

THE SEASONS OF THE CHRISTIAN CALENDAR

Advent: Anticipation

Christmas: Incarnation

Epiphany: Revelation

Lent: Crucifixion

Easter: Resurrection

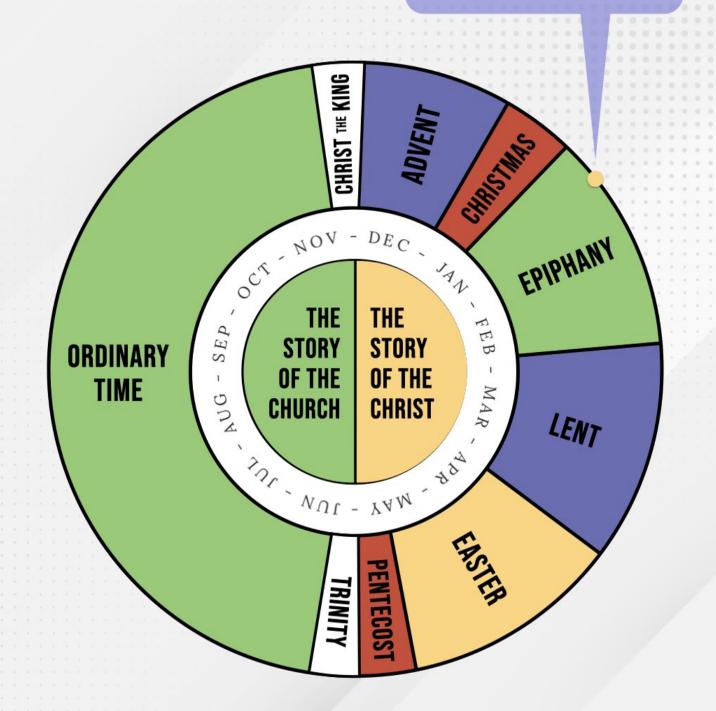
Pentecost: Ascension

Trinity: Magnification

Ordinary Time: Mission

Christ the King: Conclusion

WE ARE HERE



"The feast of Epiphany is the great theophany—God revealed to humanity. It is not only the revelation of Christ to the world but also the revelation of the world's true nature in Christ. In this light, the world is not secular; it is God's creation, and Christ comes to redeem it."

Fr. Alexander Schmemann, For the Life of the World



THE VALLEY of ESHKOL

Numbers 13–14

[17] When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, "Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. [18] See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. [19] What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified?

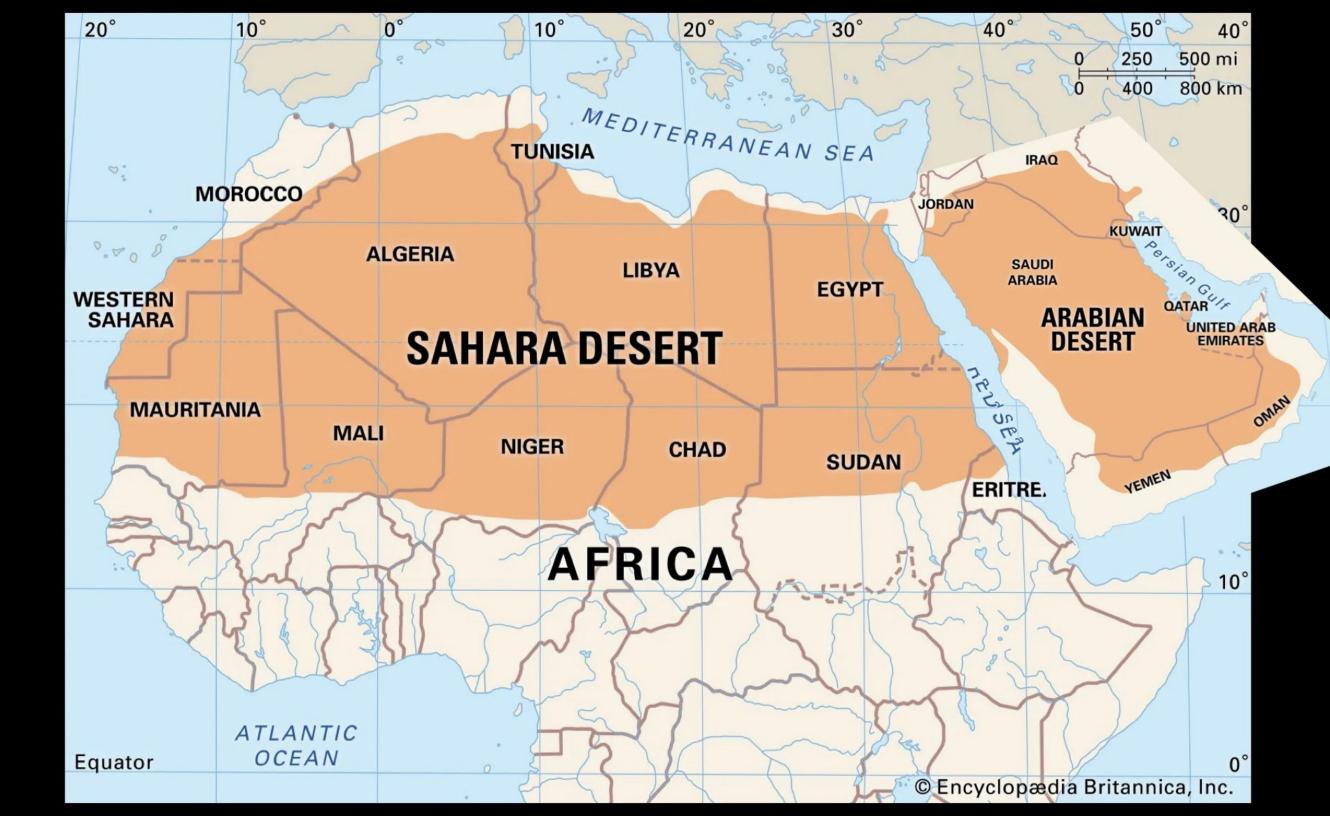
[20] How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees in it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land." (It was the season for the first ripe grapes.) [21] So they went up and explored the land from the Desert of Zin as far as Rehob, toward Lebo Hamath.

[22] They went up through the Negev and came to Hebron, where Ahiman, Sheshai and Talmai, the descendants of Anak, lived. (Hebron had been built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) [23] When they reached the Valley of Eshkol, they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes.

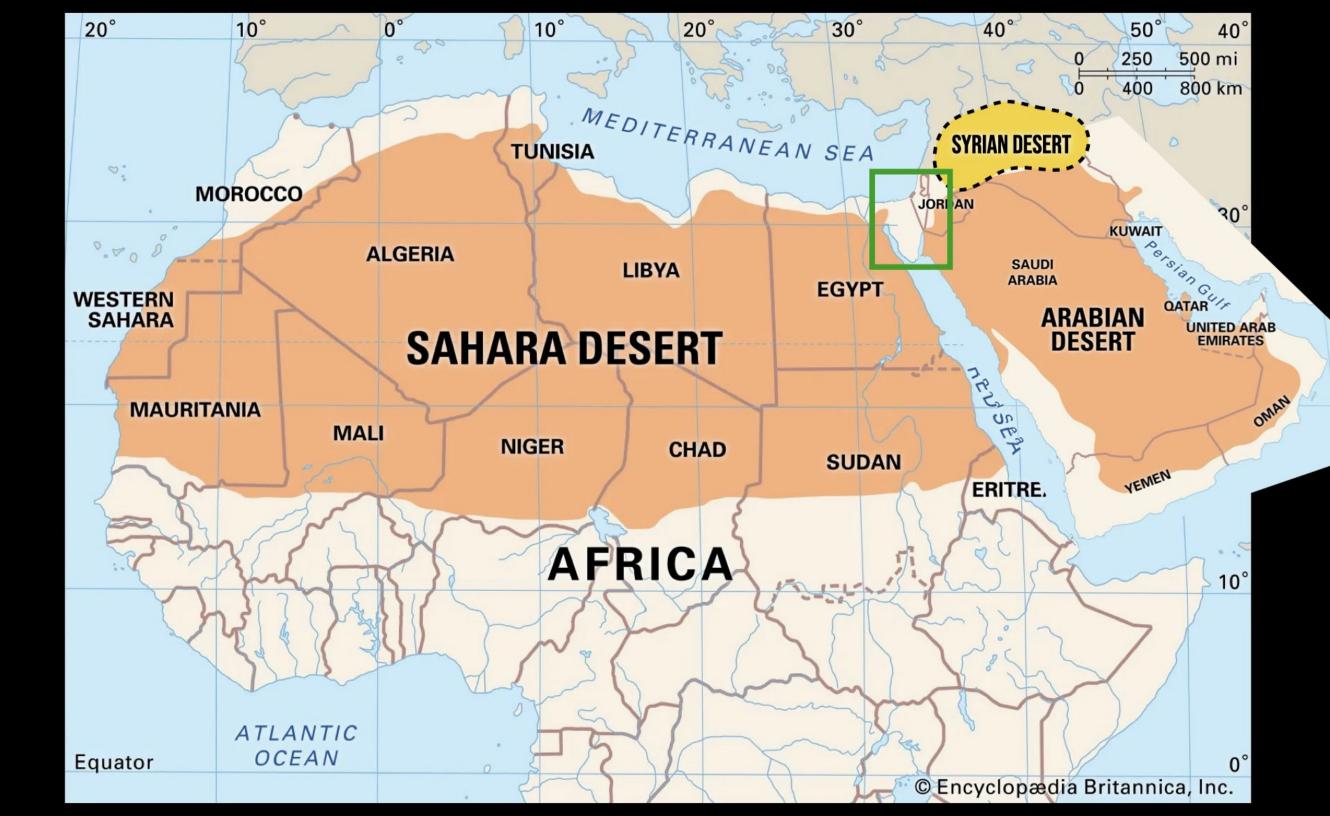
Two of them carried it on a pole between them, along with some pomegranates and figs. ^[24] That place was called the Valley of Eshkol because of the cluster of grapes the Israelites cut off there. ^[25] At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land.

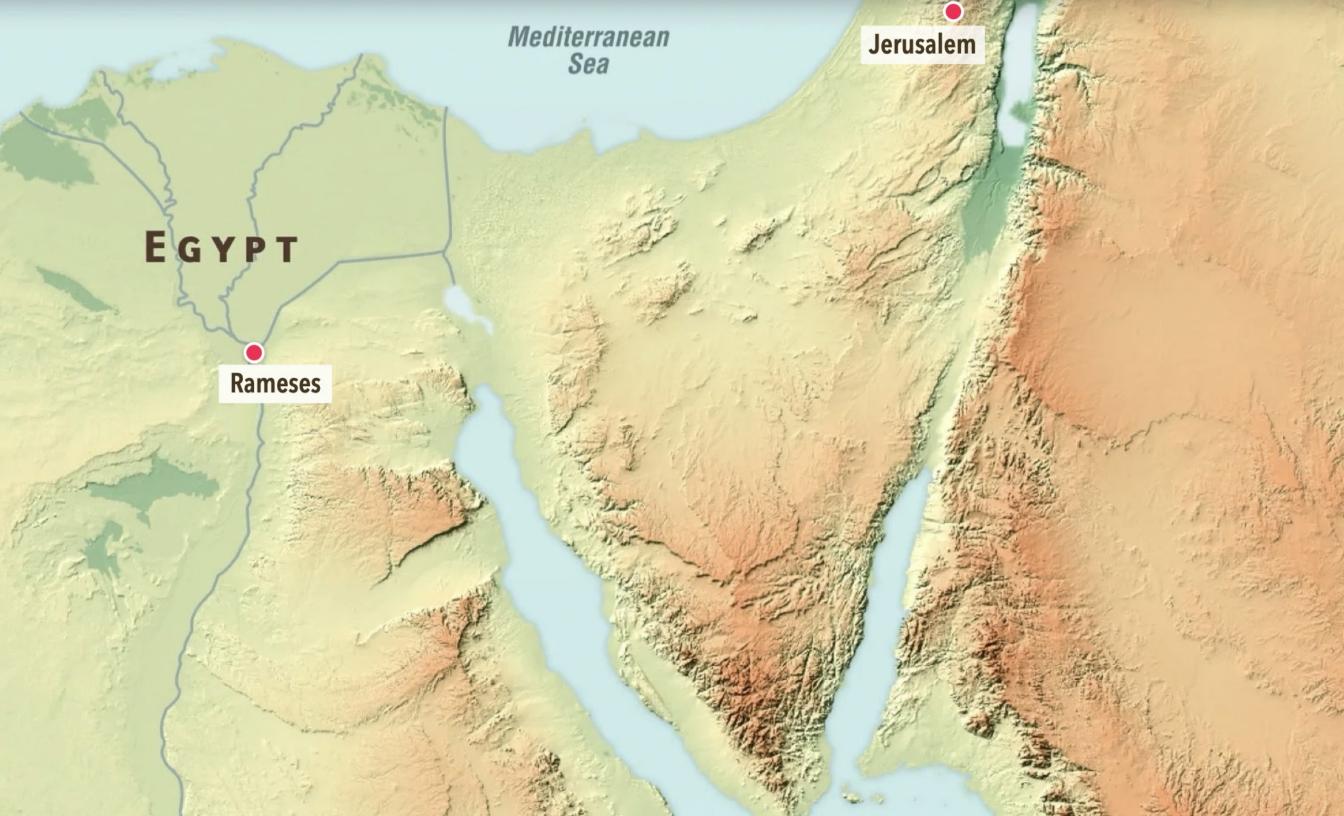


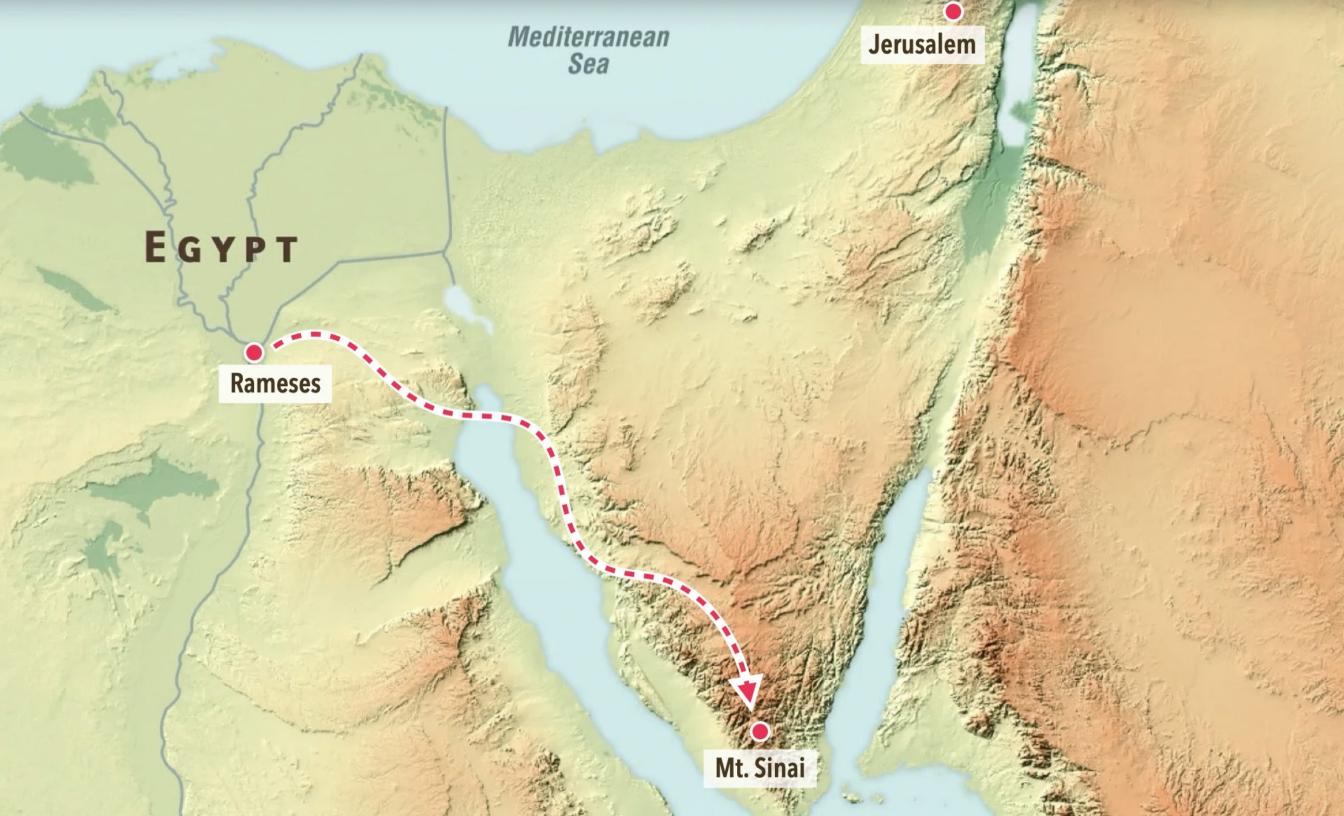


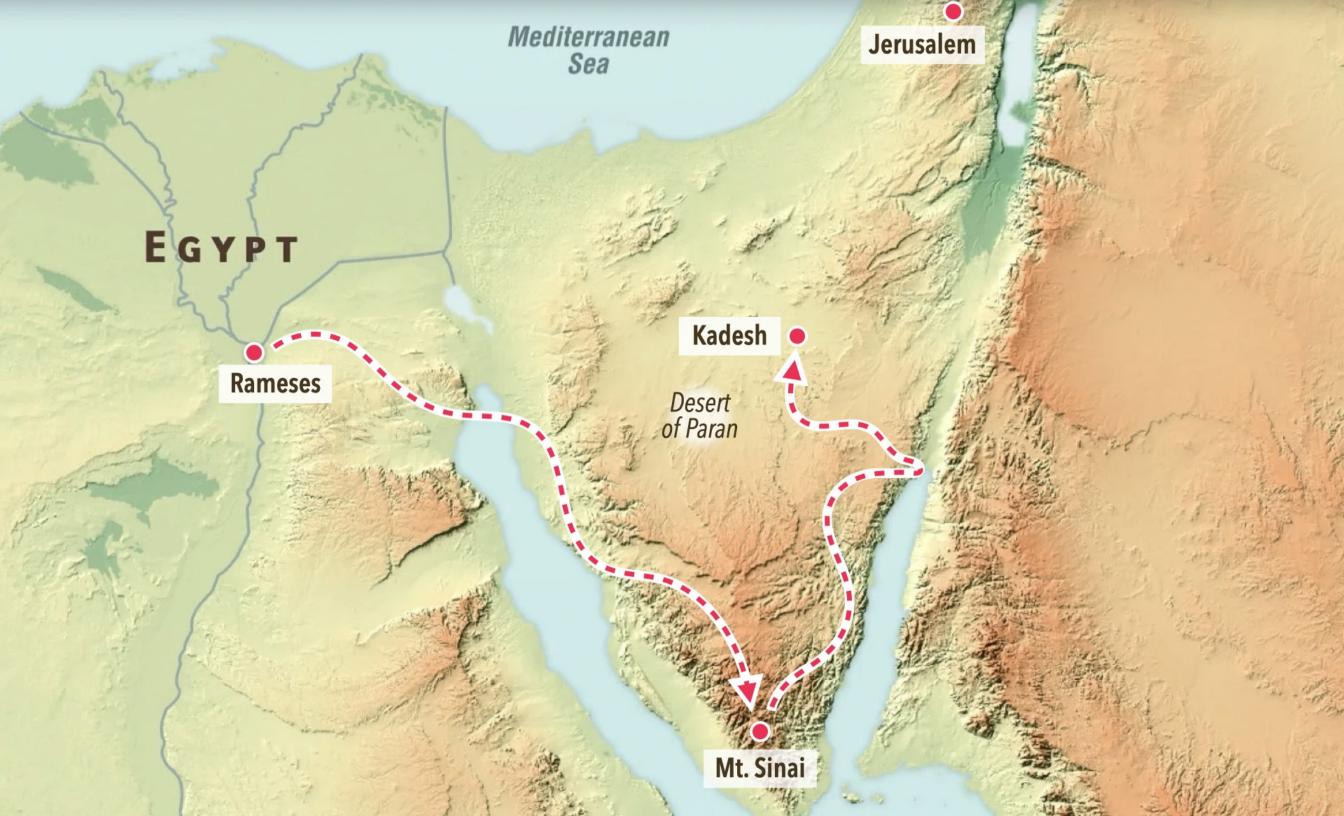


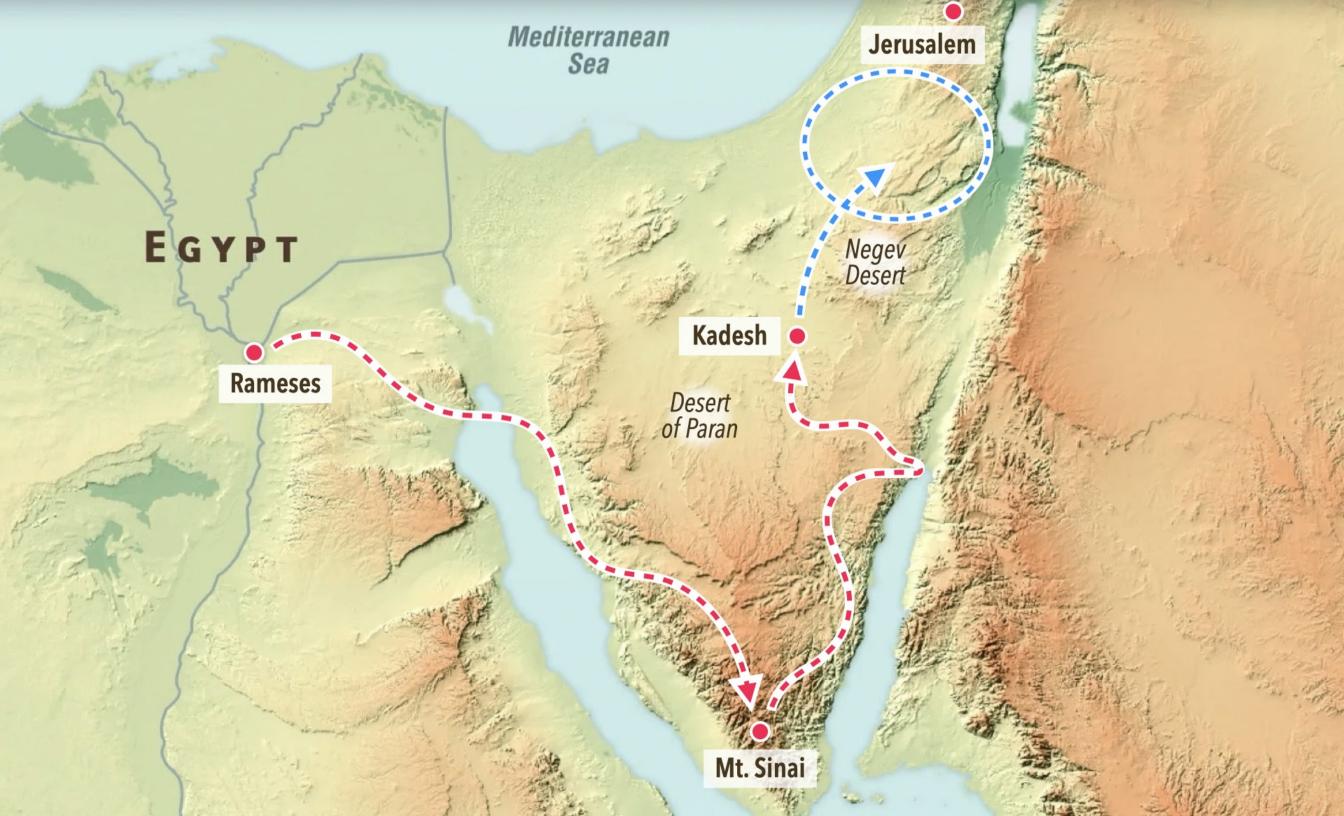


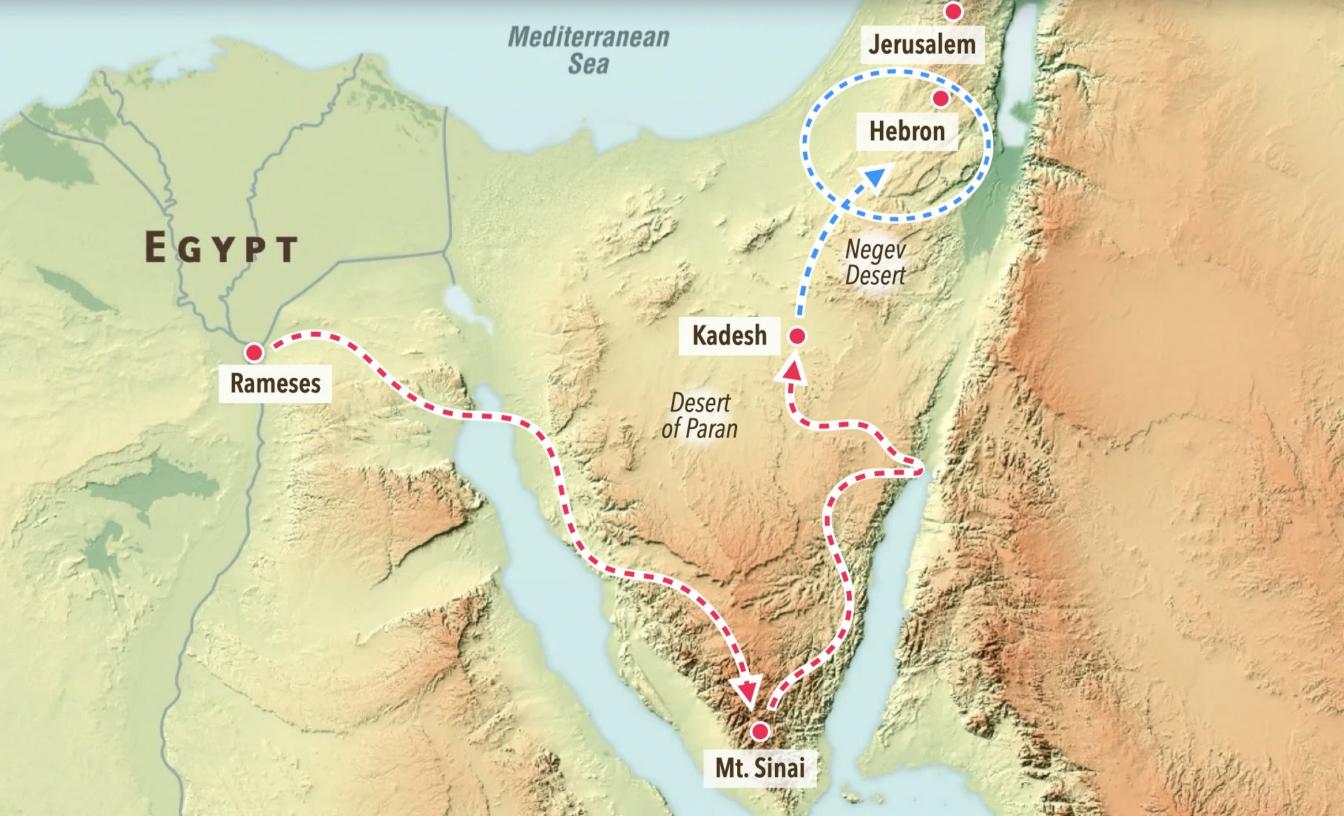


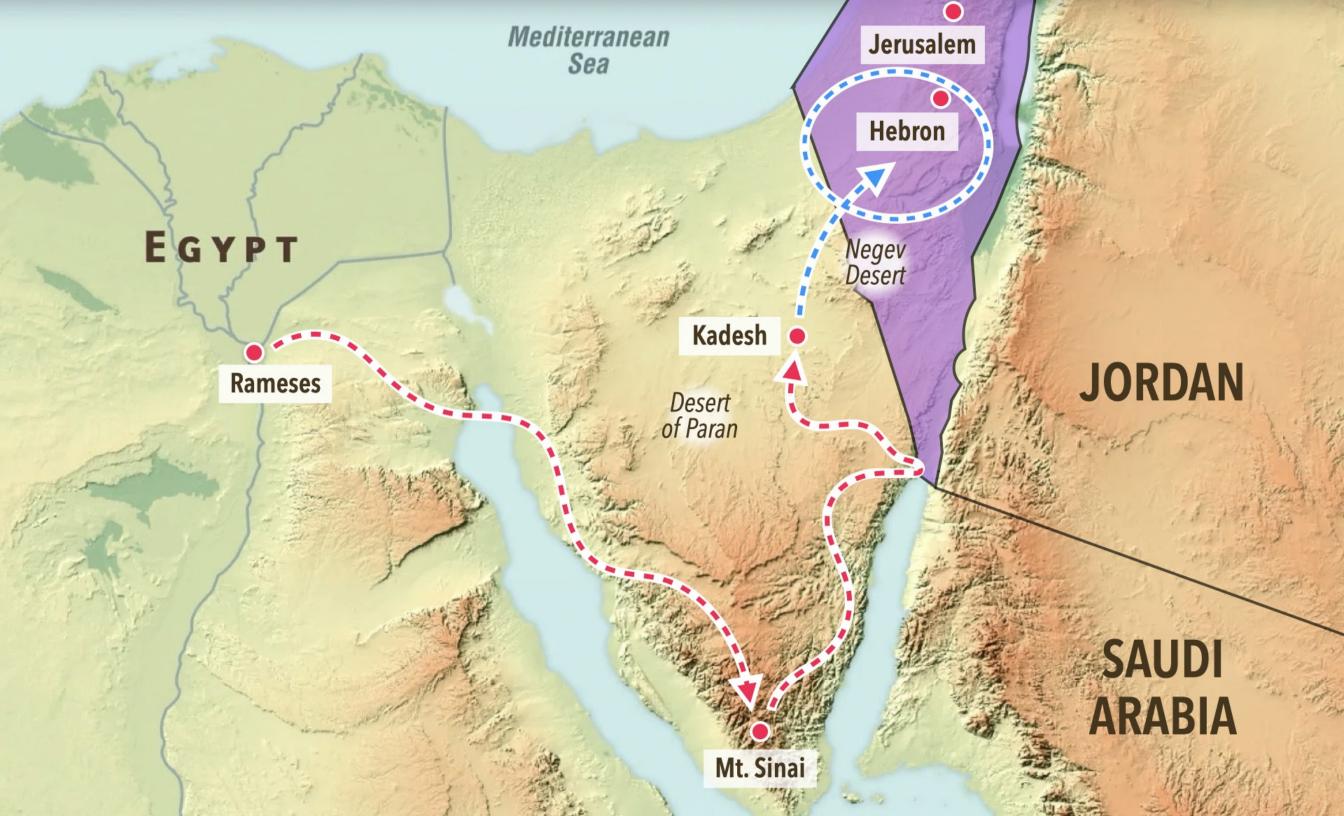


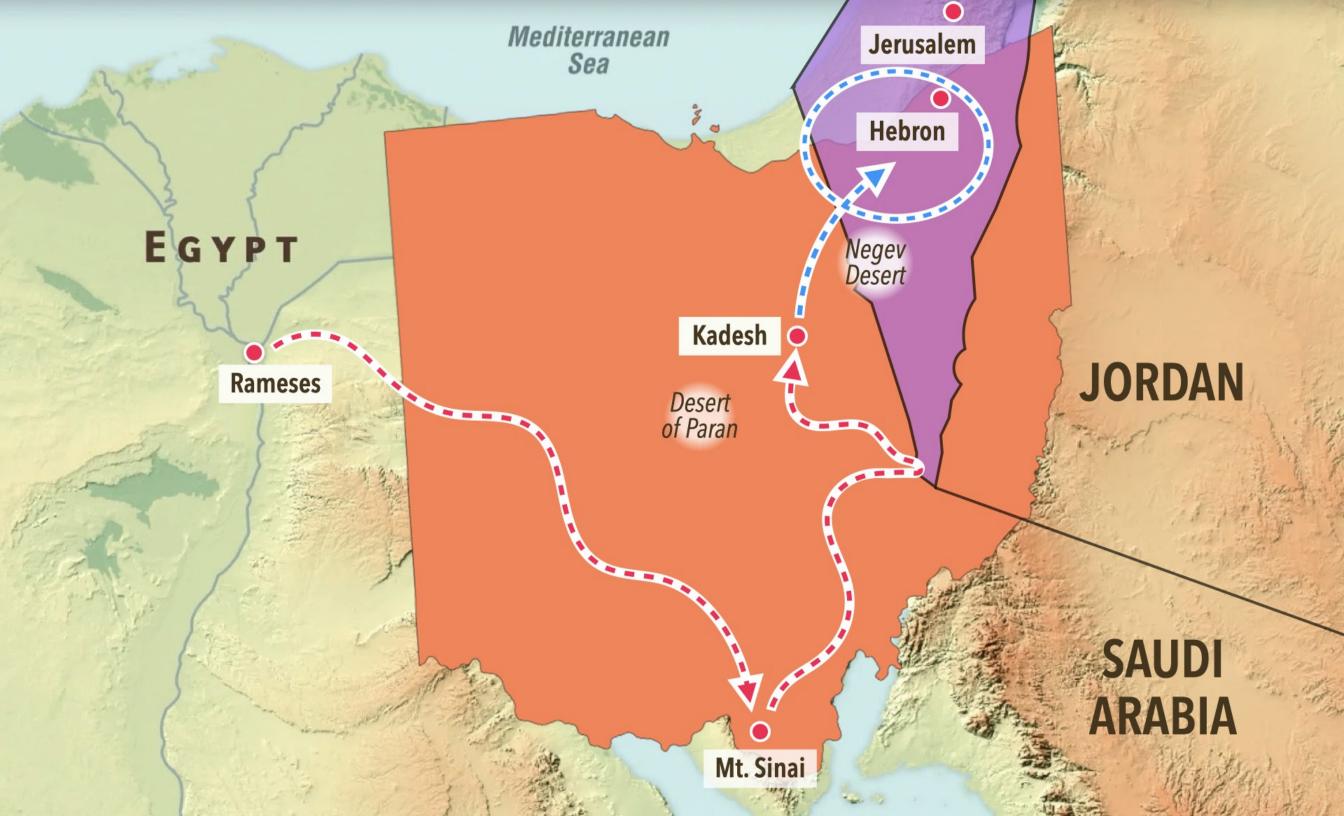


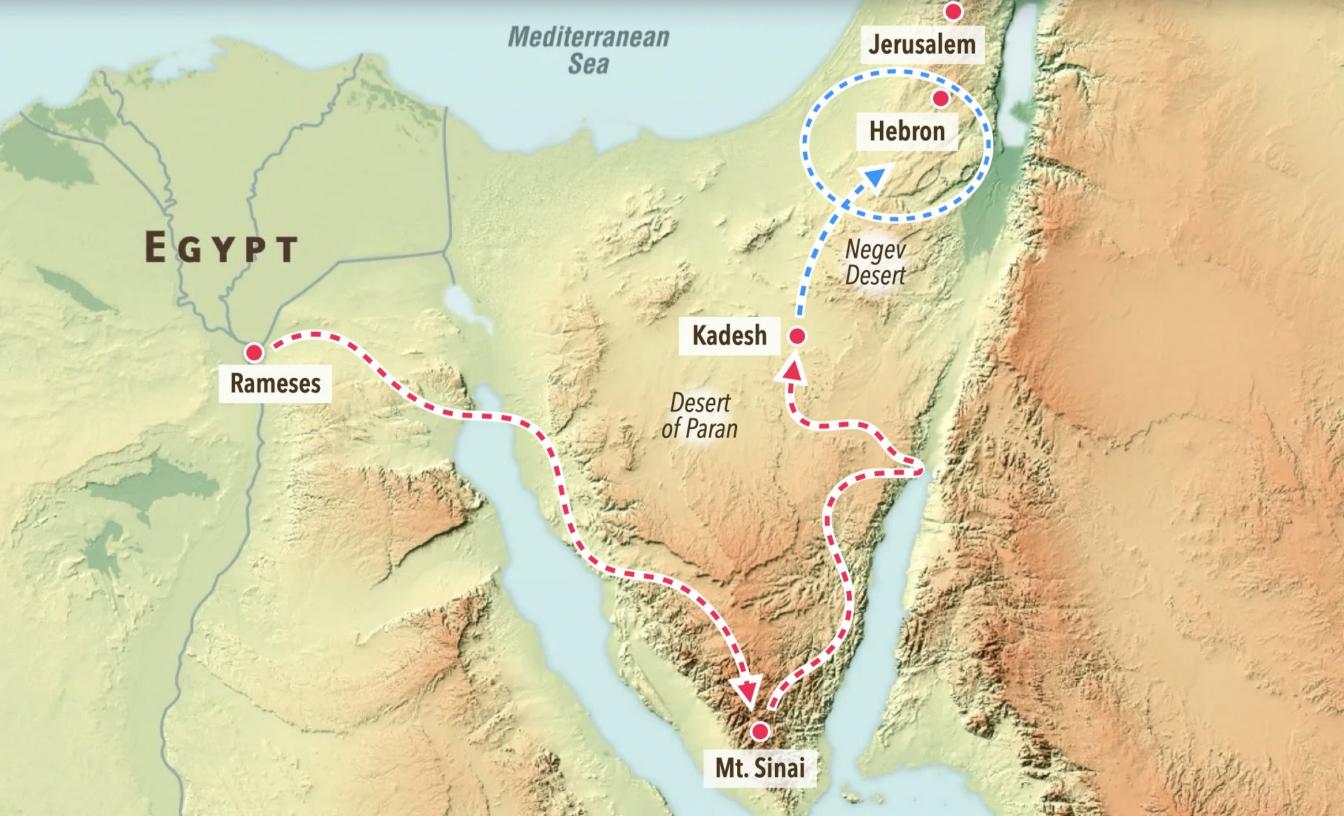














[26] They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadeshin the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. [27] They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit.

[28] But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. [29] The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites & Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan."

[30] Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it."

[31] But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are."

[32] And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. [33] We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."









EXODUS 3:7-8

[7] The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. [8] So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.



THE VALLEY of ESHKOL



Intimidation is a distorting lens that makes your problems seem bigger while making you feel smaller.



The message of Scripture is NOT that that you can manifest, or earn, or simply that you deserve whatever your heart wants.

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The message of Scripture is THIS: God keeps His promises.

NUMBERS 14:5-9

[5] Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. [6] Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes [7] and said to the entire Israelite assembly, "The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good."

NUMBERS 14:5-9

[8] If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. [9] Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them."

