanites are dwelling in the low plain, you people make a turn tomorrow and pull away to march to the wilderness by way of the Red Sea. **(Numbers 14:25)**
- And Yehowah went on to speak to Moses and Aaron, saying;
(Numbers 14:26)
- How long will this evil assembly have this murmuring that they are carrying on against me? I have heard the murmurings of the sons of Israel that they are murmuring against me. **(Numbers 14:27)**
- Say to them; As I live, is the utterance of Yehowah; If I shall not do to you just that way as you have spoken in my ears! **(Numbers 14:28)**
- In this wilderness your carcasses will fall, yes, all your registered ones of all your number from twenty years old upward, you who have murmured against me. **(Numbers 14:29)**
- As for you, you will not enter into the land in which I lifted up my hand in oath to reside with you, except Caleb the son of

Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun. (Numbers 14:30)

- **And your little ones who you said would become plunder, these also I shall certainly bring in, and they will indeed know the land that you have rejected. (Numbers 14:31)**
- **But the carcasses of you yourselves will fall in this wilderness. (Numbers 14:32)**
- **And your sons will become shepherds in the wilderness forty years, and they will have to answer for your acts of fornication, until your carcasses come to their end in the wilderness. (Numbers 14:33)**
- **By the number of the days that you spied out the land, forty days, a day for a year, a day for a year, you will answer for your errors forty years, as you must know what my being estranged means. (Numbers 14:34)**
- **During that 40 years, by far the majority of Israel's campsites, from Egypt to the Promised Land, were in **Paran**.**
- **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)**
- **After that they pulled away from Pihahiroth and went passing through the midst of the sea to the wilderness and kept marching a three-day journey in the wilderness of Etham and took up camping at Marah. (Numbers 33:8)**
- **Then they pulled away from Marah and came to Elim. Now in Elim there were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees. So they camped there. (Numbers 33:9)**
- **Next they pulled away from Elim and went camping by the Red Sea. (Numbers 33:10)**
- **After that they pulled away from the Red Sea and took up camping in the wilderness of Sin. (Numbers 33:11)**
- **Then they pulled away from the wilderness of Sin and went camping at Dophkah. (Numbers 33:12)**
- **Later they pulled away from Dophkah and went camping at Alush. (Numbers 33:13)**
- **They next pulled away from Alush and went camping in Rephidim. And there proved to be no water there for the people to drink. (Numbers 33:14)**
- **After that they pulled away from Rephidim and went camping in the wilderness of Sinai. (Numbers 33:15)**
- **Subsequently they pulled away from the wilderness of Sinai and went camping at Kibroth-hattaavah. (Numbers 33:16)**
- **Then they pulled away from Kibroth-hattaavah and went camping in Hazeroth. (Numbers 33:17)**
- **After that they pulled away from Hazeroth and went camping in Rithmah. (Numbers 33:18)**
- **Next they pulled away from Rithmah and took up camping in Rimmon-perez. (Numbers 33:19)**

- Then they pulled away from Rimmon-perez and went camping in Libnah. (**Numbers 33:20**)
- Later they pulled away from Libnah and went camping in Rissah. (**Numbers 33:21**)
- Next they pulled away from Rissah and went camping in Kehelathah. (**Numbers 33:22**)
- Then they pulled away from Kehelathah and went camping in Mount Shepher. (**Numbers 33:23**)
- After that they pulled away from Mount Shepher and went camping in Haradah. (**Numbers 33:24**)
- Then they pulled away from Haradah and went camping in Makheloth. (**Numbers 33:25**)
- Next they pulled away from Makheloth and went camping in Tahath. (**Numbers 33:26**)
- After that they pulled away from Tahath and went camping in Terah. (**Numbers 33:27**)
- Then they pulled away from Terah and went camping in Mithkah. (**Numbers 33:28**)
- Later they pulled away from Mithkah and went camping in Hashmonah. (**Numbers 33:29**)
- Next they pulled away from Hashmonah and went camping in Moseroth. (**Numbers 33:30**)
- 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)**
- **Now the Canaanite, the king of Arad, as he was dwelling in the Negeb, in the land of Canaan, got to hear about the coming of the sons of Israel. (Numbers 33:40)**
- **In time they pulled away from Mount Hor and went camping in Zalmonah. (Numbers 33:41)**
- **After that they pulled away from Zalmonah and went camping in Punon. (Numbers 33:42)**
- **Next they pulled away from Punon and went camping in Oboth. (Numbers 33:43)**
- **Then they pulled away from Oboth and went camping in Iye-abarim on the border of Moab. (Numbers 33:44)**
- **Later they pulled away from Iyim and went camping in Dibon-gad. (Numbers 33:45)**
- **After that they pulled away from Dibon-gad and went camping in Almon-diblathaim. (Numbers 33:46)**
- **Then they pulled away from Almon-diblathaim and went camping in the mountains of Abarim before Nebo. (Numbers 33:47)**

- Finally they pulled away from the mountains of Abarim and took up camping on the desert plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho. (**Numbers 33:48**)
- And they continued camping by the Jordan from Beth-jeshimoth to Abel-shittim on the desert plains of Moab. (**Numbers 33:49**)
- According to the **Greek Septuagint**, David went into the Wilderness of Maon following the death and burial of Samuel. However, the **Masoretic text**, **Syriac Peshitta**, and **Latin Vulgate** say he went into the Wilderness of **Paran**.
- In time Samuel died, and all Israel proceeded to collect together and bewail him and bury him at his house in Ramah. Then David rose up and went down to the wilderness of **Paran**. (**1 Samuel 25:1**)
- When David became king and made war on Edom, the young Edomite prince Hadad, together with some of his fathers servants, made his escape to Egypt. On the way down they were joined by certain men of **Paran** as they passed through that country.
- And it came about when David struck down Edom, when Joab the chief of the army came up to bury those slain, that he tried to strike down every male in Edom. (**1 Kings 11:15**)
- For it was six months that Joab and all Israel dwelt there until he had cut off every male in Edom. (**1 Kings 11:16**)
- And Hadad went running away, he and some Edomite men of the servants of his father with him, to come into Egypt, while Hadad was a young boy. (**1 Kings 11:17**)
- So they rose up out of Midian and came into **Paran** and took men with them from Paran and came into Egypt to Pharaoh the king of Egypt, who then gave him a house. Also, bread he assigned to him, and land he gave him. (**1 Kings 11:18**)