



Biblical Regions of the Exodus and Wanderings Era: A New Methodology

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The geographical data of the exodus and wanderings narratives have never been reconciled to produce a coherent and consistent itinerary. One reason is uncertainty over the location of Mount Sinai-Horeb as the destination of the exodus journey and the starting point for the ongoing journey to Kadesh. Another reason is that most of the wildernesses and national territories have not been clearly located and delineated. There is no methodology for determining the extent and boundaries of biblical regions other than to deduce their general positions from mentions in the narrative. Thus, Bible atlases differ in their placement of the wildernesses, national territories, and geographical regions of the Sinai, Negev, and Transjordan.

This paper explores a new and promising methodology based on the hydrology of the Southern Levant by which the wildernesses are delineated by watersheds according to pastoral concerns and the national territories are bounded by riverbeds according to agricultural concerns. By this system, it is possible to discern previously unknown regions like Ar, Jazer, and Argob, and to explain how Kadesh can be associated with both the Zin and Paran wildernesses. Custom-made colour maps provide locations and boundaries for all regions of the exodus and wanderings era according to biblical and historical indications. By application of this new hydrological principle, the troubled wilderness itineraries of the Israelite journeys come within reach of geographical resolution.