

The Good News

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THE CHURCH OF GOD

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You Are Your Own Worst Enemy!

by David Jon Hill

YOU are at war! Whether or not you know it, your life has been plunged into a "state of emergency" by the Almighty Creator who made you. The promise of eternal life is made **ONLY to one who has gained the victory—to the overcomer**—"Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God..." (Rev. 3:12).

To Overcome means to Conquer!

It is not a passive fight that God has called us to, but a direct frontal onslaught—a crushing conquest! It is an all-out war! **TOTAL WAR!**

Many wars have been fought in the history of mankind on this earth, but not one good thing has been produced by any of them! Men and women have been asked to give their lives that *others* might live. People have been called upon to die for every reason man could devise—for the emperor, for the country, for the church. The greatest motivation man can offer in war is either to protect country, home and family in a defensive struggle or to offer plunder and power if one helps wrest it from the hands of another! Or a hero's *death!*

But God offers us the *whole world*. "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the EARTH" (Matt. 5:5). He also offers us **POWER**: "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give **POWER OVER THE NATIONS**: And he shall

rule them with a rod of iron..." (Rev. 2:26-27).

God does not call us to go to battle *for nothing!* He offers us the greatest rewards that any conquering king of this earth *ever* offered to his soldiers. But God offers *one thing more* that **NO MAN can offer!**

ETERNAL LIFE!

"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the **WHOLE WORLD**, and *lose his own soul?* [life] or what shall a man give *in exchange* for his soul?" (Matt. 16:26.) The most you could hope to gain from any other king in any other war would be a limited amount of power over a limited area for a **LIMITED AMOUNT OF TIME!** Nebuchadnezzar, Cyrus, Alexander, the Caesars ruled the world all in their turn—**BUT THEY ARE DEAD!**

Our God offers us all that for which they fought and died, in addition to **LIFE EVERLASTING!** "...I am come that they might have **LIFE**, and that they might **HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY**" (John 10:10).

This goal God offers is *worth* the greatest conflict you could possibly be put through! To have the riches of all the earth, to have power beyond the realm of man's understanding, to have practicing knowledge of the laws that make life happy and pleasant, peaceful and productive, and to have **LIFE INHERENT WITHIN YOURSELF** to

enjoy and use these other blessings forever—**THIS IS A GOAL WORTH FIGHTING FOR!**

Rules of Warfare

The precept followed by every great military leader is "*Know your enemy—never underestimate him!*"

The United States and Great Britain—the Israel of today—are going into captivity soon—conquered by an enemy they do not even recognize! Even in the struggle against the recognized enemy of Communism, the West is losing ground and having a difficult time because it *does not recognize the kind of warfare* being waged by the enemy! Both Communism and Fascism are fighting a total war—a type of war the United States and Great Britain have never had to fight before! *A trade war, a propaganda war, a war using singers and dancers, artists and writers, a war of ideas, a war of diplomatic negotiation* over conference tables—and at times a war of terrorism, of guerrillas attacking innocent women and children, and finally an open warfare of one army facing another in desperate all-out battle!

YOU face a war *even more TOTAL* in its concept! The enemy you fight has no honor, no ethics, no mercy!

YOU are forced to fight on *three fronts* in your war. Unless you recognize—
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Letters to the Editor

Witness Goes Behind Iron Curtain

"Last summer was my 3rd trip behind the Iron Curtain. I spent 54 days in 2 years in USSR. I speak their language. You may be interested to know that some of the brethren told me, 'We hear Mr. Armstrong.' This came to me in Harkov, USSR. This summer on July 9, I leave for the Holy Land and on August 24 pick up a Mercedes in Germany, and then to USSR and Siberia. Upon my return I will be glad to call on you and learn more of your work. Your program is not jammed in USSR like the Voice of America."

Elder from Munising, Michigan

God's Way Pays

"I wrote you asking you to have prayer and send an anointed cloth. After that I thanked God for the healing that was sure. I didn't ask God when he would heal me, I knew he would.

"In the meantime a very close friend of mine was suffering from the same ailment. She went to the doctor and was treated for this. Finally her doctor said surgery was the only real cure. My friend went through major surgery and was near death for days. After nine days of hospitalization she came home with orders to do nothing for a month. I went to her house to help with the work. I was cleaning her floors (which always made my back and stomach hurt) when suddenly I realized my back didn't hurt as usual. God does things simply and wonderfully. There was a great difference in the way my friend was *healed* (??) and the way I was healed. Her hospital and doctor bills were over \$500."

Woman from Alexander, N. Carolina

● The increase in the number of healings reported and the proportion of these that are normally considered incurable should encourage us all to trust God completely in all things.

Healing Report from British West Indies

"I was suffering with my two legs for about thirteen years. I could hardly walk, neither could I wear shoes. My knees could not bend. I have tried doctors but all in vain. Praise God, at last He has sent Mr. Leo Joseph who has prayed and anointed me with your healing cloth, and by His miraculous healing, the things I could not do for the past 13 years, I am able to do now. Mr. Joseph prayed for me on a Friday and

the next day, Saturday, I was able to put on my shoes and walk."

Woman from Castries,
St. Lucia, B. W. I.

Cancer Healed

"My sister wired you to pray for my body—it was an emergency. My body was eating away with cancer in both breasts. The doctor said he could do nothing for me but make X rays, and when I got your letter I was already being healed. I know someone had to be praying for me. When I got your letter and anointed cloth I did as you said. Now I am healed. On one breast was two running sores. One is now scabbed over and the other is drying up."

Woman from Bluefield, West Virginia

Man Freed of Epileptic Seizures

"During December I wrote asking your prayers on my behalf for epilepsy. Prior to that I had been having as many as 3 petit mal attacks daily. Now, I am happy to report I have not had an attack this year. What is the answer? The prayers of the just."

Man from Freeport, New York

Chose to Obey God

"God truly blesses those who obey Him. About a year ago, I was threatened with dismissal at my bank position (which I have held for about nine years), if I did not wear make-up. I have heard nothing further about this matter, but I did receive a \$20 raise in salary this past pay period! I want to share my joy with you. It is not the increase in salary but the fact that God *does mean* what He says!"

Woman from Houston, Texas

PLAIN TRUTH Converts Atheist

"Thank you for forwarding The PLAIN TRUTH. I think to have read these magazines has been one of the greatest events in all my life. I had never believed in God since I had grown up, but now I begin life altogether."

Reader from Seine, France

Blessings Result of Obedience

"I am enclosing tithes of the past two weeks income, and a small offering. God's blessings are increasing. I now have the opportunity to work more hours than I am actually able to handle. And my wife and I get along much better; our lives are becoming increasingly

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scattered abroad*

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change in your address. Please inclose both old
and new address. IMPORTANT!

This Is PETRA!

This second article reveals Petra's mysterious past, the dozens of instances it is mentioned in Bible history. No other city was more important in the first exodus. Why? Does Petra's past reveal its future?

by Herman L. Hoeh

WHY should the valley through Petra be named after Moses if Moses was never there? Could it be that Moses and the children of Israel actually assembled in Petra before entering the Promised Land?

Why are so many chapters in the Bible devoted to the minute details of the journey of Israel from Egypt to Palestine? Have these chapters *hitherto undisclosed, but vital, meaning for us today?*

After Mount Sinai—Where?

Today, almost no one supposes Israel ever saw Petra. Yet not more than two centuries ago it was common knowledge among scholars that Moses, Aaron, Miriam and the children of Israel journeyed through Petra!

Now notice what really happened when Israel was about to leave Mt. Sinai. It is found in Numbers 10:11-12. "And it came to pass on the twentieth day of the second month, in the second year [after the Exodus], that the cloud was taken up from off the tabernacle. . . . And the children took their journeys"—the original Hebrew reads "set forward by stages" (Jewish trans.)—"out of the wilderness of Sinai; and the cloud rested in the wilderness of Paran."

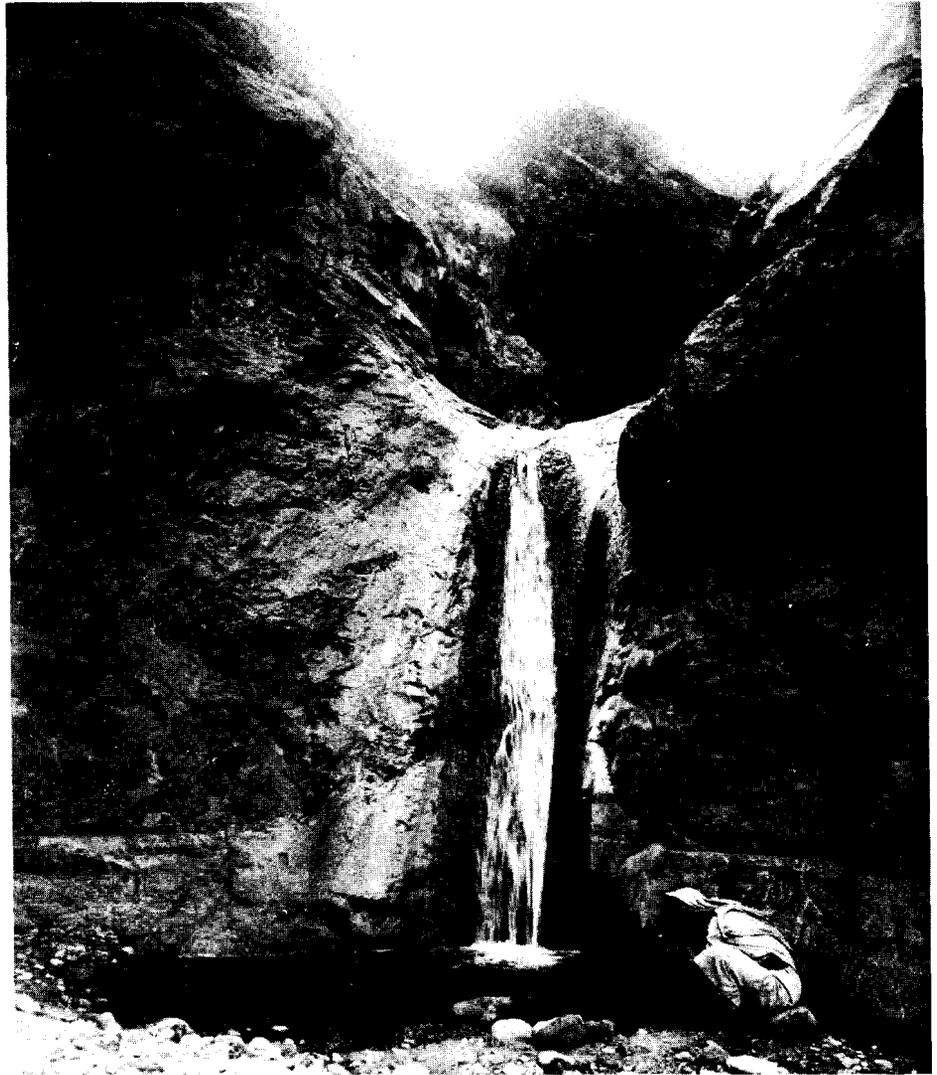
From Numbers 9:15 to 23, we learn that the encampments of Israel were determined by the movement of the cloud above the tabernacle. When the cloud was stationary, the people abode in their tents. When the cloud ascended and moved forward, the people followed it. The Eternal—the God of Israel, who later came in the flesh as Christ—was in that cloud! He was leading Israel. He determined their movements. Where did He take them? To "the wilderness of Paran," says Num. 10:12.

But where is Paran?

Men assume it may mean the Sinai Peninsula, southwest of Palestine. They are only guessing! THEY don't really know! Where does the Bible say it is?

First, let's understand what the word "Paran" means. *Young's Concordance* gives the surprising definition: "FULL OF CAVERNS." *Paran* comes from the Hebrew root meaning "TO DIG OUT," or "TO CUT OUT," according to the *Encyclopaedia Biblica*; hence, "to embellish or decorate" (*Strong's Concordance*).

Here is a wilderness famous for a



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The Wadi at Siyyagh waterfall — the sole present source of water in Petra!

place in it which is *full of caverns or caves!*—embellished or decorated with tombs! Is this place Petra? We shall see. Certainly no city is more famous for its beautifully carved caves than Petra!

Notice also that Ishmael—the ancestor of the Arabians—"dwelt in the wilderness of Paran" (Gen. 21:21). It does not say he dwelt in Sinai. The scripture reads *Paran*. And where is the ancestral home of the Arabs? In Arabia, east of the Sinai Peninsula! That indicates that the wilderness of Paran borders on Arabia!

Now turn to Numbers 12:16. Note

what it says—the children of Israel pitched their tents "in the wilderness of Paran." From here Moses sent the twelve men to spy out the land of Palestine. "And Moses sent them *from the wilderness of Paran* according to the commandment of the Lord" (Num. 13:3).

After 40 days "they came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, *to KADESH*" (Num. 13:26). Kadesh is a city (Num. 20:16).

What Does "Kadesh" Mean?

Why was this city called "Kadesh"?



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The Arabah. This typical Arab desert—Negeb el Shurk—borders wilderness of the wandering.

In Hebrew, the word *Kadesh* means "holy." (See *Young's Concordance*.) What made the place holy? God did! God is holy. God dwelled in the cloud over the tabernacle. The cloud *abode* in the wilderness of Paran in Kadesh. God's presence sanctified the city and gave the name Kadesh to it.

Kadesh has more than one name. In the book of Numbers, God commanded Israel to go up and possess the land, beginning from "*Kadesh*" (Num. 13:26). But in Deuteronomy 9:23 we read: "Likewise when the Lord sent you from *Kadesh-barnea*, saying, Go up and possess the land which I have given you; then ye rebelled. . . ." *Kadesh-barnea* is therefore another name for Kadesh.

Why should the city of Kadesh also be called "*Kadesh-barnea*"? The Hebrew word *barnea* comes from two Hebrew words, *bar* and *nua*. The root meaning of *nua* (sometimes spelled *nuwa*) is "to waver or wander." It is often translated in the Old Testament as "*wanderer*," "*vagabond*," "*fugitive*." *Bar* means "son." It is used in such expressions as *Bartimaeus*, meaning "the *son* of Timaeus" (Mark 10:46), "*Simon Bar-jona*"—Simon the *son* of Jona (Mat. 16:17).

It was at Kadesh (Numbers 13:26) that the Israelites *wavered* in their faith. They refused to trust God (Num. 14:1, 11). As a punishment they had to *wander* or be fugitives in the wilderness.

"And the Lord's anger was kindled against Israel, and he made them *wander* in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation that had done evil in the sight of the Lord was consumed" (Numbers 32:13).

Kadesh was never referred to as *Kadesh-barnea* until *after* the Israelites *wavered* in their faith and had to *wander* as a punishment (Numbers 32:8). The significance of the name *barnea*, then, is "the wandering sons."

Observe, now, *in what mountain range* Kadesh is to be found.

Located in Mount Seir!

"And we journeyed from Horeb, and went through all that great and dreadful wilderness which ye saw, *by the way TO the hill country of the Amorites*, as the Lord our God commanded us: and *we came to Kadesh-barnea*" (Deut. 1:19).

The Gulf of Aqaba, looking southwest toward hills of the Sinai Peninsula.

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The "hill country of the Amorites" is defined by Moffatt in Judges 1:36 as extending "from the Scorpion Pass ["Ak-rabbim" in King James Version] to *Sela* and beyond it." *Sela* is Petra!

Consider another vital point. To reach Kadesh from Horeb or Sinai [Horeb is another name for Sinai (Mal. 4:4 and Deut. 4:10-13)], the usual 11-day route went "BY THE WAY OF MOUNT SEIR"! Or, in other words, Israel journeyed BY THE MOUNT SEIR ROAD! But where is Mount Seir?

Mount Seir is that chain of mountains between Arabia and the Arabah or "plain" mentioned so often in the Bible. It lies *east of the Arabah* and extends from the Gulf of Aqaba north to near the Dead Sea.

Most maps in the back of a Bible will have these places located correctly. These maps, however, misplace Kadesh. The "Kadesh" usually located in the Sinai Peninsula is not the city Moses describes, but is the "Kedesh" of Joshua 15:23 instead—another place altogether.

Now consider this: if the wilderness of Paran and Kadesh were in the Sinai Peninsula southwest of Palestine, THERE WOULD BE NO REASON FOR TRAVELING BY THE WAY OF MOUNT SEIR!

The only reason one would have to travel by the Way of Mount Seir—or by the Mt. Seir Road—is that Paran and Kadesh lay *east of the Sinai Peninsula*—in other words, *in the vicinity of Petra!*

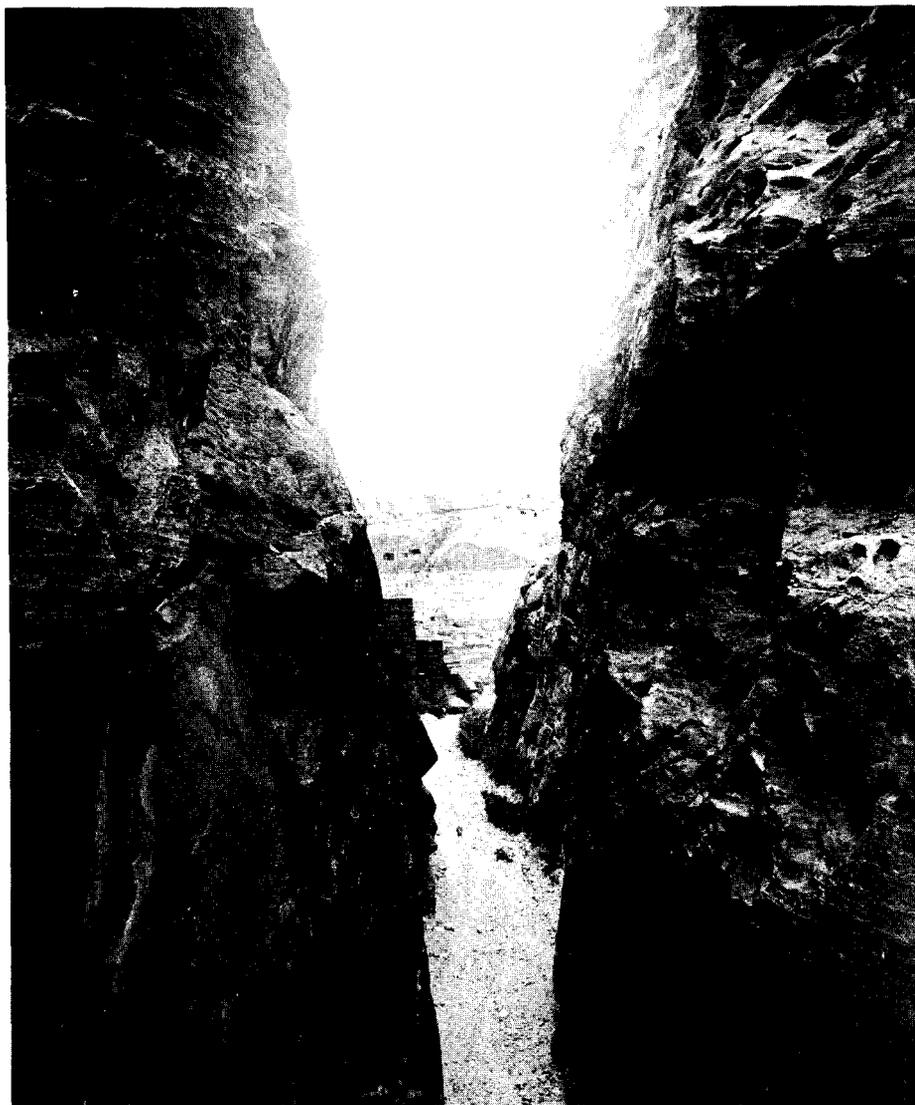
Take another scripture—Deuteronomy 1:6-7: "The Lord our God spoke unto us in Horeb, saying: 'Ye have dwelt long enough in this mountain; turn you, and take your journey, and go to the hill-country of the Amorites and unto all the *places nigh therunto*, IN THE ARABAH [in the King James Version it is called "the PLAIN"], in the hill-country, in the Lowland, and in the South, and by the sea-shore [of the Mediterranean]; the land of the Canaanites, and Lebanon, as far as the great river, the river Euphrates'" (Jewish trans.).

Did you notice that? Israel was to journey to the Amorite hill-country, where Kadesh was located. From there they were to enter the promised land from the east, to proceed westward to the shore of the Mediterranean, and then go north to Lebanon and the Euphrates (verse 21). *The first part of the promised land they would enter was the ARABAH—the wilderness just west of Petra in Mt. Seir!*

Here is just one more proof that Kadesh and the wilderness of Paran were *east of the Arabah*—east of the Sinai Peninsula—in Mount Seir, in the vicinity of Petra!

Israel Whipped in SEIR

But this is not all the evidence. Notice! When Israel refused to trust



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Passing to the right from El Khazne, we see the ruins of the ancient Roman theatre.

God, He sternly told them: "Surely they shall not see the land which I swore unto their fathers, neither shall any of them see it" (Num. 14:23). Upon receiving this rebuke, they imperiously said:

"Lo, we be here, and will go up unto the place which the Lord hath promised: for we have sinned. And Moses said, Wherefore now do ye transgress the commandment of the Lord. . . . Go not up, for the Lord is not among you; that ye be not smitten before your enemies. . . . But they presumed to go up unto the hill top: . . . Then the Amalekites came down, and the Canaanites which dwelt in that hill, and smote them, and discomfited them, even unto Hormah" (Numbers 14:40-45).

Notice where this disaster befell Israel. The people were defeated even to Hormah. Where is Hormah?

"And the Amorites"—who were Canaanites—"came out against you, as bees do, and *destroyed you in SEIR*, even

unto Hormah"! (Deut. 1:42-45.)

It was *in Seir*—in the mountain range where Petra is located—that Israel was handed this severe defeat. This was not somewhere in the Sinai wilderness. This was *in Seir*. The Bible says so!

Yet Another Proof!

Kadesh is also said to be located in "the Wilderness of Zin." "For ye rebelled," God told Moses, "against my commandment in the desert of Zin, in the strife of the congregation, to sanctify me at the water before their eyes: that is the water of Meribah *in Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin*" (Num. 27:14).

Since Kadesh is located in the wilderness of Paran and in the wilderness of Zin, it certainly appears that Zin and Paran are two different names for the same wilderness, doesn't it? What does "Zin" mean? Here is the answer!

The spies began to search the promised land *from the city of Kadesh-barnea*.



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Petra's Zibb Fir'aun — sole pillar left standing for centuries.

That is recorded in Deut. 1:19-23. Kadesh was their starting point. It was an important city on the border of the promised land. It was in fact one of the promised "gates of your enemies" (Gen. 22:17). But according to Numbers 13:21, we discover that "they went up, and searched the land *from the wilderness of Zin*. . . . And they returned unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh" (verse 26).

The Wilderness of Zin is mentioned no less than 10 times in the Bible. Invariably the only *city* associated with it is Kadesh. Kadesh is also the only *city* associated with Paran. Remember that Paran means "caverns." But what does *Zin* mean?

It comes from the Hebrew root meaning a mountainous *crag*, as if piercing the sky! (See *Strong's Concordance*.) Here is what the *Encyclopaedia Biblica* says: Zin "may mean the 'wall' of rock within which the wilderness of Zin lies"!

What better description could we find for the region of Petra than this! Petra is famous for its stupendous crags jutting high into the sky. Is it a coincidence that Petra—with its rocky crags and its caves—is the only city in the region of Arabia from which the words Paran and Zin can both be derived?

Some have been confused between the "Wilderness of Zin" and the "Wilderness of Sin." They are *not* the same. They are spelled differently in Hebrew. The Wilderness of Sin was reached by Israel *before* they even came to Sinai (Exodus 16:1). The wilderness of Zin was reached *after* Israel departed from Sinai. Sin was northwest of Sinai. Zin was far to the northeast of Mount Sinai.

Where Was the "Wilderness of Wandering"?

The epoch-making night following the return of the 12 spies, "all the con-

gregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept" (Num. 14:1). Their anger rose to rebellion next day. They hurled the accusation "Would God we had died in this wilderness" (verse 2).

When God heard it, He ordered Moses to tell the people: "Tomorrow turn you, and get you *into the wilderness* by the way of the Red sea" (verse 25, last half).

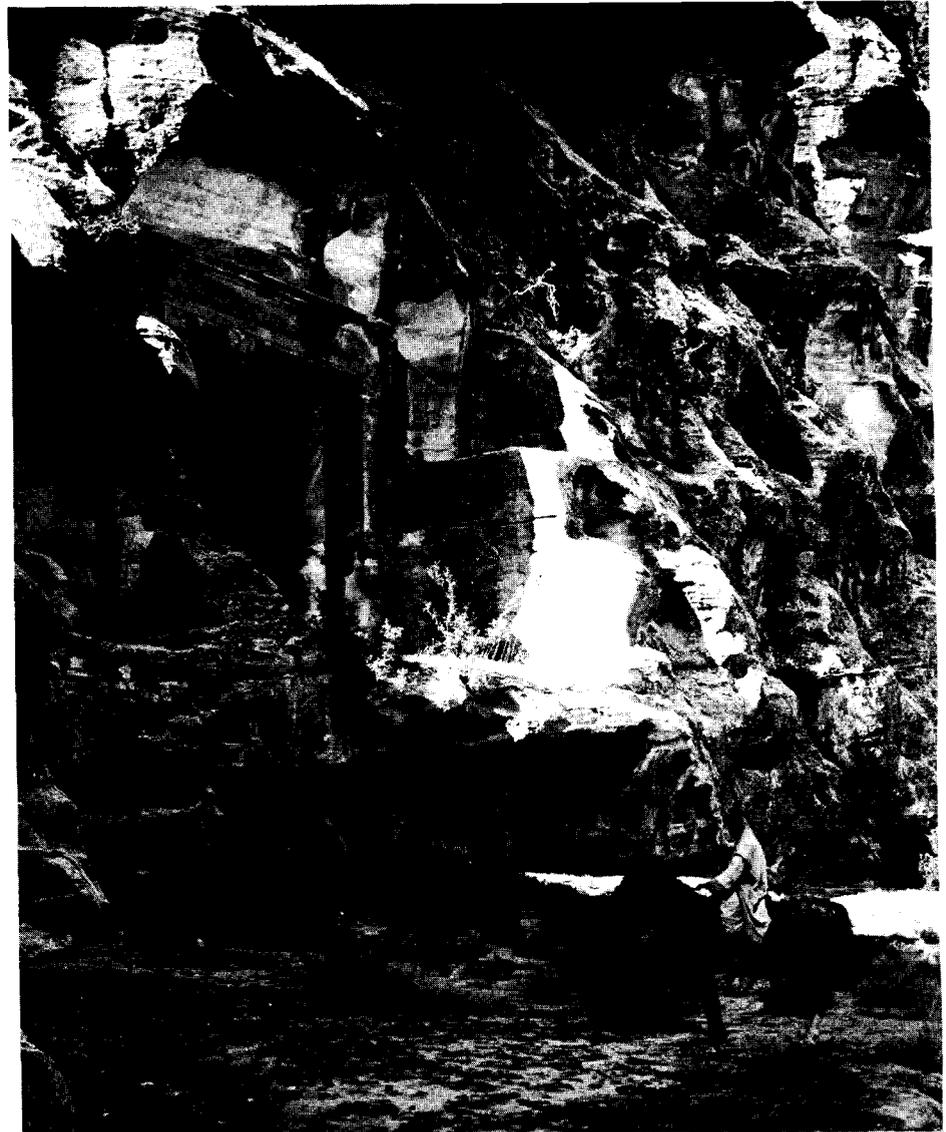
Remember, Israel was already in the wilderness of Zin or Paran. Now God orders them to leave Kadesh and go into the wilderness by the Way of the Red Sea—that is, by the Red Sea Road. They reached Kadesh by the Mount Seir Road. Now they are to leave *by another route* for an area called "the wilderness."

After their crushing defeat that morning at Hormah, Moses reported: "And ye returned and wept before the Lord; but the Lord would not hearken to your

voice, nor give ear unto you. So you abode in Kadesh *many days*"—how long? "According unto the days [the forty days of anxious waiting for the spies' return] that you abode there" (Deut. 1:45-46).

God would not let them remain in Kadesh any longer. He was determined that they were to leave *that day* for the wilderness, rather than enter Palestine. They did not deserve the promised land. They despised it. The *many days* of waiting, in which they dwelled in Kadesh, comprised over 40 long days. When the spies returned, they rebelled. Thus, instead of entering the land of Canaan, Moses wrote: "Then we turned, and took our journey *into the wilderness* by the way of the Red sea, as the Lord spake unto me" (Deut. 2:1).

The children of Israel now move southwest from Kadesh. They take the road that leads to the Red Sea in order to



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Petra. The El Barid temple in the Siq, a classical type with two pillars and portico.



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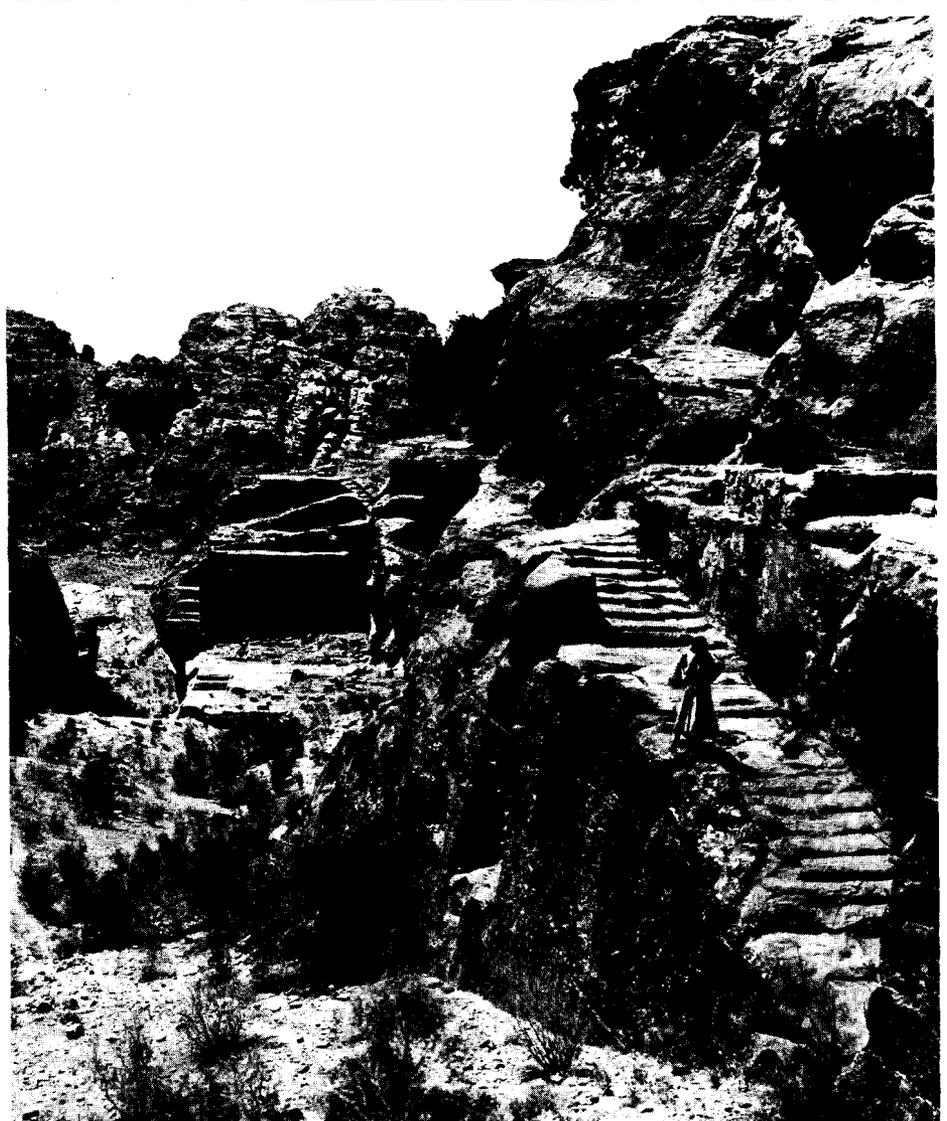
High above the Petra valley is this ancient altar of sacrifice or high place. View from the north.

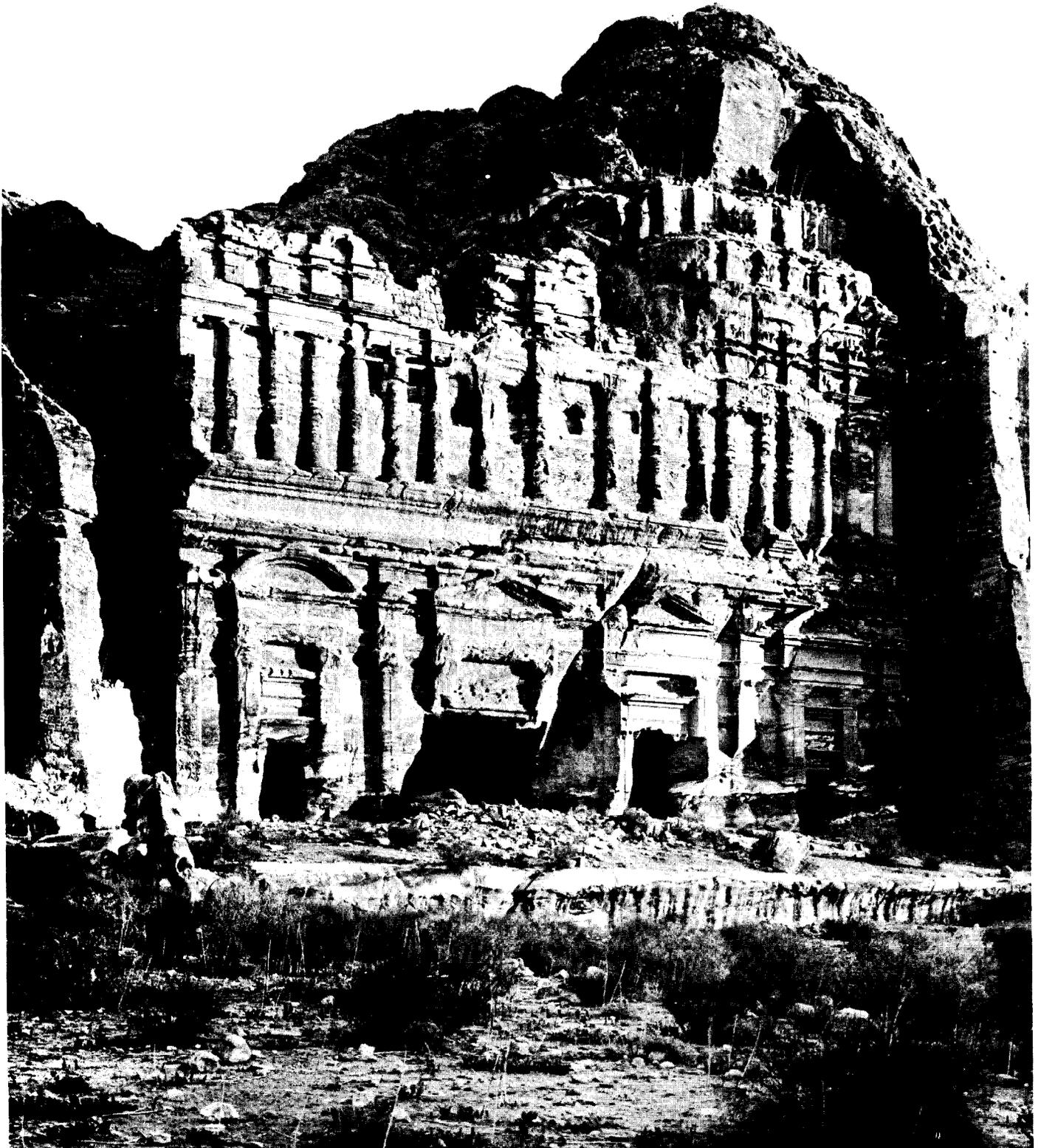
Right, Petra's famous stairway to the Great High Place and Funeral Chapel.

journey into the wilderness. This is the wilderness which they had asked to die in (Num. 14:2)—and in it they were going to die! Moses called it "that great and dreadful wilderness" —*the edge of which* they passed through when journeying from Sinai to Mount Seir (Deut. 1:19).

This wilderness in the Sinai Peninsula has been called throughout history simply *Et Tih*—meaning "the Wilderness"; or *Bádiyat et-Tih Beni Israel*—meaning "the Wilderness of the Wanderings of the Children of Israel." This designation runs back in the Arabian historians as far back as we have any track of their name for this desert," says Trumbull, on page 67 of *Kadesh-barnea*.

Nowhere in all the Bible is this area ever called Zin or Paran! It is entirely *mislabeled* on most Bible maps today. Nearly 37½ years were spent wandering





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Unusual Tomb in Stories, now badly eroded.

in this desolate, arid region. *No notice is taken of any wilderness encampments during those years.* Only a few major events occurring during the period are recorded in Numbers 15 through 19.

Encampments Listed in Order

Before we proceed further, let's consider Numbers 33. This entire chapter is devoted to the encampments of the children of Israel. This list of seemingly unimportant encampments *may have far more importance for us today than we dream!* Everything is placed in the Bible for a purpose!

Turn now to Numbers 33. Beginning with verse 1: "These are the journeys of the children of Israel. . . . And Moses wrote their goings out according to their journeys BY THE COMMANDMENT OF THE LORD." Then Moses lists the stopovers to Sinai (verse 15).

We have read in Deuteronomy 1:2 that the trip could be made from Sinai to Kadesh in eleven days of normal travel. The Israelites took longer, of course. Sometimes they remained a week (Num. 12:15) or a month (Num. 11:20) in one location before moving.

In the list in Numbers 33, the name "Kadesh" appears only once as an encampment (verses 36-37). In this list it appears just before the short journey to Mt. Hor. It is therefore the *second time* Israel entered Kadesh. Since the children of Israel were in Kadesh twice, it is hardly likely that the first stop there should have been omitted in Num. 33.

Nor indeed is it!

In Numbers 12:16, observe that the camping points between Hazeroth and the wilderness of Paran are skipped over. In Numbers 33:18-30 you will find them listed. Mt. Shapher (verse 23) is one of the famous mountain peaks in the Mt. Seir range. "The Mt. Shapher of Moses . . . is the Jebel Shafeh of the Arabs, [which gave its name to] the mountain range lying NNE [north-northeast] of Akabah, and extending from the head of that gulf to the neighborhood of Petra and Mount Hor," wrote Charles Forster in *Sinai Photographed*, p. 144. This one peak gave its name to the entire range of mountains inhabited by the descendants of Seir.

The remaining stops after Mt. Shapher take us east along Mt. Seir to *Bene-Jaakan* (verse 31).

Bene-Jaakan is Kadesh!

Notice Numbers 33:37. In the fortieth year of the exodus, Israel journeyed from *Kadesh* to Mt. Hor where Aaron died. But when Moses related *the same movements* orally, he said: "And the children of Israel took their journey from Beeroth [Beeroth means "wells"] of *the children of Jaakan* to Mosera: where Aaron died" (Deut. 10:6). This

scripture indicates that Mosera is another name applied to Mt. Hor and that *Bene-Jaakan is another name for Kadesh*. Mosera means "chastisement" in Hebrew (*Young's Concordance*). It was at Mt. Hor that Aaron died as a chastisement for disobeying God at Kadesh. It is certainly a fitting name for the Mount.

Now what does "Bene-Jaakan" mean?

The name "Bene-Jaakan" is merely another way of saying "children of Jaakan." The usual Hebrew word for child or son is *ben*. So the locale designated Bene-Jaakan is the place where the descendants of Jaakan settled. But who was Jaakan?

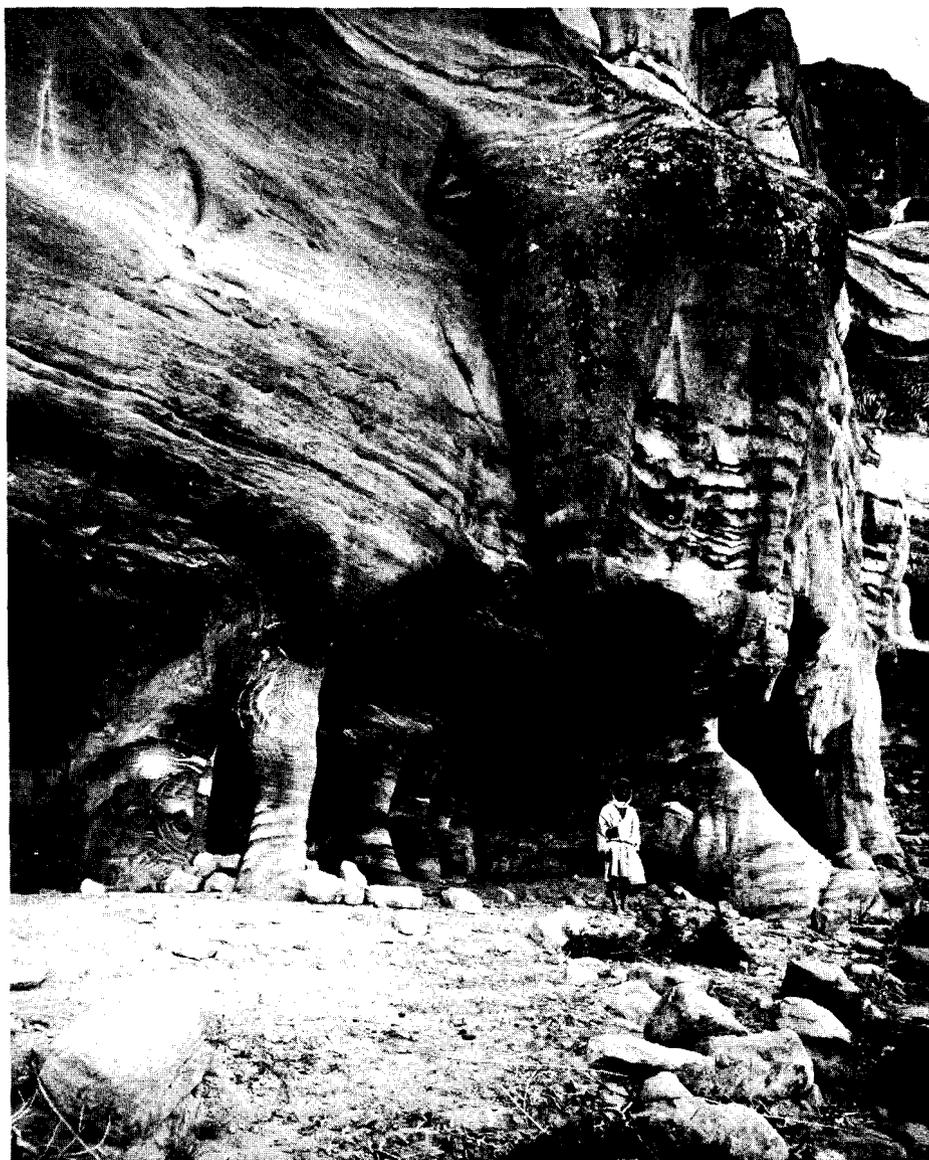
Jaakan is spelled Jakan in I Chronicles 1:42 and Akan in Genesis 36:27. Jaakan was a son of Ezer. Ezer was a son of *Seir the Horite* (Gen. 36:20-21). The word Horite means *cave-dweller* according to all authorities. That makes the children of Jaakan Horites or cave-

dwellers. And what city in Mt. Seir is more famous for its caves than Petra? History tells us that the *Horites originally cut out the gaping caverns in Petra!*

Certainly Bene-Jaakan is another name for Petra!

The few children of Jaakan at Kadesh did not resist the Israelites when Israel came to Kadesh the first time, or else they would not have been there to meet the Israelites nearly 40 years later! It appears also that a few of the Kenites dwelt around Petra and dominated the region. The Kenites had their strong dwelling place "in a rock"—"in Sela" according to the original Hebrew (Num. 24:21). Sela is Petra. Moses' father-in-law—a priest himself—was a Kenite (Judges 1:16) probably from Sela, where the children of Jaakan also dwelt.

And isn't this also an indication that Moses' experiences in the wilderness for 40 years prior to the exodus were to



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An ancient eroded exterior of a tomb at Petra.

fit him to lead Israel to the safety of Kadesh before entering the promised land?

Is this also why several of the ministers have visited Petra today?

But to return to Numbers 33. After leaving Kadesh the first time, the children of Israel did not need to stop at Mt. Hor. They proceeded southwest into the Arabah and came to Horhagidgad, then to Jotbathah, then to Ebronah (verses 32-34). This took them into the Sinaitic wilderness *where no further encampments are recorded* for about 37 years! We do not need to know the route of their miserable wanderings.

The account in Num. 33 next picks up the journey of Israel from Ezion-gaber to Kadesh again (verses 35, 36) about the beginning of the fortieth year after the exodus.

The Return to Kadesh

Thirty-nine years have now elapsed since the Exodus from Egypt. "Then came the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, to the desert of Zin in the first month [of the fortieth year, according to Josephus]: and the people abode in Kadesh; and Miriam [the sister of Moses] died there, and *was buried there*" (Numbers 20:1).

The Bible records that Miriam was buried in Kadesh. In William Whiston's footnote in *Josephus' Antiquities of the Jews*, bk. IV, ch. iv, sec 7, we read that "her sepulchre is still extant near PETRA, the old capital city of Arabia Petraea, at this day; as also that of Aaron, not far off!"

Now notice what happened next. "And there was no water for the congregation: and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron. . . . And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and *speak ye unto the ROCK* before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them *water out of the ROCK*: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts to drink."

Then "Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the ROCK, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must *we* fetch you water out of this ROCK? And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the ROCK twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also."

"And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron. Because ye believed Me not, to sanctify Me in the eyes of the children of Israel"—God had ordered Moses to speak to the ROCK, not to strike it, to

show that it was God alone who could produce the water at the precise moment—"therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them" (Numbers 20:2, 7-8, 10-12).

What *rock* is it that Moses struck? It is SELA in Hebrew!

"SELA" Another Name for PETRA

There are two Hebrew words commonly rendered rock. One is *sela*, the other is *tsur*. The word *tsur* may mean "a cliff, a rock, a boulder."

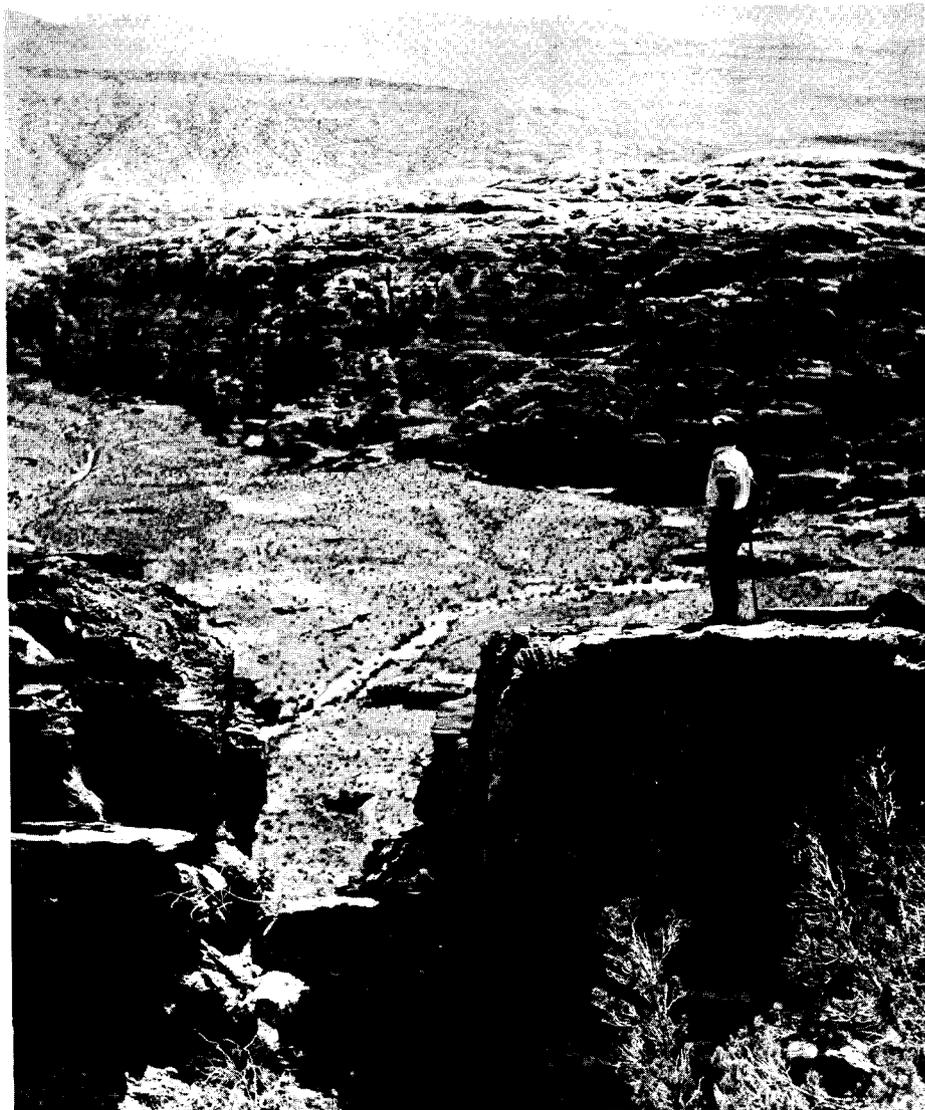
When Moses struck "the rock in Horeb," 39 years before, he did *not* strike Sela or Petra. He struck *tsur*! Observe: "Behold, I," spoke God to Moses, "I will stand before thee there *upon the rock* [tsur] in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock [tsur], and there

shall come water out of it. . . . And he called the name of the place Massah [meaning "temptation"], and Meribah [meaning "strife"], because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the Lord saying, Is the Lord among us, or not?" (Exodus 17:6-7).

This rock—*tsur*— is referred to spiritually in I Corinthians 10:4: "And they did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that *followed* them [a better translation is "went with them"]: and that Rock was Christ."

The waters which sprang from the two different rocks, nearly 39 years apart, were both called "Meribah" (Exodus 17:7; Num. 20:13, 24). That has led some to confuse the events.

(Please continue on page 16)



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From high up on Umm el Biyarah looking down on Petra Valley far below. The Khubta Ridge and the desert plateau lie far into the distance.

How the World *Suppressed* God's 7000-Year Plan

No conspiracy was more clever—or more successful. Here, retold at last, is the diabolical plot that erased from the minds of men the knowledge of the Plan of God as revealed in the Gospel of the Kingdom.

by W. A. Berg

ONE of the least-known facts of history is that *a knowledge of the millennium—and of God's 7000-year plan—prevailed over ALL the ancient world for HUNDREDS of years after the death of Christ and the Apostles.*

How this knowledge was suppressed—and with it the Gospel of the Kingdom of God—has never been fully told. It is the story of the cleverest plot ever recorded in history!

The Record of History

Through the preaching of Paul, the Gospel of the Kingdom of God resounded throughout the Greek-speaking Roman world. Everywhere there was curiosity about the Message of Christ. Even the Roman Emperor Nero had met Paul.

The old pagan religions were bankrupt. The people were interested in new ideas, in something different from the superstitions of the past. The priests of the pagan mystery religions had only one choice. They somehow had to get hold of the Message of Christ and make it their own!

Here is what happened. They first secretly wormed their way into the New Testament Church. They professed to accept the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, then set themselves up as the ministers of Jesus Christ. They soon created a following.

All this has been recorded in your Bible. You can find it in Galatians 1:6-10. "I marvel," wrote Paul, "that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: which is not another, but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again. If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. . . . do

I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ."

After 70 A.D. these false apostles and false ministers, with their following, left the true Church of God. They carried with them the Name of Christ and a perverted form of the Gospel. The world gave them heed. They became, under Constantine, the official religion of the Roman Empire—all others were soon stamped out. Once in full control, there was no longer any need for perpetuating even a perverted form of the gospel. It was soon cast aside and in its place came the old pagan mysteries once again—this time cloaked in the Name of Christ and as the Message of Christ.

The history of all this can now be told. It reads like a mystery-thriller—and indeed it is! The old pagan Babylonian mystery!

Seizing the Message of Christ

The early "church fathers" took over the Message of Christ. They needed it to appear as the ministers of Christ. Here is what they preached—until they could openly reject the Message of Christ altogether.

Writing from Alexandria, Egypt, shortly after 100 A.D., a minister masquerading as the apostle Barnabas taught: "'God made in 6 days the works of his hands, and made an end on the 7th day, and rested on it, and sanctified it' (Gen. 2:2). Attend, my children, to the meaning of this expression, 'He finished in 6 days.' This implieth that the Lord will finish all things in 6000 years, for a day is with Him a thousand years. And He Himself testifieth saying, 'Behold, to-day will be as a thousand years.' Therefore, my children, *in 6 days, that is, in 6000 years*, all things will be finished. 'And He rested on the 7th day.' This meaneth: when His Son, coming (again), shall destroy the time of the wicked man, and judge the ungodly, and change the sun, and the moon, and the stars, then

shall He truly rest *on the 7th day*" (Epistle of Barnabas, Chapter 15).

About a generation later, Papias of Hierapolis (in Asia Minor) is recorded to have said about the same thing, as well as adding that "there will be a period of some thousand years *after* the (first) resurrection of the dead, and that *the Kingdom of Christ will be set up in material form on this very earth!*" (Eusebius, Hist. Eccl., Book 3, Chapter 39.)

From the city of Rome, in the first half of the second century A.D., Justin Martyr still taught that "*thereafter* (AFTER the thousand year reign of Christ on earth) the general, and, in short, the eternal resurrection and judgment of ALL men (the 2nd and 3rd resurrections mentioned in Rev. 20: 11-15) would likewise take place." (Dialogue with Trypho, Chapters 80, 81.)

Irenaeus, who was the bishop of Lyons, France, wrote in the latter half of the second century: "For in as many days as this world was made, in so many thousand years shall it be concluded." And continuing, "This is an account (Gen. 2:1,2) of the things formerly created, as also *it is a prophecy of what is to come*. For the day of the Lord is as a thousand years, and in 6 days created things were completed: it is evident, therefore, that they will come to an end at the 6th thousand year." And finally, "These (rewards) are to take place *in the times of the kingdom*, that is, *upon the 7th day*, which has been sanctified, in which God rested from all the works which He created, *which is the true Sabbath of the righteous. . . .*" (Against Heresies, Book 5, Chapters 28, 33.)

The early third century produced the same testimony. From Carthage, North Africa, Tertullian acknowledged the possibility of a promised millennium upon the earth (Against Marcion, Book 3, Chapter 25). By the time of Hippolytus of Rome the Message had become

quite confused. He wrote: "6000 years must needs be accomplished, in order that the Sabbath may come, the rest, the holy day 'on which God rested from all His works.' For the Sabbath is the type and emblem of the future Kingdom of the saints, when they 'shall reign with Christ,' when He comes from heaven as John says in the Apocalypse: for 'a day with the Lord is as a thousand years.' Since, then, in 6 days God made all things, it follows that 6000 years must be fulfilled" (From his Commentary on Daniel).

For the remainder of the third and on into the fourth century, the doctrine of the millennium was in part maintained by such men as Methodius, Lactantius and Victorinus. In fact, the evidence regarding God's 7000-year plan is so authoritatively documented and well preserved that the *Encyclopedia Americana* is compelled to state: "It is admitted on all sides that these views [of God's 7000-year plan] were, if not general, at least very common in the ancient church."

"The belief was generally founded on Psalm 90:4, according to which 1000 years are before the Lord as 1 day, compared with the account of the creation as given by Moses. The 6 days of creation are taken as designating 6000 years of toil, and the subsequent sabbath as designating 1000 years of rest and happiness. *The millennium was to be the SABBATH REST of the new creation of mankind in Christ*" (Vol. 19, p. 116).

By the close of the fourth century of the present era the message of Christ was assumed to be no longer needed.

God's Plan Rejected

Strong opposition to the millennium began to develop by the third and fourth centuries through the writings of Caius, Origen and Dionysius the Great. Their principal objections were as follows:

1. The doctrine was "Jewish."
2. In some places the Bible text was too plain and obvious; it needed a "deeper significance."
3. The book of Revelation was obscure; it needed to be officially rejected.

This feeling toward the book of Revelation was so strong that *the book was removed from the general reading list in the fourth century "and thus the troublesome foundation on which chiliasm (the doctrine of the millennium) might have continued to build was got rid of"* (*Encyclopedia Britannica*, 11th edition, article "Millennium").

The man who dealt the major death blow to the doctrine of the millennium was Augustine, Bishop of Hippo. Even prior to Augustine's lifetime, anticipation toward a future millennial reign began to dwindle. The Church began to date the beginning of the millennium from either the *first* appearance of Christ, or from the conversion of Constantine and the downfall of paganism. *They began to regard God's soon-coming kingdom as ALREADY EXISTING in the glory of the dominant imperial state-church* (*History of the Christian Church*, Schaff, Vol. II, p. 619).

Augustine merely capitalized on this prevailing theory and used the corrupted, gluttonous millennial doctrines of the Montanists as his scapegoat. He himself wrote: "Thus there was supposed to follow upon the 6000 years taken as 6 days a 7th day or Sabbath taking up the last thousand, and to be given over to the resurrected saints for celebration... *In fact, I myself at one time accepted such an opinion*" (*The City of God*, Book 20, Chapter 7).

By means of a totally unrelated and illogical mathematical argument, Augustine soon convinced a gullible world that God's 7000-year plan was all wrong. He said that "the *other* interpretation" (his own) "makes the thousand years stand for ALL the years of the Christian era. He claimed that the millennium meant "the span between Christ's first and second coming." Read of this incredible deception for yourself in *The City of God*, Book 20, Chapters 7 and 9.

In addition to the millennium, numerous other sound doctrines suffered similar fates under the influence of Augustine. For example, verses 7 and 8 of Revelation 20 clearly state that Satan will again be loosed after the thousand years and that he will be allowed to deceive the nations once more. Augustine wouldn't accept this. He stated that "If his (Satan's) chaining means that he has no power or no permission to deceive, then his loosing means that he will have power or permission to deceive. But, of course, *SUCH A POSSIBILITY IS UNTHINKABLE*" (*The City of God*, Book 20, Chapter 8).

This has been the doctrine of the Catholic Church ever since.

The Current Viewpoint

Renaissance Protestantism carried on where Augustine left off. Article 17 of the Lutheran Augsburg Confession, and Article 41 of the Anglican Articles drawn up by Cranmer in 1553, condemned the truths of God's 7000-year

plan as "Jewish opinions." Since then a number of minor religious movements have embraced various parts of the millennial doctrine from time to time but the majority of the world openly rejects any part of this basic truth.

Present-day leaders of Catholicism still claim as Augustine did that God's kingdom is on this earth in the form of the Catholic Church. And, as ridiculous as it may sound, they even go so far as to say that the doctrine of the millennium is not to be found in either the New Testament gospels or epistles or in the traditions of the apostles (*The Question Box*, p. 380).

Moreover, these religious leaders presently condemn as HERESY a literal interpretation of the prophetic books of the Old Testament and the Book of Revelation.

But the Catholic Church is not alone in its position against the truth about the millennium. Numerous Protestant religious bodies are fervently opposed to any mention of Christ's return and the establishment of God's kingdom.

For example, one world-renowned Protestant educator blatantly teaches that Jesus' knowledge was *limited* because of His race and education. This top university official claims that Jesus expected the kingdom of God to be established during His fleshly existence on earth. He then maintains that Jesus' prophetic teaching is WRONG and full of "human ignorance and error" and "can no longer be defended" because the things which Jesus prophesied in regard to the coming of God's kingdom on earth have never come to pass (*The Historic Mission of Jesus* by Cecil John Cadoux, pp. 343-348)! This man is going to be very surprised when Jesus' prophecies COME to pass, on schedule, in the very near future.

Another illustration is a statement which was read before the World Council of one of the major Protestant denominations. This paper was prepared by the dean of one of its schools of theology with the intention of representing and consolidating the beliefs of this particular denomination. The statement boasts that *the doctrine of the millennium and the personal 1000-year rule of Christ on earth is intentionally conspicuously ABSENT from the teachings of the denomination*. It goes on to say that a literal understanding of the Biblical details which are connected with Christ's second coming is to be *studiously avoided* because Christ's return supposedly takes place in each individual at the time of death. It concludes by stating that "We live, NOT in anticipation of a coming Kingdom

that will be imposed upon us by God, but rather here and now WITHIN the Kingdom..." (Eschatology in the Light of Current Theological Discussions, from "Religions in Life," 24:524-36, Fall 1955).

Bear in mind that these statements are from LEADERS AND TEACHERS of the churches and seminaries in America and Great Britain. If they embrace such beliefs, is it any wonder that only 1% of America's ministerial students believe that Christ will come a second time (The Surprising Beliefs of Our Future Ministers, *Redbook Magazine*, August 1961, p. 107)? And if both teachers and students share these opinions, is it then surprising that true doctrines of Christ's return appear ridiculous and are unappealing to the average man on the street?

The public has been taught to reject sound doctrine. This is why our present Christian society believes as it does. God puts His finger squarely on the cause by indicting the *religious leaders* as the primary ones who have led mankind AWAY from the truth (Jer. 23; Ezek. 13; 22:23-31; 34). *Both the scholars of religion and the clergy they train are to blame for wrongly influencing the theological thinking of the public.* These are the men who have DESTROYED the knowledge of the reality of Christ's second coming by teaching that God's kingdom is already here on earth.

And that is how the plot to destroy the gospel has succeeded in the world to this very day.

Only now is the truth being preached again!

You Are Your Own Worst Enemy!

(Continued from page 1)

nize, put up a defense and mount an attack against these three fronts *you may lose!* These three battle fronts are: (1) yourSELF; (2) the world; and (3) Satan and his demons!

Of these three enemies the self is the *first* and the *WORST!*

In order to fight this enemy, you must know his *purpose*, his *tactics*, his *strengths*, and his *weaknesses!* In this article we will examine this enemy thoroughly and also examine the battle orders that the Captain of our salvation has given to us to overcome this enemy!

All-Out War!

Let's realize first of all that no "Laudicean attitude" will ever conquer in this warfare! Every good soldier must have good morale! He must have a *desire to fight*, to *conquer*, and to *WIN!*

Military leaders give men slogans to fight by; let us see the slogans God has given to us. "FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH, *lay hold on eternal life...*" (I Tim. 6:12). "STRIVE to enter in at the strait gate..." (Luke 13:24). "...mortify (KILL) the deeds of the body..." (Rom. 8:13). "...so run, not as uncertainly; so *fight* (I), not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and *bring it into subjection*: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (I Cor. 9:26-27).

The Christian life of overcoming is

not a quiet, passive, contemplative sort; but an active, moving, *pressing*, *striving* RACE, won only by those who press forward constantly!

Too many of you Brethren feel since you have been baptized and received God's Holy Spirit that you do *not live with a carnal mind any longer!* You tend to consider the way *you* do or look at things as *the way*. If you discover a fault in yourself or if one is brought to your attention, you tend to generalize or excuse your own faults by saying, "Nobody is perfect!" Or you say, "I know I have got to overcome, and I am trying but I just can't do everything at once."

These answers come from *YOUR CARNAL MIND!*

What YOU Are Like

Before we go any further let's understand two basic facts about the *human mind* that God has created in you. "The heart [the way you naturally tend to think, feel, and believe] is DECEITFUL ABOVE ALL THINGS, and DESPERATELY WICKED: who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9.) This situation does *not change completely* when you are baptized and receive God's Holy Spirit. It only *begins* to change. At baptism you have *added* to your carnal mind a portion of the Mind of God. God's Mind, His Holy Spirit, begins to reveal to you what *you* are really like, and gives you

the power and strength to *overcome* that enemy, to *cease to be like you were!*

Too many times we like to use scriptures in the Bible against the people of this world from a self-superior sense on our part. "Because the *carnal* mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Rom. 8:7). How many times have you used this scripture referring to the world—and it *does* refer to the world—not realizing the context in which Paul wrote this scripture. The book of Romans is written to the *saints* at Rome. It is written to *begotten sons of God*, members of the body of Jesus Christ, members of the Church of God!

Paul demonstrated that neither the Greek mind, which tends to be academic, philosophical, nor the Jewish mind, which tends to be proud and self-righteous, was the right kind of mind. He showed that ALL had sinned and come short of the glory of being God. Only through God is there any power which would keep a human being from sinning and coming under the penalty of death. Paul showed all through Romans 7 that when the Spirit of God is added to your mind there is an immediate warfare that ensues because of the basic human nature that you inherently are.

"But I see another law in my members, WARRING against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members" (Rom. 7:23). As in any war, sometimes the enemy presses very hard, and you find yourself in retreat, not any longer in *control* of the situation and conquering. This is the time Paul is warning about in Romans 8:7, urging you never to give in to your carnal mind and live according to its dictates. In this battle the warfare is *constantly going on*, the enemy is *ever present*—you are either winning or losing at *any given minute of any day*.

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds); casting down imaginations (*reasonings*), and *every high thing* that exalteth itself *against* the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity *every thought* to the obedience of Christ" (II Cor. 10:3-5). Our warfare *takes place* within our minds! This is the battle field! Little skirmishes and big battles are fought here every single day at the *speed of thought!*

God's mind present with you, especially when you are in contact with Him

through never-ceasing prayer, enables you to see what you should do and how you should act. But your carnal mind, also present with you as long as you are a human being, begins immediately to put up a defense against the attack of God's Spirit. It begins to think of ways *around* doing what God wants you to do. It begins to barricade and entrench itself with *justifications* and *reasons* why you have not or cannot do what God wants you to do. It all seems *perfectly reasonable*; it is *very understandable*—but it is "AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD"!

Unless you *immediately* recognize this and ask God for reinforcements to pull down the "strongholds" your carnal mind has built up, you will find yourself beaten back, having *less character* each time you submit to your carnal mind rather than conquering with God's Holy Spirit!

Self Preservation

The basic law of all life is SELF-preservation! You are no different from any other form of life. *Humanly* you want to stay the way you ARE! *Humanly*, you resist any change. Your human mind is thinking at nearly the speed of light to come up with some reason why it does *not* have to submit to the mind of God.

Notice very closely what God said you must bring into captivity, what you must control: "every THOUGHT"—this is where sin begins!

Let's notice the process of how this develops. "But every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his OWN LUST, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (Jas. 1:14-15). First of all your carnal mind makes you think you would *like to do* what is *contrary* to God's law. You *play* with the thought, roll it over in your mind, *entertain* it and plan—until finally you have GONE TOO FAR! You have not resisted from the *beginning* and the power of sin has snowballed until it is too great to resist. Next you actually DO what you had been *thinking* about doing—this is sin—death is the penalty!

This can be repented of. But the only one who knows how many times you can retreat before sin, and ask God later to forgive that retreat, is the one who has repented *too many times!* God says very plainly, "I am weary with repenting" (Jer. 15:6).

Don't try to find out how many times God will forgive. Certainly He is forgiving, loving, merciful and kind. Yet He warns us very sternly that if we do

not bear fruit consistently that He will break us off as a dead branch and cast us into the lake of fire!

Don't *assume* YOU are all right! "Examine yourselves, whether *you* be in the faith; prove YOUR OWN SELVES ..." (II Cor. 13:5).

Just the Way I Am

How many times have you heard people say, "I'm just hardheaded, that's all!" or, "I have a very quick temper and I tend to jump to conclusions"? This is the excuse *your carnal mind* puts up—the *reason* your human mind displays against the knowledge of God! This is *your excuse* for not overcoming because you *are* the way that you ARE!

Some even try to blame it on their *parents* and complain, "Dad was always nervous and grouchy and so am I!" This explanation satisfies the self. It explains readily that if you just *are* that way, then that's just the way you *are* and there isn't any way of helping *the way you ARE!* You just *are* easily offended. You just happen to *have* a despondent, pessimistic attitude. You "just can't seem to remember." Or you are just *weak!*

This to the carnal mind seems to be the *perfect reason* why you do not *have to overcome!* It is PERVERTED REASONING!

YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED TO OVERCOME *WHAT YOU ARE!*

God never inspired the hymn titled "Just As I Am!" We can't come the way we are to God. WE MUST CHANGE!

The human mind is very fertile and clever in coming up with all kinds of arguments *against* God's truth. When His truth, revealed by His Spirit in your mind, begins to *accuse you* of not overcoming as you should, you begin *immediately* to find an *excuse!* This is another tactic of your carnal mind!

The Excuse Tactic

Like the first Adam, you cast furtively about to find a scapegoat for your sin! You say that you *inherited* your bad habits or your faulty disposition from your parents. Perhaps you claim that it was your family background, that you grew up in a house where mother always dominated and so you *just naturally* tend to dominate even though you are a woman. Or you men *just naturally* tend to listen to your wife more than you should because mother always told you what to do! You let this NATURAL CARNAL reasoning satisfy you into thinking you don't have to overcome this problem! It is not your fault, it's the fault of *someone else!*

Some like to blame their *education* and claim that if they had received more or better education things would be different! After all, you can't be expected to study the Scriptures if you only had a sixth-grade education as much as you would be expected to study the Scriptures if you had a college education!

Perhaps your excuse is your *geography!* If you had just lived in Oregon instead of Arkansas *things would be different.* If you lived in the country instead of the city; or if you lived in the city instead of the country *things would be different!*

Perhaps your *job* is your problem. If you didn't have to work such long and hard hours you would be able to study and pray more. If you had a job you could do with your hands, your mind would be free to think about the things of God. If you had a job where you had to use your mind, you would be able to develop and use all of the attributes that God would have you develop.

"Pass-the-Buck" Classic

This is an excuse that mankind has been using ever since the time of Adam! This is how the real *you* thinks and acts and works. God faced Adam with the question, "Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?" (Gen. 3:11.) Adam was quick to answer, but the answer was an *excuse:* "...The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat" (Verse 12). Adam had to find a *reason why* he had sinned—just admitting it to God didn't seem to be enough. But when he offered the reason, when he explained that it was his *wife's fault*, not his, *his carnal mind* was satisfied. If you will read on briefly there in Genesis 3, you will discover the woman was no different from her husband. When God asked her why she had done this thing, she replied that it was the *serpent's* fault, that *he* had been the one to beguile her—it was Satan's fault!

MOST PEOPLE ARE ONLY BLIND TO THEIR OWN SINS! "All the ways of a man are *clean in his own eyes*; but the Lord weigheth the spirits" (Prov. 16:2). We can't have the understanding to know how our own carnal minds work unless we ask God in heaven to guide us in recognizing this worst enemy we have. "Man's goings are of the Lord; how can a man then understand his own way?" (Prov. 20:24.)

Turn now to Jeremiah 10:23—"O

Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is *not in man that walketh to direct his steps*. O Lord, CORRECT ME, *but with judgment*; not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing" (Jer. 10:23-24). Make this YOUR prayer: "...cleanse thou ME from SECRET FAULTS. Keep back thy servant also from *presumptuous sins*; let them not have DOMINION over me..." (Ps. 19:12-13).

Don't ask God to show your *husband or wife* where he or she is wrong—ask God first to show YOU where YOU are wrong! If your sins are not obvious to you—if you cannot pick out at least three *specific* things you need to overcome, then you desperately need to ask God to *search* and *cleanse* YOU—to show you the sins that are *secret* to YOU!

"Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins *in the light* of THY *countenance*. For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told. The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is *soon cut off*, and we fly away. Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath. So *teach us to number our days*, that we may *apply our hearts unto wisdom*" (Ps. 90:8-12). The marginal rendering reads better here, "*that we may get us a heart of wisdom*." This is the way to get wisdom—to fight your chief enemy, YOUR-SELF! Our days are numbered and slip-

ping away all too fast—we don't *have* the threescore and ten years left to us anymore, and using every precious second is absolutely necessary.

Concentrate all your force and energy on your worst enemy—bringing every weapon to bear to *exterminate* this enemy. "SEARCH ME, O God, and know MY heart: try ME, and know MY thoughts: And see if there be *any wicked way in ME*, and lead ME in the way everlasting" (Ps. 139:23-24).

What YOU Can Do!

In order to come to grips with your worst enemy, to come *concretely* to the attack—so you will know *exactly* what to do, I urge you to write a short essay about yourself. After praying, on your knees to Almighty God, in the attitude expressed by the above scriptures, take out a piece of paper and title it: "WHAT I AM."

Be candid, truthful before God—ask God to help you see YOU, AS HE SEES YOU! Then describe what He opens your mind to see. After you have this written, you will know what you need to change. Ask God directly in prayer to help you overcome *one* of the points that you have written down about yourself.

In a succeeding article we will examine several other phases of human nature concretely and specifically to help you find out even more how *your* human nature works and how *you*—the begotten son of God—may *overcome this nature and stand before God* MORE THAN A CONQUEROR!

"I am very thankful for your words in your booklets and have found much good insight and illumination. Concerning the high feast days: Christmas—many ministers have already protested here against the Christmas tree in the church, and much has often been said against the commercialization of Christmas, but one hopes for the blessing of God for the individual in spite of that. Easter? You are probably right there, but how is a revolution to take place in the order of things that is now in force? We as individuals can't do anything about that, but I find in scripture that again a blessing is received through remembrance of the great acts of God."

Woman from Spangenberg

"I thank you very much for both of your letters with the interesting literature. I have passed them on to an evangelical pastor for the Bible class."

Man from Halle, East Germany

"Today I have another question: How do you come to the conclusion that in less than 30 years all peoples will live in a Utopia? I am moved by this, because Israel today counts this year as 5722 and there are still 278 more years to 6000. Israel, as the people of the Lord, must surely have the exact year, because we received His Word through Israel, didn't we?"

Man from Hattingen

• The Jews have preserved the Word of God and the Sacred Calendar correctly—but in the Middle Ages they adopted a superstition about what year creation occurred. This has nothing to do with Bible chronology, but was invented to make it appear that Jesus appeared *too early* to be the Messiah.

"First of all, many thanks for the magazine 'Die Reine Wahrheit.'

"I have read these with great interest. I personally have always doubted this date [referring to Christmas], because it was not possible for the shepherds to be in the fields with their sheep at this time. But I don't believe that it is an abomination to God that we have been wrong in the date; if that were so the Heavenly Father would have certainly given us a sign since then. But how it is celebrated in so many places is certainly an abomination to God, and how it used to be, as you write, does not have anything to do with a holy night at all.

Woman from St. Gallen, Switzerland

• It isn't *how* you celebrate paganism that makes it wrong. Paganism is wrong in any form.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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more joyful and interesting. We are learning and growing together. God has indeed poured out blessings more than we are able to receive! We thank God for these many blessings."

Man from Conroe, Texas

Overcomes with God's Help

"As a very heavy smoker I am pleased to say I have now stopped smoking. I took it to the Lord in prayer as suggested in your article. I find I have not any craving as I had on a previous occasion when I tried it on my own, without God's help."

Reader from Scotland

From The German Broadcast

"I am happy to see that in the magazine 'Die Reine Wahrheit' truths are being disseminated which I have been

delivering for years and have spoken on in my mission talks. And there has been no lack of opposing voices. For the last 8 years I have written articles against the false Sunday resurrection."

Missionary from Othfresen

• Here again is proof that an honest mind, open to truth, can find it in the Bible no matter where he is.

"The only sermon, which I do not yet have in print, but which was extremely interesting, is the one that Christ did not die on Friday but on Wednesday. That became clear to me right away. I was always at a loss as to why the scripture was not also fulfilled concerning the three days. Therefore I was immediately happy to hear this truth."

Woman from Dusslingen, Württemberg



of the Prophet Aaron. It is the traditional site of the death of Aaron.

Josephus, the Jewish historian in the time of the apostles, tells us that Aaron died on one of the "high mountains" which encompasses "Petra"! Mt. Hor is by Petra!—"by the coast of the land of Edom" (Num. 20:23).

If you will scrutinize modern Bible maps you will see that some scholars speculate that Mt. Hor might have been Mt. Madurah in the Negeb, in the South of Palestine. But this area was well within the promised land. God never gave it to Edom. It is far to the west of Edom's borders. It is not where Aaron died. Aaron died on the southern border of Edom in Seir.

(To be continued next issue)

In obvious need of repair, left, is this Step Couloir ascending el-Khubta Heights in Petra.

Jebel Harun, the site of Aaron's death.

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This Is PETRA!

(Continued from page 10)

Meribah means "strife." In *both* instances the children of Israel *strove* with God. To distinguish between the two, Moses was inspired to use the expression "Meribah in Kadesh" (Num. 27:14), or "Meribah-Kadesh" (Deut. 32:51), for the later strife over water *at Sela*.

About four months have now elapsed since Israel came to Kadesh the second time. "And the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, journeyed from Kadesh, and came unto Mount Hor. And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron in Mount Hor, by the coast of the land of Edom, saying, Aaron shall be gathered unto his people" (Num. 20:22-24).

Where Did Aaron Die?

The same event is recorded in Numbers 33:37-38.

A little to the southwest of Petra is a 4800 foot mountain called *Jebel Nebi Harun* by the Arabs. It means Mount

