

20.04 God's Appearance on Mount Horeb; the Call of Elisha (1 Kings 19:1–21)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

Brackets [. . .] indicate a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud, or they show answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *wilderness*: an uncultivated region, as of forest or desert, uninhabited or inhabited only by wild animals
- *Mount Horeb*: the same as Mount Sinai, the mountain where God gave the law to His people
- *mantel*: a coat
- *broom tree*: sometimes called a juniper tree in Scripture
- *to anoint*: to put oil on a person signifying that person's election to a special task as king or prophet

Scripture: (ESV)

1 Kings 19:1 Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. 2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.” 3 Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, “It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers.” 5 And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, “Arise and eat.” 6 And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again. 7 And the angel of the Lord came again a second time and touched him and said, “Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you.” 8 And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God.

9 There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and he said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” 10 He said, “I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.” 11 And he said, “Go out and stand on the mount before the Lord.” And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. 12 And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. 13 And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” 14 He said, “I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.” 15 And the Lord said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria. 16 And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. 17 And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death. 18 Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

19 So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him. 20 And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, “Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.” And he said to him, “Go back again, for what have I done to you?” 21 And he returned from following him and took the yoke of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him.

Introduction/Review:

After it had not rained in Israel for three years, Elijah challenged Ahab and all the 850 false prophets to prove who is God—Baal or the God of Israel. How did Elijah say the true God would show Himself? [By sending fire to burn up a sacrifice.] What did Baal’s prophet do while they prayed to Baal? [Jumped up on the altar and around it; cut themselves; shouted louder and louder.] How long did Baal’s prophets pray? [All day.] What did Elijah do to the altar of God before he prayed? [Repaired it; took twelve stones, wood, oxen; doused it with water.] How many times did Elijah pray for fire? [Once.] How did God answer? [The fire from heaven burned the sacrifice, wood, stones, and licked up the water.] After this contest all 850 false prophets of Baal and Asherah were slain. God sent rain to the land.

Story:

Jezebel’s message

When King Ahab got home and told wicked Queen Jezebel about God’s sending fire and about the death of the 850 false prophets, she was—well, do you suppose she was sorry for her sin because she feared the God who had shown Himself to be so strong? No! She was furious! She called for a messenger. “Tell Elijah,” she said, “may the gods slay me as you did my prophets if I do not take away your life by this time tomorrow!”

Elijah’s escape

When Elijah got this message, he was scared and ran away with his servant. They went about 25 miles [compare this distance to a place near your town] to the town farthest south in Judah, Beersheba. There Elijah left his servant and went on for another day into the wilderness (desert place where no one lived).

Boy, was he tired! He had spent a whole day on Mount Carmel, had run to Jezreel, had run to Beersheba, and now had gone another day into this forsaken place. Whew! He sat down under a juniper (broom) tree. Perhaps, as he had run, he had thought about how hard his life had become. He wasn’t sorry to serve the Lord, but he felt so alone! Oh, he was discouraged! “Lord!” he cried, “let me die!”

He lay down and fell asleep. After a while, an angel touched him in order to awaken him. “Get up and eat,” said the angel. And, what do you know, right by Elijah’s head was a cake cooked on hot stones and a jar of water. Elijah ate and drank and lay down to sleep again. After a while, the angel woke him again and said, “Get up and eat or the journey will be too hard for you.” So Elijah again ate and drank. That food gave Elijah strength to go 40 days and 40 nights all the way to Mount Horeb, the same place where Moses had gotten the law of God.

God’s encounter with Elijah

When Elijah finally got to Mount Horeb, he found a cave in which to live. He was really hidden from Jezebel here! But God said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

“I have worked diligently for the Lord, the God of hosts. The people of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, thrown down Your altars, killed Your prophets with the sword. I—no one else—only I am left, and they are trying to take my life away.”

God said, “Get out of this cave and stand on this mountain before the Lord.” Then the Bible states God “passed by,” and a ferocious wind blew. It was so strong that rocks broke out of the mountain and fell, breaking in pieces. But God didn’t speak to Elijah by the wind.

Next, an earthquake shook and broke the mountain. But the Lord did not speak to Elijah in the earthquake. These were frightening events, but God was not done.

Next, came a huge fire, like a forest fire, on that mountain. Did the Lord speak to Elijah in the fire? No.

Finally, God spoke to Elijah, not in a strong wind, a shaking earthquake, or a forest fire, but in a still, quiet voice. Elijah heard the still, quiet voice of God. He respectfully covered his face with his mantel (coat), and went to the entrance of the cave.

Again, God asked, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” Elijah repeated the answer he had given before: “I have worked diligently for the Lord, the God of hosts because the people of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, thrown down Your altars, killed Your prophets with the sword. I—no one else—only I am left, and they are trying to take my life away.”

The Lord gave Elijah new orders: “Go up to Damascus.” This was a city, not in Israel, but in Syria [locate]. The Lord continued. “When you arrive, anoint Hazael to be king of Syria. You will also anoint a new king over Israel—Jehu, the son of Nimshi. In addition, you will anoint Elisha to take your place. The evil ones who escape from Hazael, will be slain by Jehu. The evil ones who escape from Jehu, will be slain by Elisha. Yet, I will leave 7000 people in Israel who have not worshiped or served Baal.”

Was Elijah really the only one serving God? [No.] How many others were there who still served the true God? [7000.]

Elisha’s call

Elijah did as God commanded. First, he found Elisha. Apparently Elisha’s family was wealthy, for when Elijah found him, Elisha was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen. A yoke connected two oxen; so 24 oxen were plowing Elisha’s field.

The signal Elijah gave to show Elisha he was to follow Elijah is interesting. Elijah passed near Elisha and threw his mantle (coat) on Elisha. Elisha knew exactly what was happening, and he didn’t hesitate to do God’s will. He left his oxen, ran after Elijah, and asked for a bit of time to say goodbye to his father and mother. Elijah said it was okay. Elisha went back, slew a yoke of oxen so that his family could have a great farewell feast. Then he followed Elijah and, like a faithful servant, took care of him.

As Elisha followed Elijah without question, so we should follow the Lord Jesus Christ without question. Jesus says to us, “Follow me.” He will lead us in paths of righteousness.

Lessons from This Lesson:

- We see Jesus:

Elisha’s leaving his occupation and preparing a feast reminds one of Matthew’s leaving his occupation and also preparing a feast for Jesus (Idea from [1 Kings 19 Commentary - Matthew Henry Commentary on the Whole Bible \(Complete\) \(biblestudytools.com\)](#)).

“In the gospel of Christ, which was to be introduced by the spirit and power of Elias, he would speak by a still small voice, the dread of which should not make us afraid; see Heb 12:18–24” ([1 Kings 19 Commentary - Matthew Henry Commentary on the Whole Bible \(Complete\) \(biblestudytools.com\)](#)).

Activities:

- Play dough: coat; ox
- Snack: Again, serve a flour-and-oil cake. An eggless oil-and-flour cake recipe is found at [Eggless Vanilla Cake Recipe | Eggless Cooking](#)
- Have students throw a coat on another student and play act the story.
- Review questions: (Game: A student who answers a question correctly may throw a light coat over

another student of his or her choice.)

1. What was Jezebel's threat to Elijah? [Basically, "I will have you slain by tomorrow."]
2. How did God care for Elijah in the wilderness? [Sent an angel to feed him bread and water.]
3. To what mountain did Elijah go? [Mount Horeb, also known as Mount Sinai, the mountain of God.]
4. How long had Elijah gone without food? [Forty days and nights.]
5. What did God ask Elijah? ["What are you doing here, Elijah?"]
6. Name one of the three wonders that God showed Elijah. [Strong wind, earthquake, fire.]
7. Finally, in what way did God speak to Elijah? [In a soft voice or whisper.]
8. God told Elijah to anoint three people. Name them and tell for what purpose they were anointed. [Hazeal was to be king of Syria; Jehu was to be king of Israel; Elisha was to take Elijah's place.]
9. How did Elijah let Elisha know he was to become a prophet? [Elijah threw his coat over Elisha.]
10. What did Elisha do with the oxen and their yokes? [Sacrificed them, using the yokes for the fire on the altar and to boil the meat for a feast.]

Memory Verse[s]:

- Psalm 121

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? 2 My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

3 He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. 4 Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

5 The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. 6 The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

7 The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. 8 The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

Handwork:

- Have students work the maze found at the end of this lesson. (There are several ways to negotiate it.) Unscramble the word (*angel*) in the puzzle.

wilderness

Mount Horeb

mantel

broom tree

to anoint



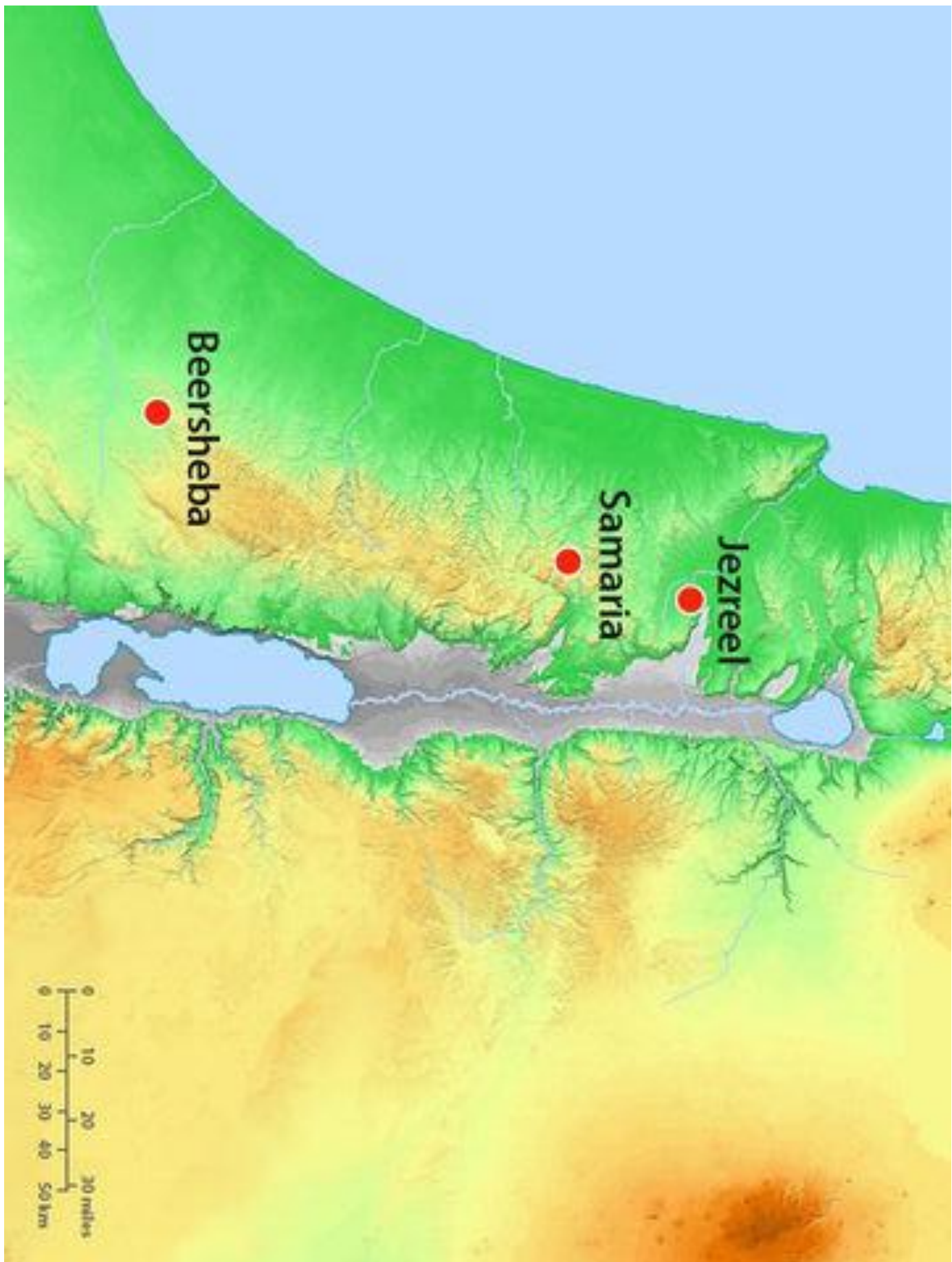
[FreeBibleimages :: Elijah flees to Horeb :: Elijah flees to Mount Horeb when his life is threatened but hears God voice in a gentle whisper \(1 Kings 19:1-18\)](#)



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Mediterranean Sea

Way of Philistines
(Israel)

Egypt
Proper

Israelites
Leaving

Succoth
(Thaku)

Egyptian Domain

Etham

Wilderness
of the
Red Sea

Nuweiba

Gulf of Aqaba

Rephidim

Mt. Sinai

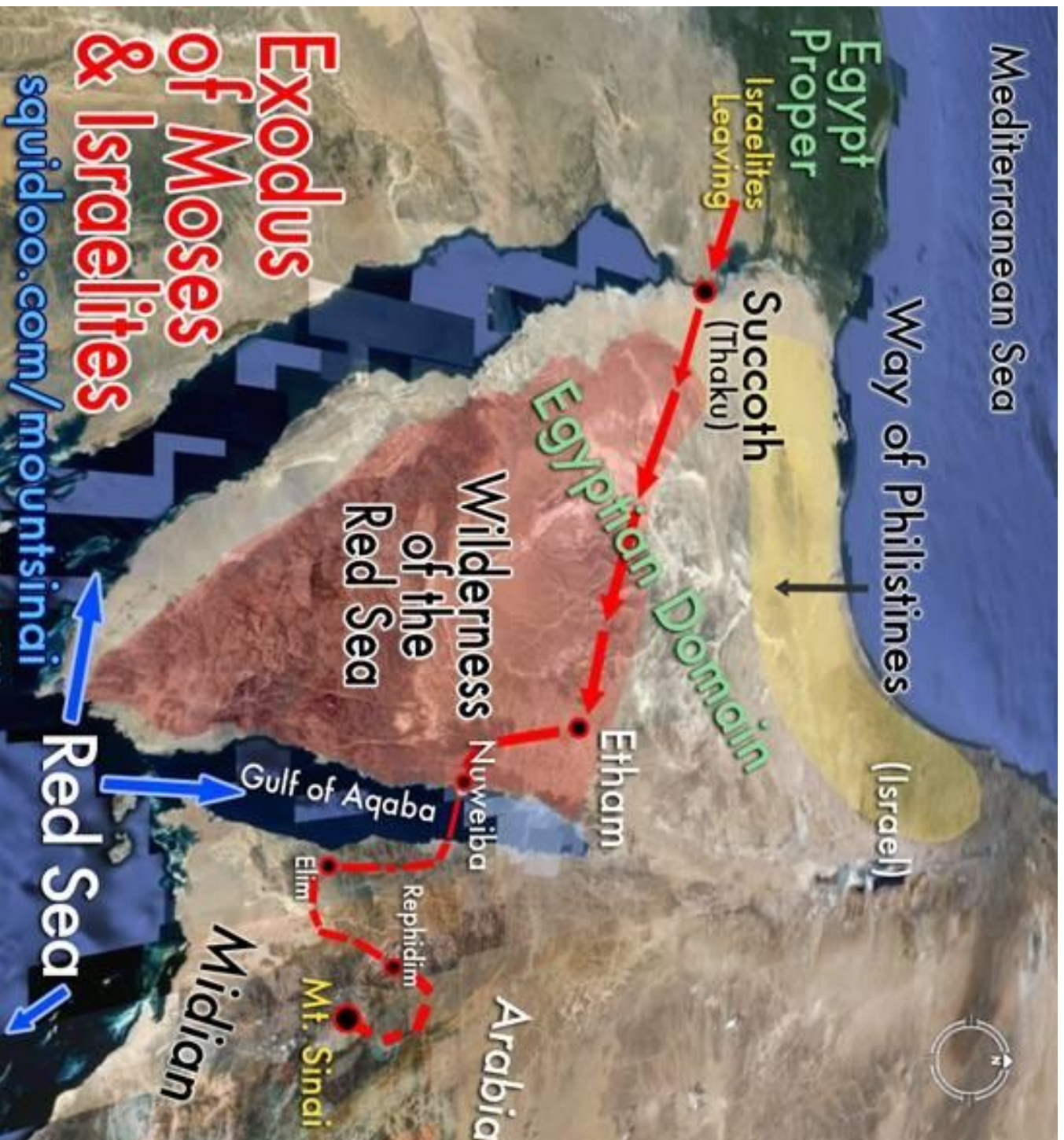
Midian

Arabia

Exodus
of Moses
& Israelites

squidoo.com/mountsinai

Red Sea





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ISRAEL

IN THE TIME OF ELISHA



Abel Meholah



from
Mount
Horeb





[FreeBibleimages :: Elijah anoints Elisha :: Elijah anoints Elisha to succeed him as God requested \(1 Kings 19:16, 19-21\)](#)







[FreeBibleimages :: Elijah anoints Elisha :: Elijah anoints Elisha to succeed him as God requested \(1 Kings 19:16, 19-21\)](#)



[FreeBibleimages :: Elijah anoints Elisha :: Elijah anoints Elisha to succeed him as God requested \(1 Kings 19:16, 19-21\)](#)