

Information taken from A DVD Review by Warren Krug. www.lutheranscience.org and Bob Cornuke and Larry Williams adventures from www.baseinstitute.org and from a seminar by Bob Cornuke at Camp Como, Colorado, Young at Heart camp.



One day "*he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb*" (Exodus 3:1). It was here that the angel of the LORD appeared to Moses in a burning bush that was not consumed and received his commission to deliver the children of Israel out of Egypt. Moses was told "*When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain*" (Exodus 3:12). This mountain is where the children of Israel came, and there they received the lively oracles written with the finger of God, the Ten Commandments.

But where is this mountain? Is it in the Sinai Peninsula? Towering over St. Catherine's Monastery? When looking in the map section of most Bibles, you will find that the traditional Exodus route is up for debate. Furthermore, all Bible maps will show you that the location of **Midian** is not in the Sinai Peninsula, but on the east side of the Gulf of Aqaba in Arabia. In addition, what is traditionally known as Mt. Sinai down in the bottom of the Sinai Peninsula may not be the real Mt. Sinai (Horeb), because the Bible clearly locates "*mount Sinai in Arabia*" (**Read Galatians 4:25**). Could the ancient land of Midian be in Arabia?

Larry Williams, a commodities trader by profession, and Bob Cornuke, a southern California police investigator, became interested in searching for the famed mountain. The late Jim Irwin, the astronaut and Noah's Ark hunter, gave Williams a letter from a man claiming to have been in Saudi Arabia and seen what could have been Mt. Sinai. Could Bob Cornuke and Larry Williams have stumbled onto something missed for years? The two amateur archaeologists have created a DVD shows their journey and their feelings on their search. They believe that Mt. Sinai isn't where these maps show it to be. They don't believe it is even on the Sinai peninsula. Mt. Sinai, they say, is likely located in modern day Saudi Arabia!

God does allow those things to happen at times. Think of the Dead Sea Scrolls discovered between 1947 and 1956. The mountain in Arabia called Jabal al Lawz has a black glazed crown, which drew their attention. However, when breaking off a chunk they found brown granite on the inside. There were boulder-piled altars, stone pillars, hand-cut markers and shrines scattered around the peak. The local Bedouin Arabs call the mountain, Jabal Musa, the Mountain of Moses.

The Traditional Mt. Sinai Site

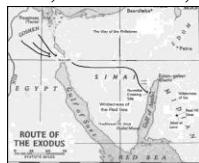


Williams and Cornuke contend that no archaeological evidence has ever been found suggesting anyone ever camped in the area of the traditional site, and archaeologists have thoroughly examined this mountain. This Mt. Sinai, they claim, was named by a fortune teller in or about the third century A.D. Mt. Sinai, and Midian according to Bible maps was located in present-day Saudi Arabia. Williams says the phrase “out of Egypt” occurs 72 times in the Bible in describing the Exodus. The Sinai Peninsula at that time was in control of the Egyptian army with a significant military presence. It would seem logical God would have led His people out of this peninsula.

Planning the Expedition

Williams and Cornuke may have been encouraged by reports they had heard of people seeing a mountain with a scorched top in Saudi Arabia, but these people had been arrested and their film confiscated before they were sent out of the country. So, using the Bible and old maps as guides, they concluded that a mountain in Arabia called Jabal Al Lawz might be the Mt. Sinai for which they were looking.

Their ambitious plans included trying to find the following features: the exodus route; the Red Sea crossing; the Bitter springs of Marah; the 70 palms; the 12 springs of Elam; the cave of Elijah; boundary markers around the mountain; the golden calf altar; an altar at the foot of the mountain; 12 stone pillars representing the 12 tribes of Israel; a rock from which water gushed; and, of course, the mountain itself.



Getting Into Saudi Arabia

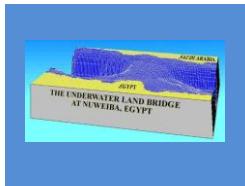
Eyebrows will surely be raised at the admission by Williams and Cornuke of how they got into Saudi Arabia. They somehow managed to get their hands on a letter from the king of Saudi Arabia, a promotional letter of some kind they think. Then using the letterhead and the king's signature, they devised a fake letter supposedly from the king giving them permission to enter Saudi Arabia. Williams seems to express some regret as to this method of gaining entry into the country, but he said they did what they had to do to find out the truth.

The Red Sea Crossing Point

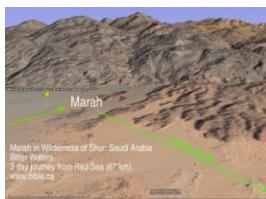
Scholars often point to three possible places at which the Israelites crossed the Red Sea. (See map.) The two northern points (1. & 2.) Williams and Cornuke rule out because Pharaoh could easily have sent part of his army around to the other side to cut off the Israelites. At the southern point (3.) the sea bottom is like a canyon. With the sea parted, it would have been almost impossible for the elderly, children, and the animals to have climbed down one side and up

the other.

But the archaeologists say there is an interesting feature in the Gulf of Akabar that runs from the tip of the Sinai peninsula across the straits to Saudi Arabia—a land bridge. Dr. Moller points out that the site at Nuweiba he identifies as the Red Sea crossing point has an underwater land bridge, where bones remain, engulfed in coral.



Cornuke feels this bridge which rises from the depths of the sea to within a few feet of the surface was especially created by God to allow the Israelites to escape. A wind following the parting of the sea could have dried out this land bridge so it wasn't slimy or soggy. At the western end of the land bridge is nothing but wilderness and a mountain range so that the Israelites could have felt "hemmed in" as suggested by Exodus 14:3.



Bitter Springs of Marah, 70 Palms, and 12 Springs of Elim

Now on the other side of the Gulf of Akabar, the men traveled about 33 kilometers inland (or a three days' journey on foot—Ex. 15:22-23) where they said they discovered some springs with water so bitter they could not even touch it to their tongues. They think they discovered the Bitter Springs of Marah. As they traveled on they came to an area of palm trees and 12 springs which would match the Bible's description of palms and springs of Elim (Ex. 15:27). Today the springs have been covered over by concrete encasements to keep the water from soaking into the sand.

Ruins



Using an old map that said there were ruins in the area, Williams and Cornuke started looking for them. Sure enough, they came to an area with caves, surrounded by a fence, and patrolled by a military guard. The ruins were called the caves of Moses, according to a local person. And the belief that Moses had come through the area is apparently part of the local culture.

Moreover, the two explorers had an opportunity to strike up a conversation with a Syrian archaeologist who told them there were writings in the cave that said Moses and his nation had passed through the region.

Approaching Jabal Al Lawz



Williams and Cornuke were able to get a Bedouin to show them the general area where the mountain is located. The Bedouin seemed in awe of the mountain, and quickly left after pointing it out. A school teacher whom they met in the area pointed to Jabal Al Lawz and also said it was the real Mt. Sinai.

When Williams and Cornuke got closer to the mountain, they discovered a fence around it with signs posted that said in Arabic and English, "It is unlawful to trespass. Violators are subject to penalty." This surprised the men; they had thought the mountain would be in the middle of

nowhere but now knew it was being protected by the Saudi government. A quick look at what has been found easily explains all the fuss.



The top of Jabal al-Lawz, the alleged real Mt. Sinai, is black, as if burned from the sky as described in Exodus 19:18, where it says “the Lord descended upon it in fire.” This feature sets it apart from all the other surrounding mountains which do not have darkened tops. The BASE Institute’s film shows Cornuke, who snuck onto the mountain, examining the rocks he cracked, observing that they are not merely black rocks and that only the outside had become darkened by whatever had occurred at the site.



Moller has a photo of one of these rocks, which he identifies as “obsidian or volcanic glass, a mineral formed at high temperatures.” This which would fit with Exodus 19:18. To ensure that the rocks weren’t volcanic in nature, Cornuke slammed one of the rocks to the ground, breaking it. They discovered that only the outside crust had a dark melted appearance while the inside was granite. Other rocks they tested were the same.



The Golden Calf Altar

They wondered if they would find any evidence of the Golden Calf altar. What they did find was a pile of rocks, 30’ by 30’ by 20’ high, and flat on the top. About halfway up they saw petroglyphs of bovine creatures etched into the rocks. Finding pictures of cattle here was unusual because cattle are not indigenous to Saudi Arabia but were, of course, found in Egypt.



A site matching the description of the altar of the golden calf is also at this site. As the Biblical story goes, while Moses was away for 40 days on Mt. Sinai, the Hebrews created an altar with a golden calf on top of it, which they worshiped. Moses, incensed at the betrayal, crushed the calf into smithereens. A large altar with inscription of Egyptian bulls engraved onto it is also near Mt. Sinai, making it the only location in Saudi Arabia to have such inscriptions. Moller notes in his book that “one block of stone at the altar had a slight depression and after a brief shower something glistened at the bottom, which turned out to be small flakes of gold. This rock could well have been the place where Moses ground the golden calf into powder.”

Boundary Markers and Pillars



Another feature they sought to find were the boundary markers God had ordered Moses to erect around the mountain (Ex. 19:23). Indeed, they did discover piles of rocks every 400 yards apart in a two-mile long semicircle around the mountain. Cornuke and Williams, out of fear of being caught and equipped with night scopes, decided to wait until

night before crossing the valley to the mountain itself. With their night scopes they were able to evade some guards who were posted near the mountain.

Among their discoveries was an altar at the foot of the mountain (Ex 20:25) with ashes nearby. Cornuke says that only the Hebrews offered burnt offerings. Another discovery was twelve unusual marble pillars that they think may have been the pillars Moses set up to represent the twelve tribes of Israel (Ex. 24:4)



Split Rock of Horeb

The explorers next found a huge rock, split down the middle, which they think might be the rock which Moses struck to provide water for the people (Ex. 17:5-7). Below it they noted that the granite rocks had been worn smooth as if a lot of water had poured over them, an unusual feature in a part of the world that gets very little rain. Moreover, they also found a large basin of several acres which they think could have held the water from the rock so that the Israelites, perhaps as many as two million people, could easily reach it. One of the greatest — and most doubted — miracles of the Exodus is the story about God instructing Moses to hit a large rock with his rod, which resulted in a flow of water for the Hebrews to drink from. The large rock, standing about 60 feet high, near Jabal al-Lawz, is a split down the middle. The edges of the split and the rock underneath it have become smooth, as if a stream of water had poured forth from the rock, creating a river. Given the annual rainfall in Saudi Arabia and the fact that the erosion is only present on that rock and no other ones in the surrounding area, it's hard to find a plausible explanation for this remarkable find.



Elijah's Cave

According to 1 Kings 19:8-9, there should also be a cave at Mt. Sinai/Horeb where the prophet Elijah talked with God.



Sure enough, they found a cave on Jabal Al Lawz, something they said cannot be found on the traditional Mt. Sinai.



Miscellaneous discoveries

Other discoveries Cornuke and Williams said they made included evidence of a battlefield (perhaps where Moses faced the Amalekites—Ex. 17:8-13); a grove of acacia wood trees (the Ark of the Covenant was made of acacia wood—Ex. 25:10); and kilns for making pottery.

Why the Secrecy?

The two amateur archaeologists reflected on why Saudi Arabia appears to be trying to keep this site a secret. If Jabal Al Lawz is Mt. Sinai, it obviously is a place sacred to both Christians and Jews, they say, but it is in a Muslim country. Their theory is simply that Saudi Arabia wants to keep Christians and Jewish archaeologists out of the area. The wish of Cornuke and Williams is that professional archaeologists could examine the mountain and its surroundings, but they fear that the Saudi government will never permit it.

In Conclusion

Jewish historian Flavius Josephus specifies that Mt. Sinai was within Arabia Petraea (a Roman Province encompassing modern Jordan, southern modern Syria, the Sinai Peninsula and northwestern Saudi Arabia with its capital in Petra), and the Pauline Epistles are more vague, specifying only that it was in Arabia, which covers most of the south-western Middle east.

Demetrius was a chronographer in 225 BC who believed that Mt. Sinai was in Arabia. He lived and worked in Alexandria, which meant he had access to the largest library in the world.

A man named Ron Wyatt may have been the first to associate Jabal Al Lawz with Mt. Sinai, as early as 1984 or earlier, and one of Wyatt's associates may have been the person to have given Cornuke and Williams the letter that inspired their adventure.

This is just scratching the surface. We see:

- The 12 wells of Elim
- the altar constructed by Moses after the defeat of the Amalekites
- evidence of large encampments
- The boundary markers and stone pillars the Bible says were placed around Mt. Sinai, and several other sites identified in the Old Testament are located.
- Simply put, everything that the Bible indicates should be there is present. The researchers discovery that the locals refer to the site as "Moses' Mountain" and it is common knowledge that Moses passed through the area.

Another helpful bit of information is that a Korean doctor to the Saudi Royal family found the following items at the site and took them to Chicago University.

- High Priest Stone
- Minorahs on the bottom of statues
- El Shaddai engraving
- Ancient Hebrew pottery
- Moses Stone with 4 letters engraved on it YHWH

The finds are extremely significant and have the potential to change the dynamics of the Middle East. If a site of such importance to Jews and Christians exists in Muslim Saudi Arabia, then a conflict may arise that matches the intensity of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Hordes of non-Muslim researchers and tourists will demand access to the site, placing pressure on the Saudi

government and creating internal instability that could be impossible to contain. The Saudis are aware of the consequences of this find and have surrounded Jabal al-Lawz, the alleged altar of the golden calf, and other sites with armed guards, patrols, and barbed wire with a sign designating them as off-limits archaeological sites. Ironically, the strict form of Islam enforced by the Saudi government has allowed these sites to be preserved.



Remember, although they believe in Moses and the first 5 books of the Bible, they are home to Mecca and Medina, which are not in the Bible and has in essence become the Islamic Jerusalem. Moreover, Cornuke points out that Mohammed said Sinai was in the Sinai Peninsula and if it is not, the Mohammed would be a false prophet.

I appreciated the fact that this is highly fascinating and surpasses any archaeological evidence we have ever seen. It does raise curiosity, but it does not definitively prove this is the real Mt. Sinai. Sadly, if the Saudi Government would open this mountain up for exploration, it could possibly be proven or disproven.

ABC NEWS REPORT - Wind Could Have Parted Red Sea for Moses: Report - Reuters

Moses might not have parted the Red Sea, but a strong east wind that blew through the night could have pushed the waters back in the way described in biblical writings and the Koran, U.S. researchers reported on Tuesday.

Computer simulations, part of a larger study on how winds affect water, show wind could push water back at a point where a river bent to merge with a coastal lagoon, the team at the National Center for Atmospheric Research and the University of Colorado at Boulder said. "The simulations match fairly closely with the account in Exodus," Carl Drews of NCAR, who led the study, said in a statement.

"The parting of the waters can be understood through fluid dynamics. The wind moves the water in a way that's in accordance with physical laws, creating a safe passage with water on two sides and then abruptly allowing the water to rush back in."

Religious texts differ a little in the tale, but all describe Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt ahead of a pharaoh's armies around 3,000 years ago. The Red Sea parts to let Moses and his followers pass safely, then crashes back onto the pursuers, drowning them.

Drews and colleagues are studying how Pacific Ocean typhoons can drive storm surges and other effects of strong and sustained winds on deep water.

His team pinpointed a possible site south of the Mediterranean Sea for the legendary crossing, and modeled different land formations that could have existed then and perhaps led to the accounts of the sea appearing to part.

The model requires a U-shaped formation of the Nile River and a shallow lagoon along the shoreline. It shows that a wind of 63 miles per hour, blowing steadily for 12 hours, could have pushed back waters 6 feet deep.

"This land bridge is 3-4 km (2 to 2.5 miles) long and 5 km (3 miles) wide, and it remains open for 4 hours," they wrote in the Public Library of Science journal PLoS ONE.

"People have always been fascinated by this Exodus story, wondering if it comes from historical facts," Drews said. "What this study shows is that the description of the waters parting indeed has a basis in physical laws."

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=itox6Zn_1G0&feature=player_embedded

Imagine if God chose to do this at the exact time and the perfect place for His people!