

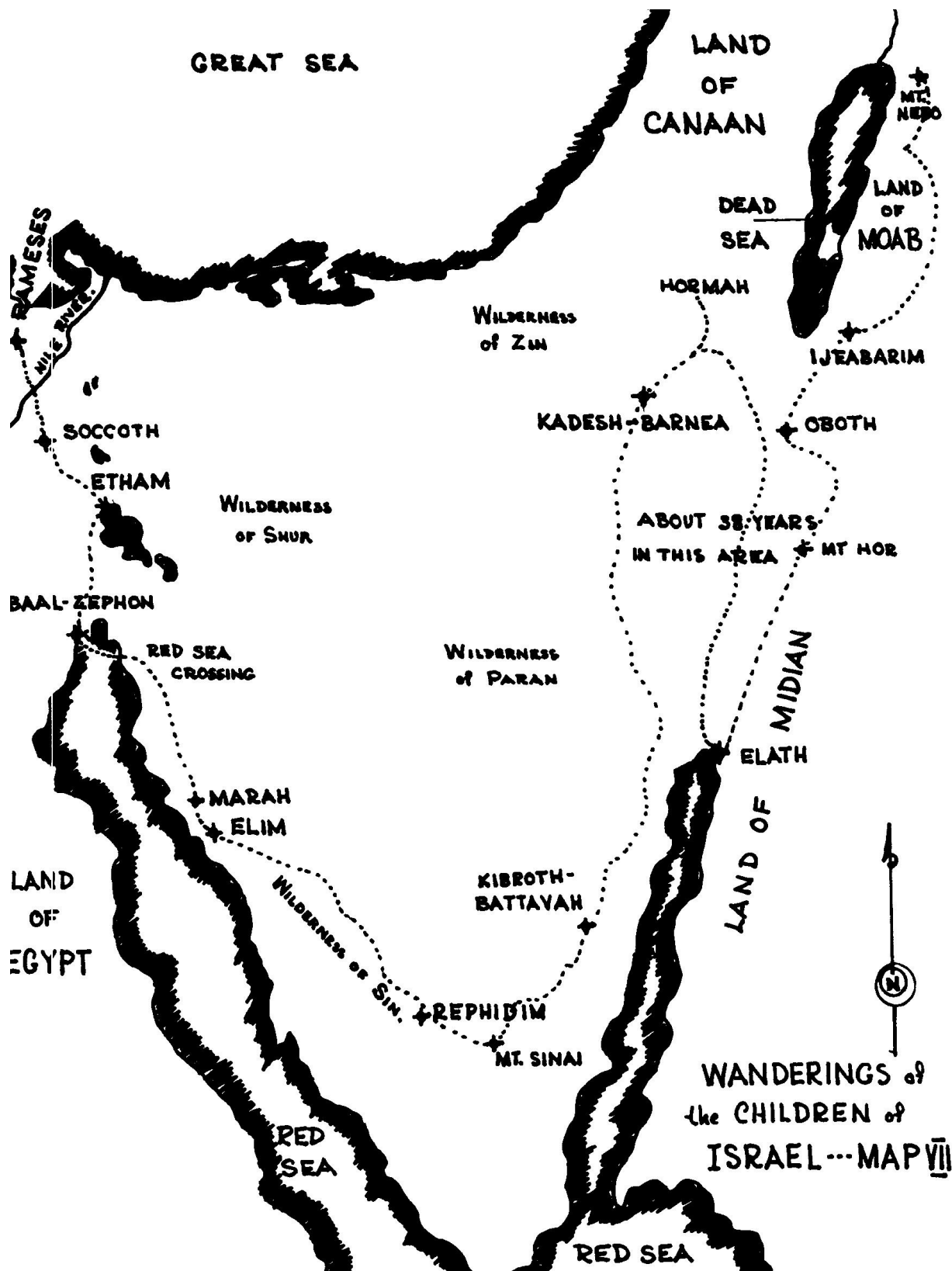
OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

PERIOD THREE

THE HEBREW NATION - LAW GIVEN

LESSON 12

Time	PERIOD THREE	THE HEBREW NATION			
Main thought	MAKING A NATION AND TAKING LAND				
Books that tell of each part	EXODUS	LEVITICUS	NUMBERS	DEUTERONOMY	JOSHUA
What this part tells about	<p>The diagram illustrates the progression of events in Period Three. It consists of six rectangular boxes arranged in an ascending staircase pattern from left to right. Each box is connected to a book in the row above by a vertical line. The events are: SLAVE (connected to Exodus), SET FREE (connected to Exodus), MT. SINAI (Law given) (connected to Exodus/Leviticus), WANDERING IN WILDERNESS (connected to Numbers), TAKING THE LAND (connected to Deuteronomy/Joshua), and SETTLING THE LAND (connected to Joshua).</p>				



WANDERINGS of the CHILDREN of ISRAEL---MAP VII

READ EXODUS 19 to 24.

1. COVENANTS

A covenant is a promise or an agreement. It is like a treaty. There are two kinds of covenants in the Bible.

Conditional is when a person can or will do something only if something else is done. Example: John will take you to town if you pay him. "If you pay John" is the condition. This is a conditional promise.

Unconditional is when a person does something without anything else being done for him. Example: John will take you to town. You do not need to pay John. There is no condition. This is an unconditional promise.

A. Unconditional covenant.

The unconditional covenant is a promise made by one person. The person who makes a promise will keep his promise no matter what the other person does.

God made this kind of promise to Abraham. He told Abraham, "I will make you a great nation."

B. Conditional covenant.

A conditional covenant is where two people or groups of people agree to do something special. Each person or group of people promises each other to do something special. If one person does not do what he promised, the other person will not have to keep his promise.

God promised to bless the people of Israel if they would worship and obey Him. The people of Israel were to worship no other gods. If the people of Israel would not keep their promise, then God would not bless them. If the people of Israel would not keep their promise, God would not keep His promise.

2. THE HOLY GOD

READ EXODUS 19:3-25.

God showed the people of Israel how great and powerful He was. He showed His greatness and power to them when He set them free from Egypt. He showed His greatness and power to them when He destroyed the Egyptian army.

At Mount Sinai God showed Himself to the people of Israel in a new way. He showed Himself as a holy God. He is a God to be loved and to be worshipped. He is without sin.

No sin can come before Him (Isaiah 59:2).

The gods of the Egyptians and of the other people were idols or false gods. The people feared these gods. The idols or gods did not know right from wrong. The people did many sinful things when they worshipped idols or gods. They did sex sins. There was no true love for husband and wife. Babies were burned on the arms of the idol Baal. Baal was the god of the Canaanites. (Halley, Henry H. Bible Handbook, p. 185. Copyright 1965, by Halley's Bible Handbook, Inc. Reprinted by permission.) The people would make their children walk through the fire (Jeremiah 32:35). God did not want people to live like this.

God wanted the people of Israel to live the right way. Husband and wife were to love each other. They were not to do sex sins. They were to stay away from all sin. They were to love their children. The people of Israel were to serve a holy God.

A. The cleaning of the people, Exodus 19:1-15.

God made a conditional covenant with the people of Israel. He said,
"Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel" (Exodus 19:5,6 New American Standard Bible).

The people said they would obey God (Exodus 19:8).

God was going to show Himself to the people. He had to show the people how to come before a holy God. God said to Moses, "Go to the people and

(Exodus 19:10)

To sanctify (consecrate) means to "set apart." It means to give oneself completely to God. The people of Israel were to get rid of all idols or gods they had with them. They were to confess all their sin. They were to give all of themselves to God. They were to wash their clothes. Dirt is a picture of sin. The dirt first had to be washed away.

B. The coming of the holy God, Exodus 19:16-25.

How did God show Himself to the people of Israel (Exodus 19:16-25)?

The people of Israel gave themselves to God. They washed their clothes. Yet, they could not touch the mountain where God was. The people of Israel were afraid.

3. GOD'S HOLY LAW

READ EXODUS 20:1-17.

God's holy law is known by two other names. It is called "the ten commandments" or "the decalogue." The Bible often calls it "the law."

All other laws come from these ten laws. The ten laws are divided into two parts. The first four laws have to do with God and people. What are these four laws?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

The other six laws have to do with how people were to live with each other. What are these laws?

- 5)
- 6)
- 7)
- 8)
- 9)
- 10)

Jesus Christ gave us two commandments. In these commandments we have all the ten commandments. What commandments did Jesus give us (Matthew 22:37-40)?

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4. LAWS FOR LIVING

A. Why God gave the laws.

The laws were given to the people of Israel to show them what was sin and what was not sin (Romans 3:20). God told the people of Israel to keep the ten commandments. Until this time no laws were written down. The people did not remember what God wanted them to do. They lived for themselves. They did not care about others. Now God told Moses to

write down the laws. Moses wrote down the laws. The laws would help the people live together.

God told the people what to do to those who disobeyed the laws. There was hard punishment for disobeying the laws. This was to help the people learn how good the laws were for them. God wanted the people to know how bad sin was.

B. Punishment for disobeying the laws.

- How were they to punish a person who killed someone (Exodus 21:12)?

- What does Genesis 9:6 say?

- Some other sins were to be punished by death. Write down those found in Exodus 21:15-17.
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- What were they to do with an animal that hurt or killed people (Exodus 21:28)?

- What was a man to do if he caused another man's animal to be killed (Exodus 21:33,34)?

- What was a man to do if he stole something (Exodus 22:1)?

- How was a man to make it right if his animals ate in someone else's field (Exodus 22:5)?

- How was a man to make it right if he caused another man to lose his crops by fire (Exodus 22:6)?

- What were the people to do with sorceresses or sorcerers (witch doctors) (Exodus 22:18)?

- How were they to punish those who did sex sins with animals (Exodus 22:19)?

The sins told about in these verses are sins which make people unhappy. God wanted them to stop doing these sins. God wanted the people of Israel to be happy.

5. GOD'S COVENANT WITH THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL

READ EXODUS 23:10 to 24:8.

God was to send an _____ to help the people of Israel (Exodus 23:20).

How were the people to treat him (Exodus 23:21)?

WE HAVE A CONDITIONAL COVENANT HERE. If the people of Israel did what was right, God would bless them.

What was the Angel going to do for the people of Israel in Canaan (Exodus 23:23)?

(The Angel spoken of here is believed to be Jesus Christ.) What were the people of Israel not to do (Exodus 23:24)?

HERE IS ANOTHER CONDITIONAL COVENANT. The Angel was to help the people of Israel. If the people of Israel started to worship other gods, the Angel would not help them.

What did the people of Israel say when Moses told them about this covenant (Exodus 24:3)?

Moses wrote down the words of the covenant. Then he made an offering to the Lord. After this Moses read the covenant to the people of Israel. What did they say when he finished reading (Exodus 24:7)?

Then Moses took the blood from the offering. He sprinkled half of it on the people. The blood was to show the people how important their promise to God was.

After the people of Israel made the covenant with God, God showed Himself to the leaders of Israel. What did they see (Exodus 24:10)?

What did Moses and the leaders do when they were with God (Exodus 24:11)?

6. IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER

- The laws were given to the people of Israel to show them what was sin and what was not sin (Romans 3:20).
- The laws also helped them to live right every day.
- The laws helped the people to get along with each other.
- The laws told the people how to worship the true and living God.
- The laws tell us the same things.
- God made a conditional covenant with the people of Israel. If the people of Israel worshipped and obeyed God, He would bless them and help them.
- When we worship and obey God, we receive blessings.

WORDS TO LEARN

1. conditional - is when a person can or will do something only if something else is done.
2. confess - to tell our sins to God.
3. covenant - a promise, an agreement, something like a treaty.
4. consecrate - to give oneself completely to God.
5. covenant, conditional - when two people or groups of people make a promise to each other.
If one person does not keep his promise, the other person does not have to keep his promise either.
6. covenant, unconditional - when only one person makes a promise in an agreement.
7. decalogue - the ten commandments.
8. sanctify - to give oneself completely to God, to "set apart."
9. unconditional - is when a person does something without anything else being done for him.