

A light pink, hand-painted brushstroke background that starts from the left and tapers towards the right, creating a soft, organic shape. The stroke is composed of several overlapping layers, giving it a textured, painterly appearance.

Old Testament *Exodus*

GOD IN HISTORY

Exodus: evidence of the 10 plagues

- Egyptian Sage, Ipuwer, eyewitness to the 10 plagues
- **Exodus** 4:9 Yahweh said to him ... the water you have taken from the **river will turn to blood** on the dry land.’
 - **Ipuwer**: The **river is blood**! As you drink of it you lose your humanity and thirst for water.
- **Exodus** 9:6 The **locusts** covered the surface of the ground until **the land was devastated**.
 - **Ipuwer**: **Gone is the grain** of abundance. Food supplies are running short. The nobles hunger and suffer.
- **Exodus** 10:7 Then Pharaoh’s servants said to him, ... Do you not yet understand that **Egypt is on the brink of ruin?**’
 - **Ipuwer**: What can we do about it? **All is ruin!**

Exodus: evidence of the 10 plagues

- **Exodus** 10:22 For three days there was **thick darkness** throughout the land of Egypt.
 - **Ipower**: Those who had shelter are now in the **dark of the storm**. The whole of the delta cannot be seen.
- **Exodus** 12:29 At midnight **the Lord struck down all the first-born** in the land of Egypt – from the first-born of Pharaoh, heir to his throne, to the first-born of the captive in the dungeon ...
 - **Ipower**: Behold, plague sweeps the land; blood is everywhere with no shortage of the dead. **Children are dashed against the walls...** Woe is me for the grief of this time.

Exodus: evidence of plundering Egypt

- **Exodus** 12:35-36 The Israelites did as Moses had told them, and they asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry and for clothing. Yahweh had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians that they let them have what they asked. So **they plundered the Egyptians.**
 - **Ipuyer:** **The slave takes what he finds.** What belongs to the palace has been stripped. Gold, lapis lazuli, silver and turquoise are strung on the necks of female slaves. See how the poor of the land have become rich whilst the man of property is a pauper.

Exodus: evidence of a devastated Egypt

- Manetho [Egyptian historian c. 270 BC] tells us that 'God (singular) smote the Egyptians' ... remarkably similar to the God (singular) of the Israelites...
 - "[Pharaoh] Tutimaos. In his reign, for what cause I know not, God smote us (the Egyptians). And, unexpectedly, from the regions of the east, invaders of obscure race marched in confidence of victory against our land. By main force they easily seized it without striking a blow..."
- These foreigners... were the Hyksos rulers who oppressed the Egyptians for several generations towards the end of the Second Intermediate Period [i.e. soon after the Exodus]...

• Rohl, David. Exodus – Myth or History? (p. 218). Thinking Man Media. Kindle Edition.

Exodus: three major questions/issues

- How many Jews left Egypt in the Exodus?
 - Num 1:45-46 ...from twenty years old and upward, every man able to go to war in Israel — all those listed were 603,550. [Seems very precise, especially for ancient doc]
 - These many men over 20 would imply a **population of 2 to 2.5 Million total**.
 - 2.5 million would result in a "tight" [2 sq. Meters/ea.] **procession** (> with animals?) one football field wide (long side) **stretching from Wyoming border to Fort Collins** (31 miles).
 - A walking speed of 10 to 20 miles per day would require **2 to 3 days minimum** for everyone to pass by a single point. (Stragglers/animals would require > one week.)
 - Even if all ran at 4 mph it would require 8 hours to pass by a single point. Humans cannot run for 8 hrs at 4 mph, yet **all the Jews crossed over the "sea" in a few hours**. (Ex 14) Note: 1. wind blew all night; 2. then the Jews crossed; 3. in morning Egyptians drowned
- What body of water did the Jews "cross" - walking on dry ground?
 - Ex 13:18 ...God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea
 - Num 33:10: 4 days after exodus: ...they set out from Elim and camped by the Red Sea.??
 - Same words (Yam Suph) applied to multiple bodies of water? Apparently, yes.
- Where is Mt. Sinai? (answer dependent on what sea was crossed)
 - Saudia Arabia if Gulf of Aqaba or Sinai peninsula if closer to Egypt

Exodus: how many left Egypt in exodus?

- Population of Egypt during the Middle Kingdom
 - 2 to 3 Million: [Estimating Population of Ancient Egypt](#)
- Population of Canaan during the Bronze Age
 - 500 – 600 thousand: [PhD Dissertation of Titus Kennedy \(2013\)](#)
- References discussing if > 2 Million people in Exodus:
 - AIG: [Did 600,000 Men Leave Egypt with Moses?](#) (Yes)
 - [Exodus 12:37 – How many Israelites left Egypt?](#) (Probably Yes)
 - [How many Israelites left Egypt in the exodus?](#) (Maybe)
 - [The Number ... the Exodus from Egypt: Decoding Mathematically the Very Large Numbers in Numbers I and XXVI](#) (Probably Not)
 - Calculation based on "273 first born Israelites who exceed the number of Levites" (Num. iii 43-46) [Using scripture to analyze scripture]

Exodus: how many left Egypt in exodus?

- How should we understand the numbers in Numbers?
- From Rohl's "Exodus—Myth or History?" (see prior slide also)
- The Book of Numbers records the number of fighting men in each tribe in the format 'X thousand, Y men'. For example, 'the total for the tribe of Reuben was forty-six thousand, five hundred men.' Now **the word for 'thousand' used here is aleph – a word/sign which has two meanings.** Yes, it can represent the number 'thousand', but it also has the meaning 'family head' or 'clan leader' or 'troop commander' [Zachariah 9:7 & 12:5-6].

Exodus: Number of Israelites in Exodus

- Continuing quote from Rohl's "Exodus..."
- The solution I and others have offered is to interpret these alephs as 'troop commanders'. So, for the tribe of Reuben we would have '46 troop commanders with 500 men' adding up to a total of 546. If you then work through the tribal contingents in Numbers 1:20-47, you will arrive at a **total of 6,148 fighting men**, plus around the same number of wives, a couple of elderly parents, and perhaps three children per family unit, adding up to a grand total of around 35,000 people.

Exodus: Number of Israelites in Exodus

- David Rohl's explanation addresses only part of the issue.
- There are a few other issues (see references on earlier slide)
- Bottom line: indication of both confusion & 'heavy' editing
 - when source materials compiled into the Tanach (Hebrew bible)
 - likely in reign of King Josiah (7th century BC) 8 centuries after Exodus
- Unlikely that this issue will be resolved to everyone's liking.
- Finally: only way > 2 million people is if Israel (from time of Jacob) in Egypt for 430 years (and very prolific).
 - Likely duration was only 215 yrs. Consequently, the number in Exodus: between 20 and 100 thousand, but likely 30,000 +- 10,000.

Exodus account: should we be concerned?

- Concern: if the Bible is wrong about the Exodus numbers, what does that imply about **the validity of scripture**?
- The real issue: how does this affect **our witness** to the world
 - We can ignore the issue – and we will be ignored.
 - We can insist the Bible is right – against clear contrary evidence
 - Evidence (two edged sword) subject to interpretation, but there are limits
- Q: the Tanach testifies to what (who)? Ans: **the Messiah**
- Q: what is nature of Messiah? Ans: **fully God and fully man**
- Scripture: fully the work of **man and** fully the work of **God**
- **The plan of God** is viewed across the breadth of scripture.
- **The frailty of man** is seen in the details (& errors) in the story



*Land
Bridge?*

*Exodus:
what sea?*



?



60+ Miles
to Delta

150 miles

?

Exodus: what sea?

ETHAM?

el-Tih Plateau

?

50 miles

Nuweiba

- **260 miles in seven days?** (tradition)

o Minimum time is 13 days (20 miles a day)

- **Could Egyptians track & pursue?**

o Min 1.5 months: 13 days tracking, 13 days to report, 13 days to pursue

- **Also, how many bodies of water?**

o Bible reports only one, but Egyptians used a water "barrier" for security that stretched from the Gulf of Suez to the delta (similar to Suez canal)

Exodus: which sea?

Exodus 13 & 14

"the Lord said...turn back..."



Exodus fourteen: miraculous crossing



Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and Yahweh drove the sea back with a strong easterly wind all night and made the sea into dry land. Ex 14

Computer models show that a strong east wind will push the waters back, which will rush back catastrophically when the wind dies down. The effect has been observed in the modern era. Was the miracle in the timing?

Account of Sir Alexander Tulloch who was inspecting the Suez Canal in 1882

An easterly gale came up very rapidly and, at last, ... I had to cease work. Next morning, the wind having a good deal gone down, I went onto the canal bank again, when, to my astonishment, I noticed that Lake Menzala on the west side of the canal had disappeared beyond the horizon in that direction, and that **the Arabs were walking on the mud where the day before large boats had been floating**. When thinking over this extraordinary effect of wind on shallow water, it suddenly flashed upon me that I was witnessing a similar event to that which had taken place between three to four thousand years ago, at the time of the passage of the so-called Red Sea by the Israelites.

Exodus fifteen: 1st stops Marah and Elim



"When they reached Marah, they could not drink the Marah water because it was bitter; this is why the place was named Marah." [Exodus 15:22-23]

Bir el-Mura. The Arabic name translates as the '**Bitter Well**', and detailed local maps describe it as 'very brackish'

"So they came to Elim where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees. And there they pitched camp beside the water." [Exodus 15:27]

From Pi ha-Khiroth to Marah and Elim – total of four days journey.

Rohl, David. *Exodus – Myth or History?* (p. 268). Thinking Man Media. Kindle Edition.

Ayun Musa: '**Springs of Moses**' can be seen on Google Earth

Exodus sixteen: the Wilderness of Sin



Setting out from Elim, the whole community of Israelites entered into the Wilderness of Sin, lying between Elim and Sinai – on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had left Egypt. [Exodus 16:1]

That evening, quails flew in and covered the camp, and next morning there was a layer of dew all round the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the desert was something fine and granular, as fine as hoarfrost on the ground. [Exodus 16:13-14]

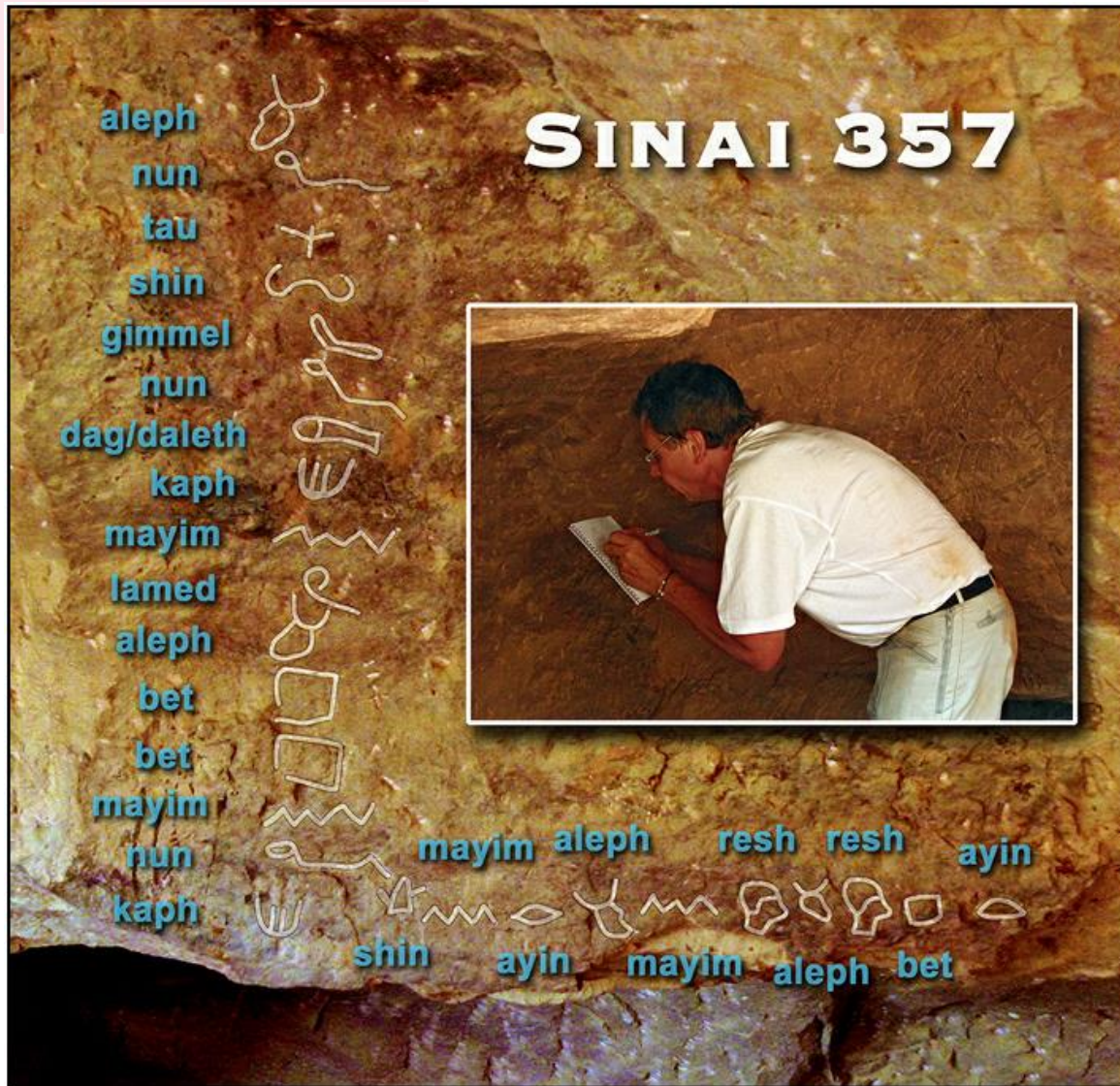
Dophkah—Location of turquoise mine. Location of Jewish artisans?
Also, many proto-Sinaitic inscriptions. Possibly one or more by Moses.
Proto-Sinaitic: the first alphabet, likely invented by Joseph.

Rohl, David. Exodus – Myth or History? (p. 282). And, Legendary Kings: The Real Bible Unearthed Vol. 1, Part 1

Proto-Sinaitic alphabet – 1st alphabet

- Proto-Sinaitic is the oldest known alphabet
- All extant alphabets post-date & based on Proto-Sinaitic
- Proto-Sinaitic first discovered in Sinai, later found in Egypt
- Original graphics derived from related hieroglyphics
- Oldest script dates to Amenemhat III (Joseph's "Pharaoh")
- Possibly invented by Joseph to manage Egypt in famine
- Likely used by Moses to record the original Pentateuch
- Several inscriptions in Sinai may have been written during the Exodus and possibly by Moses or under his direction

Proto-Sinaitic alphabet in Sinai



Vertical column translation: "I have uprooted an oppressed garden! Who is for the Father in regards to your manna?"

Oppressed garden... Egypt?
The Father... a common reference to God
Manna... speaks for itself

Horizontal column translation: "Hearken (to this), says Arba!"

Hearken – very biblical, e.g. "Hearken Israel! And be careful to obey..." Deut. 6:3
Arba... a semitic name, reference unknown

Proto-Sinaitic alphabet in Sinai

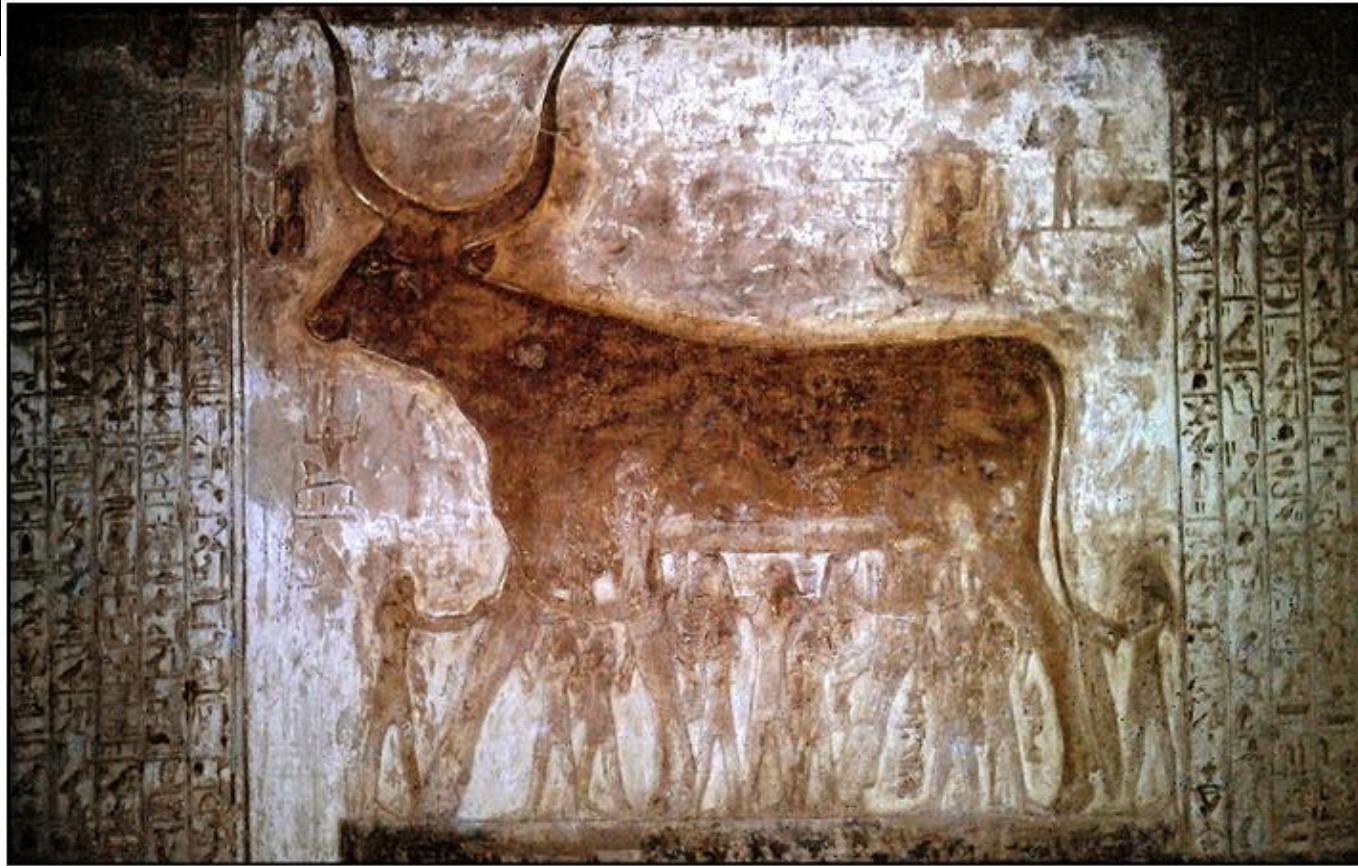


Translation: "He who had bound (us in captivity) was removed! Then the year was ended ... (and) ended (with it) were those who strayed towards Baalat."

Pharaoh removed by God
Exodus one year after 1st plague
Baalat – Canaanite name for Egyptian cow-goddess, Hathor

The temple to Hathor is located in Serabit el-Khadim (Dophkah). The inscription was found nearby.

Hathor: Egyptian goddess/golden calf

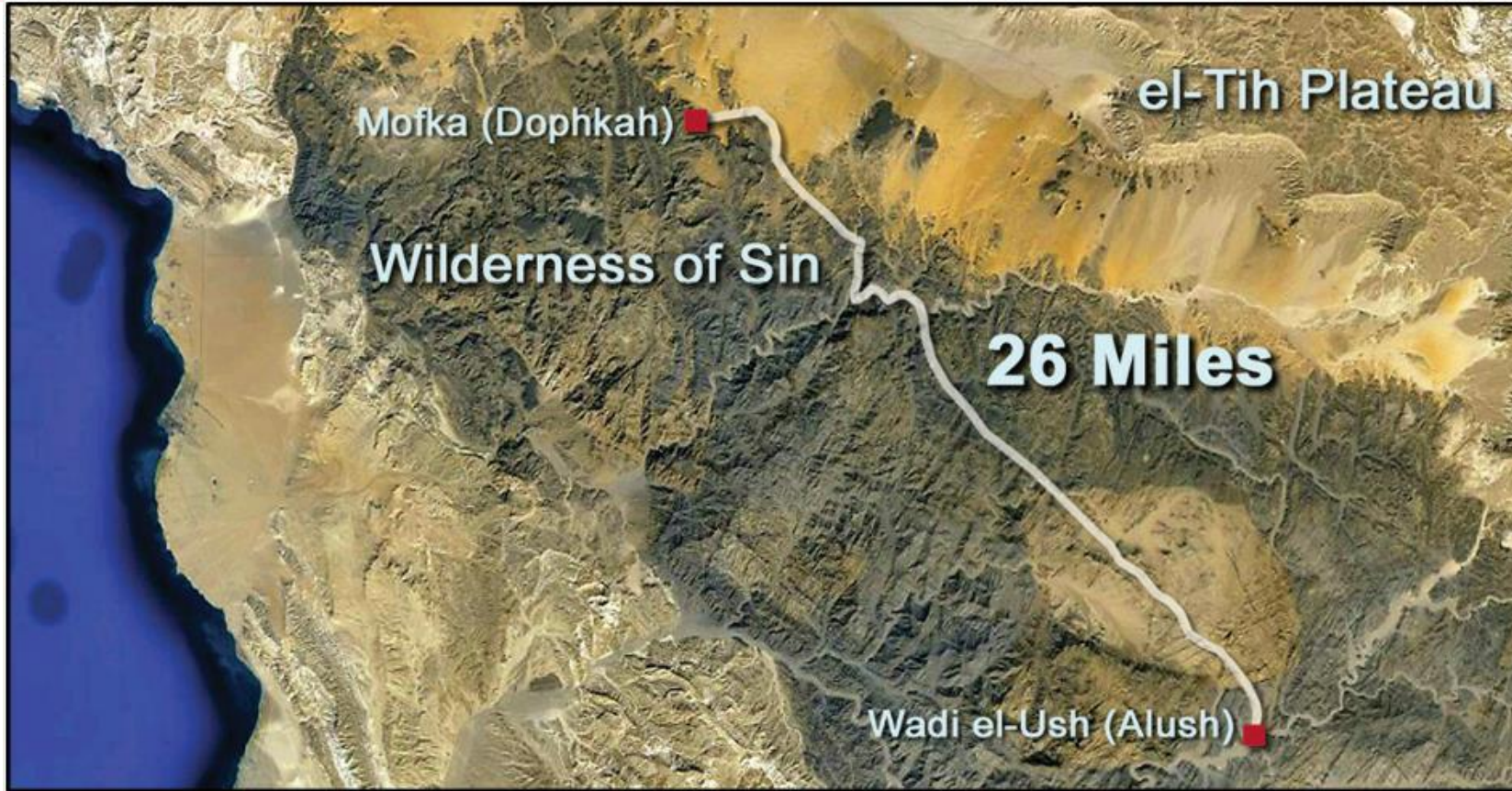


Hathor from the tomb of Seti I in the Valley of the Kings.

The Egyptian date for the Festival of Drunkenness, involving a Golden Heifer, took place on exactly the same day as the biblical date for the night of the Golden Calf revelry.

Confirmed by biblical dating and computer calculation of the day for this "festival" in the year 1446 BC (July 22nd). The 20th day after the start of the Nile annual inundation.

Exodus: on the trail to Sinai

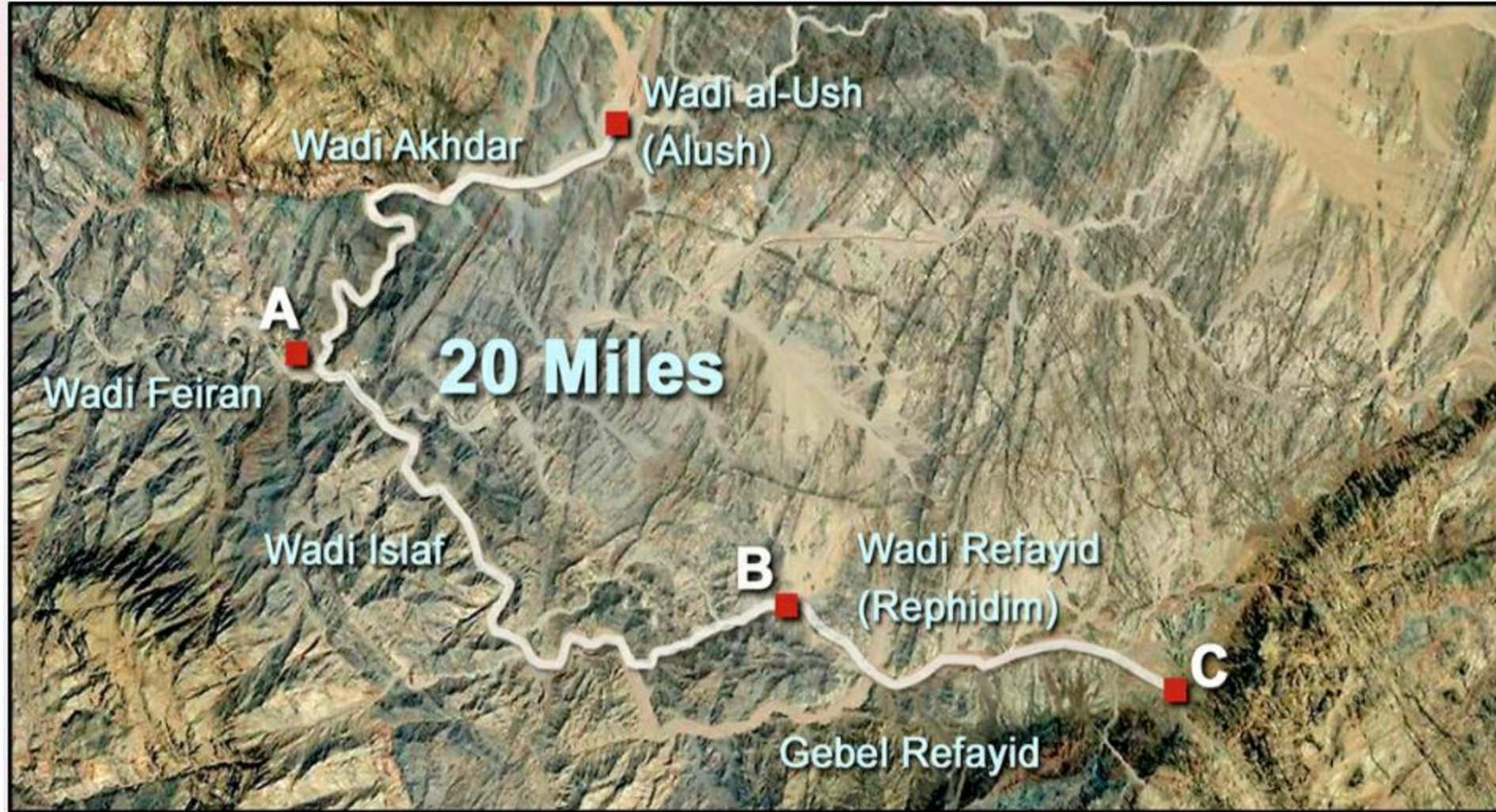


There is a close similarity between the name Wadi el-Ush and biblical Alush (especially considering the older classical Arabic word for 'the' is not el but al, giving us al-Ush).
Num. 33:9-14

*Exodus:
Egypt to
Mt.
Sinai*

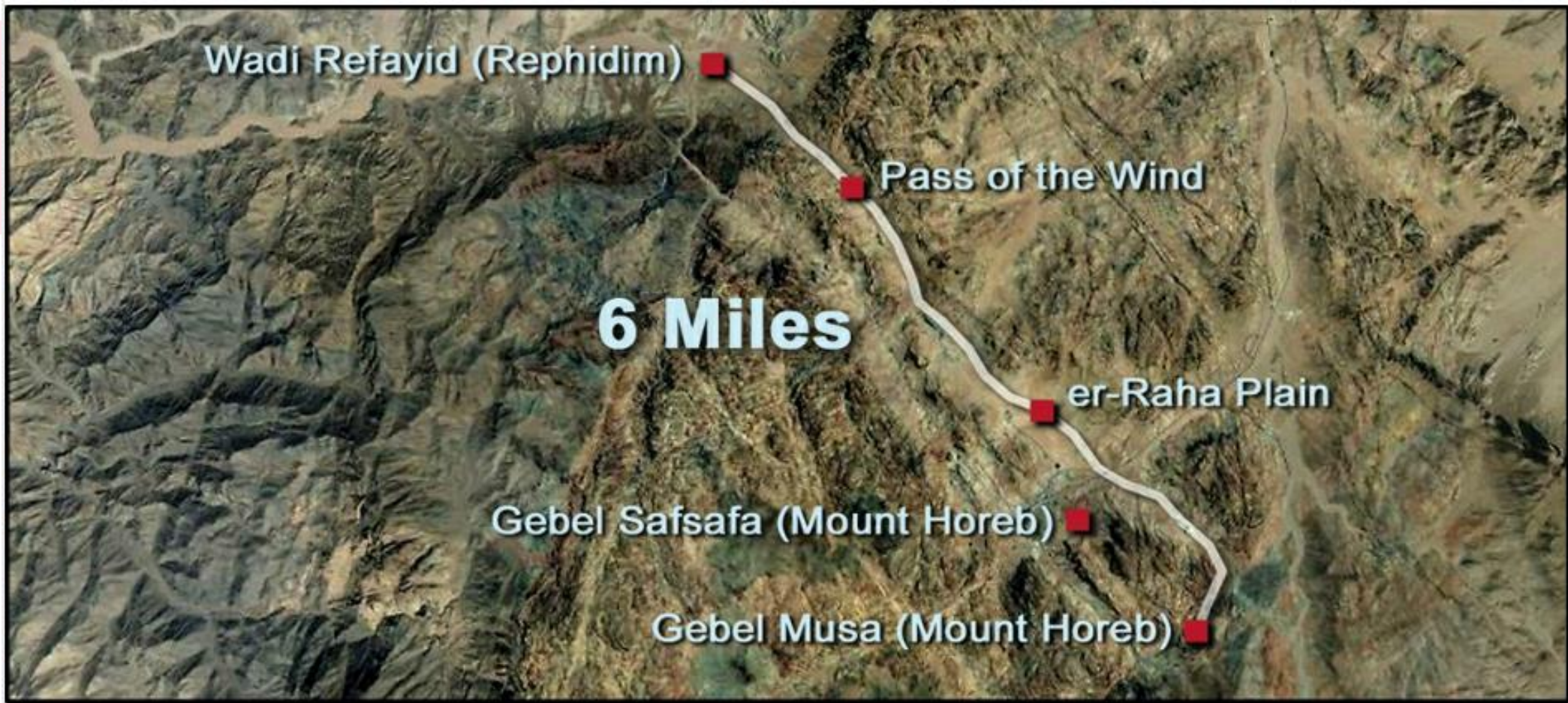


Exodus seventeen: Rephidim



The whole community of Israelites left the Wilderness of Sin, traveling by stages as Yahweh ordered. They pitched camp at Rephidim where there was no water for the people to drink... the people complained to Moses, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt,' they said, 'only to make us, our children and our livestock, die of thirst?' [Exodus 17:1-3]

The Amalekites then came and attacked Israel at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, 'Pick some men and tomorrow morning go out and engage Amalek. [Exodus 17:8]



Exodus 19: Mt. Sinai

On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain, while Moses went up to God. [Exodus 19:1-3]