

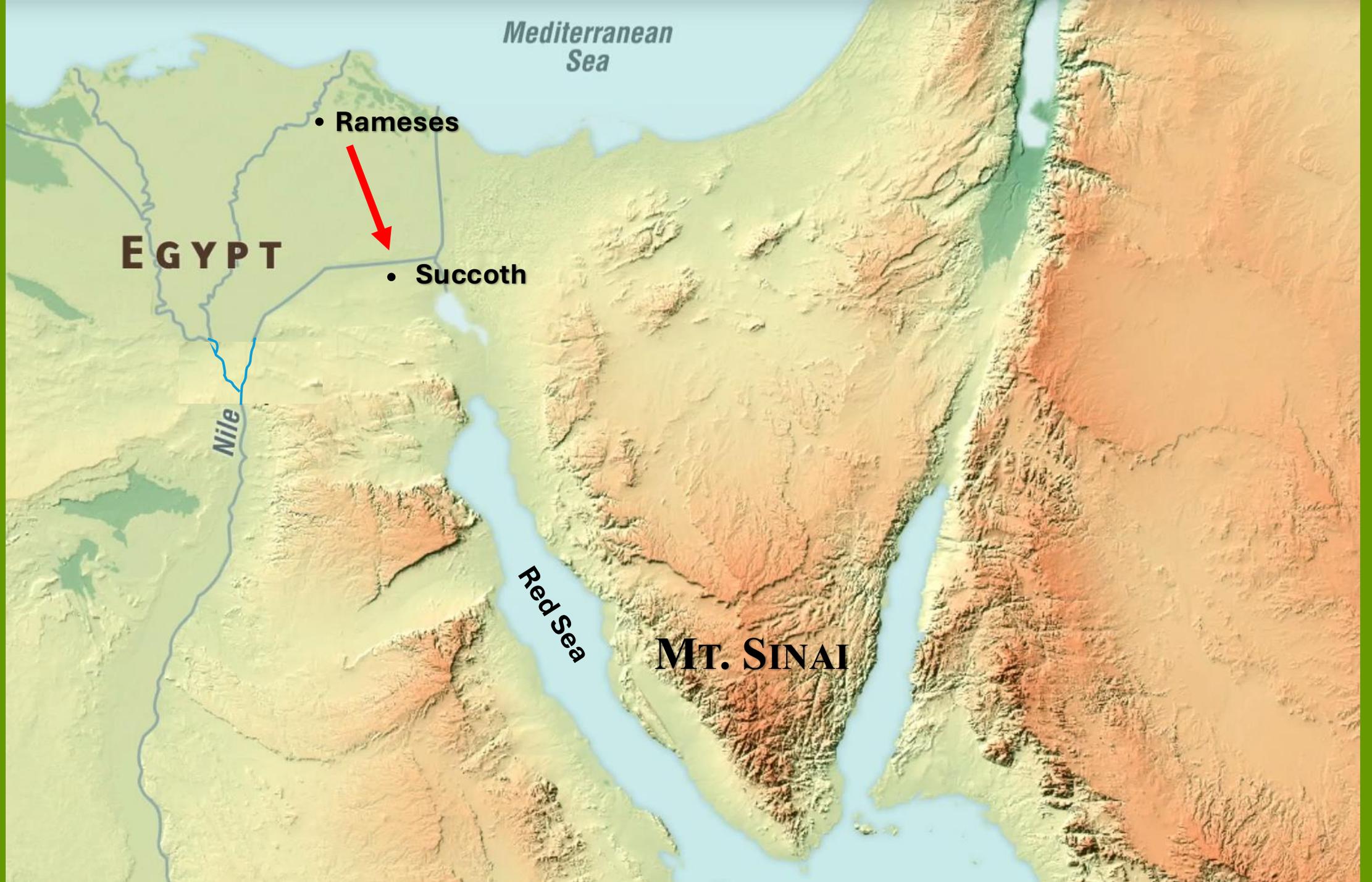
CHRIST

IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Passage: Numbers 21:1-9

Lesson: The Bronze Serpent:
Judgment and Mercy

Bereans 8 March 2026



*Mediterranean
Sea*

• Rameses

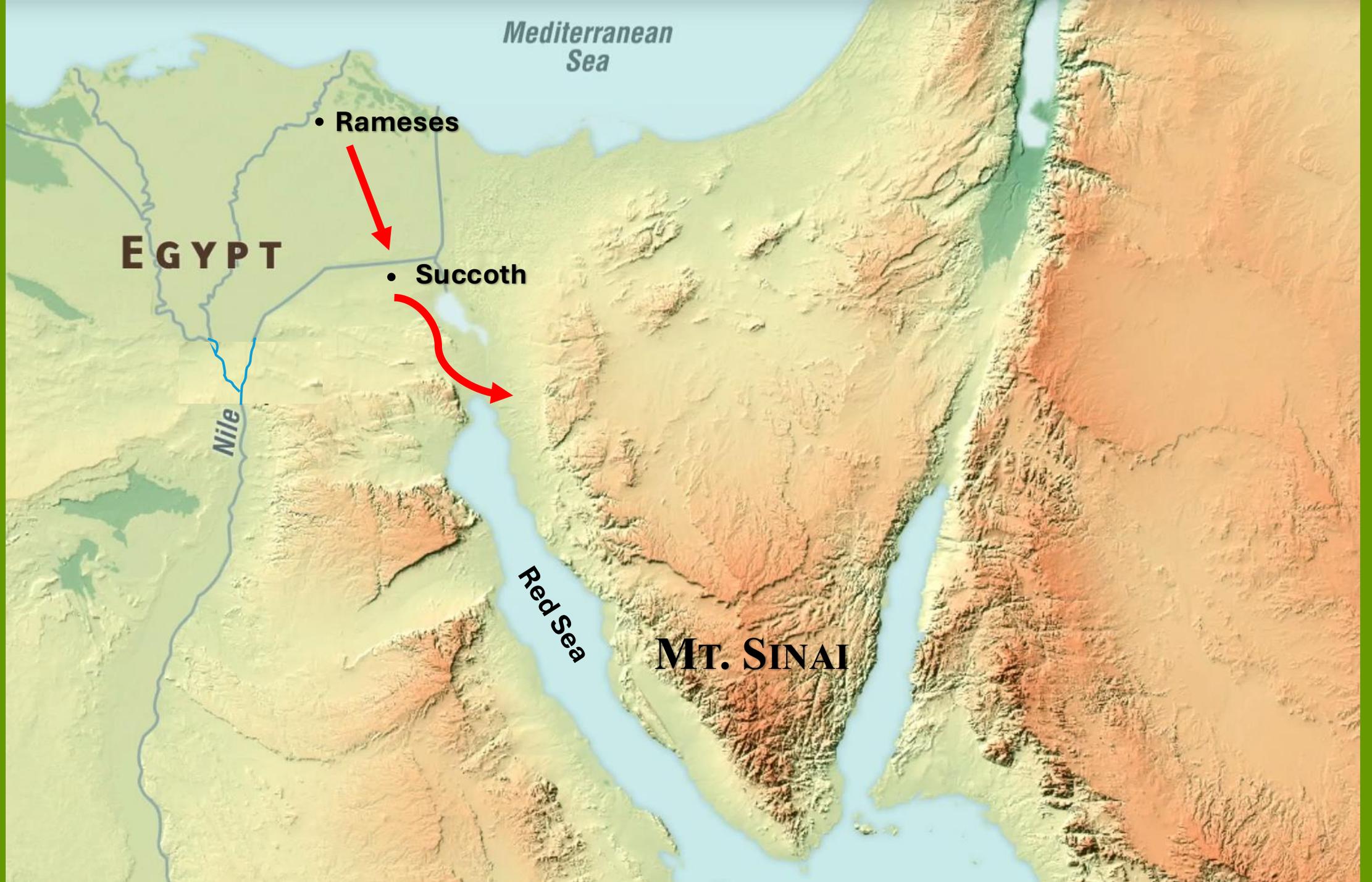
EGYPT

• Succoth

Nile

Red Sea

MT. SINAI



*Mediterranean
Sea*

• Rameses

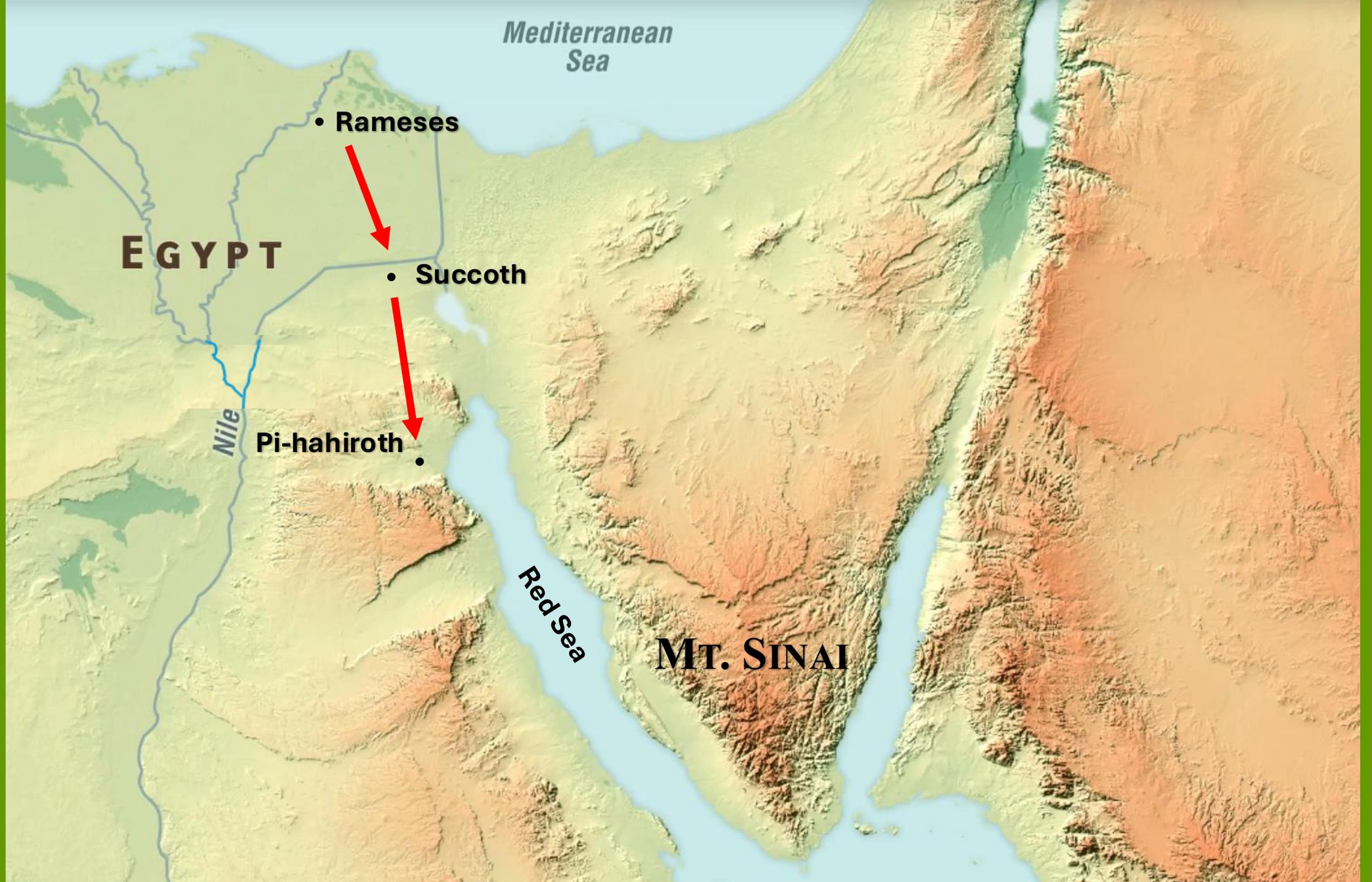
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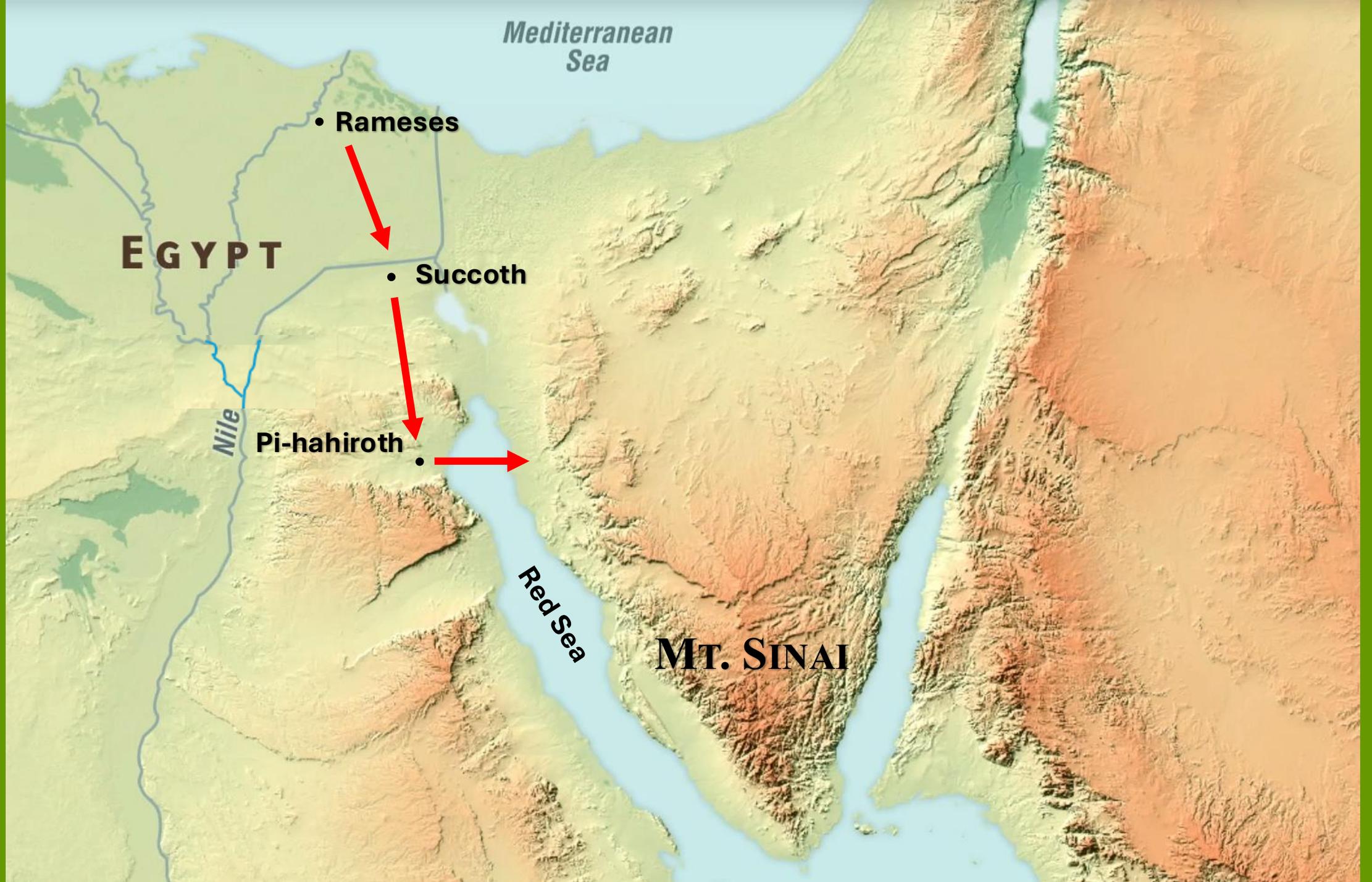
• Succoth

Nile

Pi-hahiroth

Red Sea

MT. SINAI



Mediterranean Sea

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EGYPT

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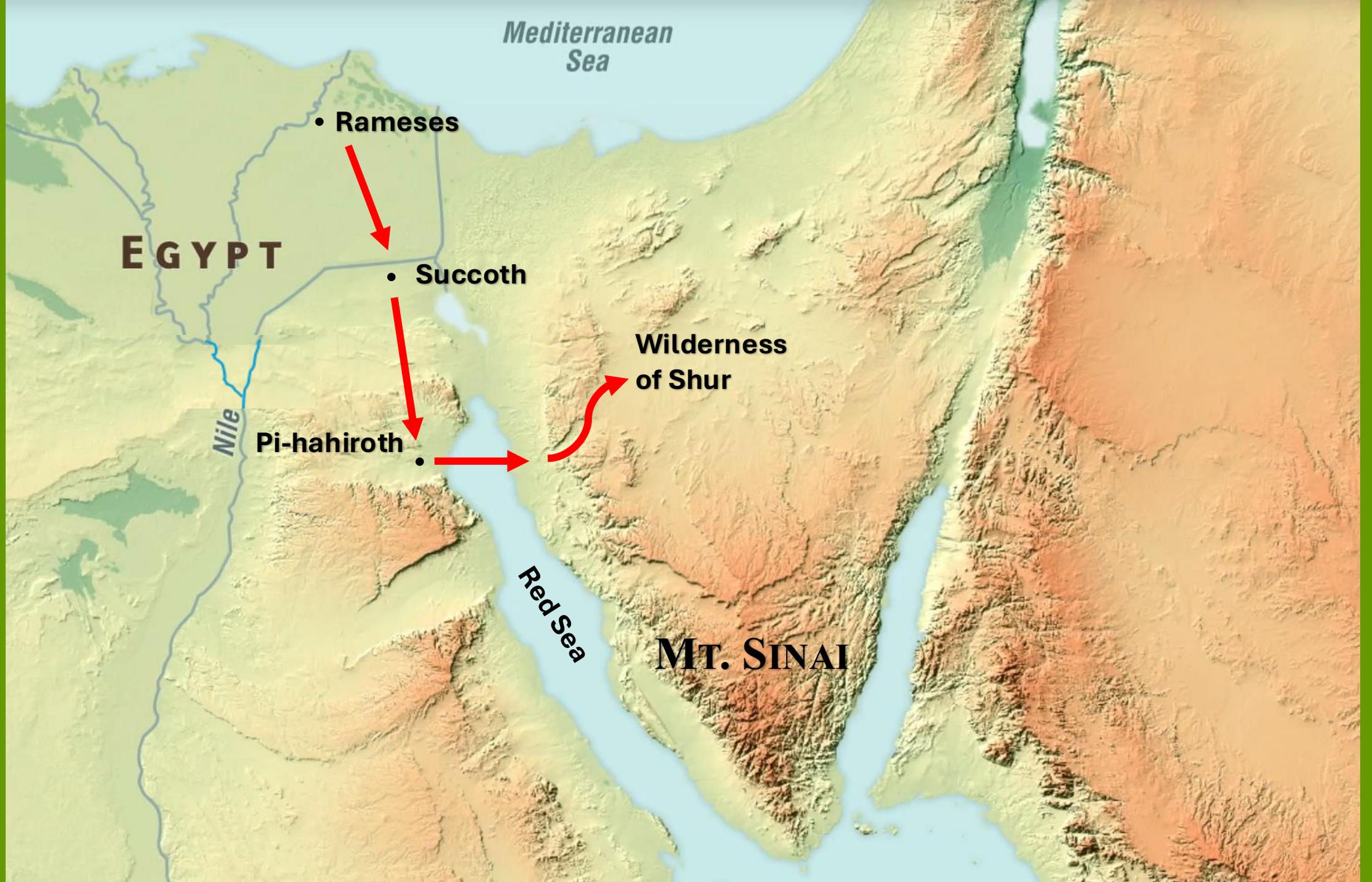
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Pi-hahiroth

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Mediterranean Sea

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EGYPT

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Wilderness of Shur

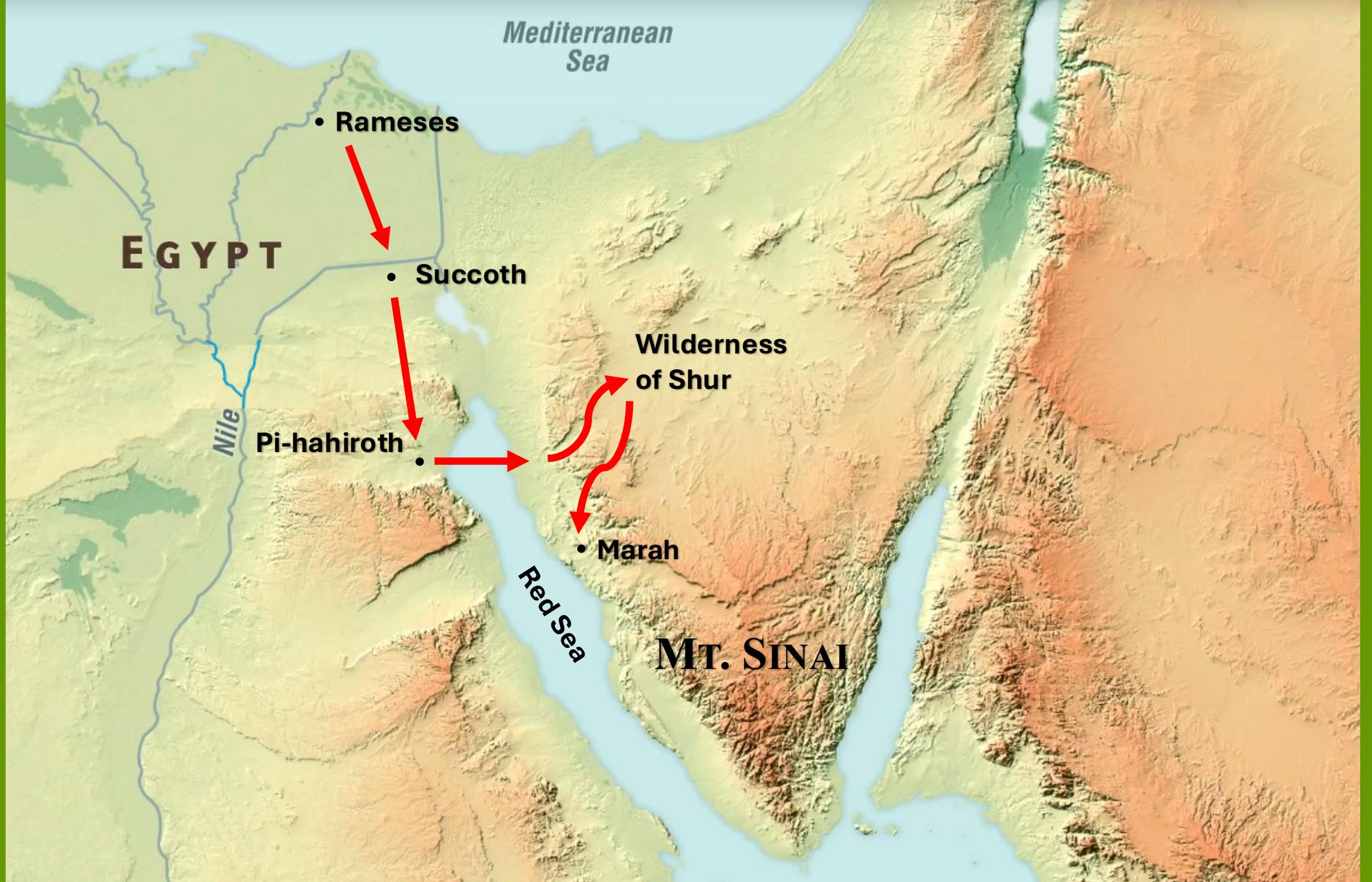
Nile

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Wilderness
of Shur

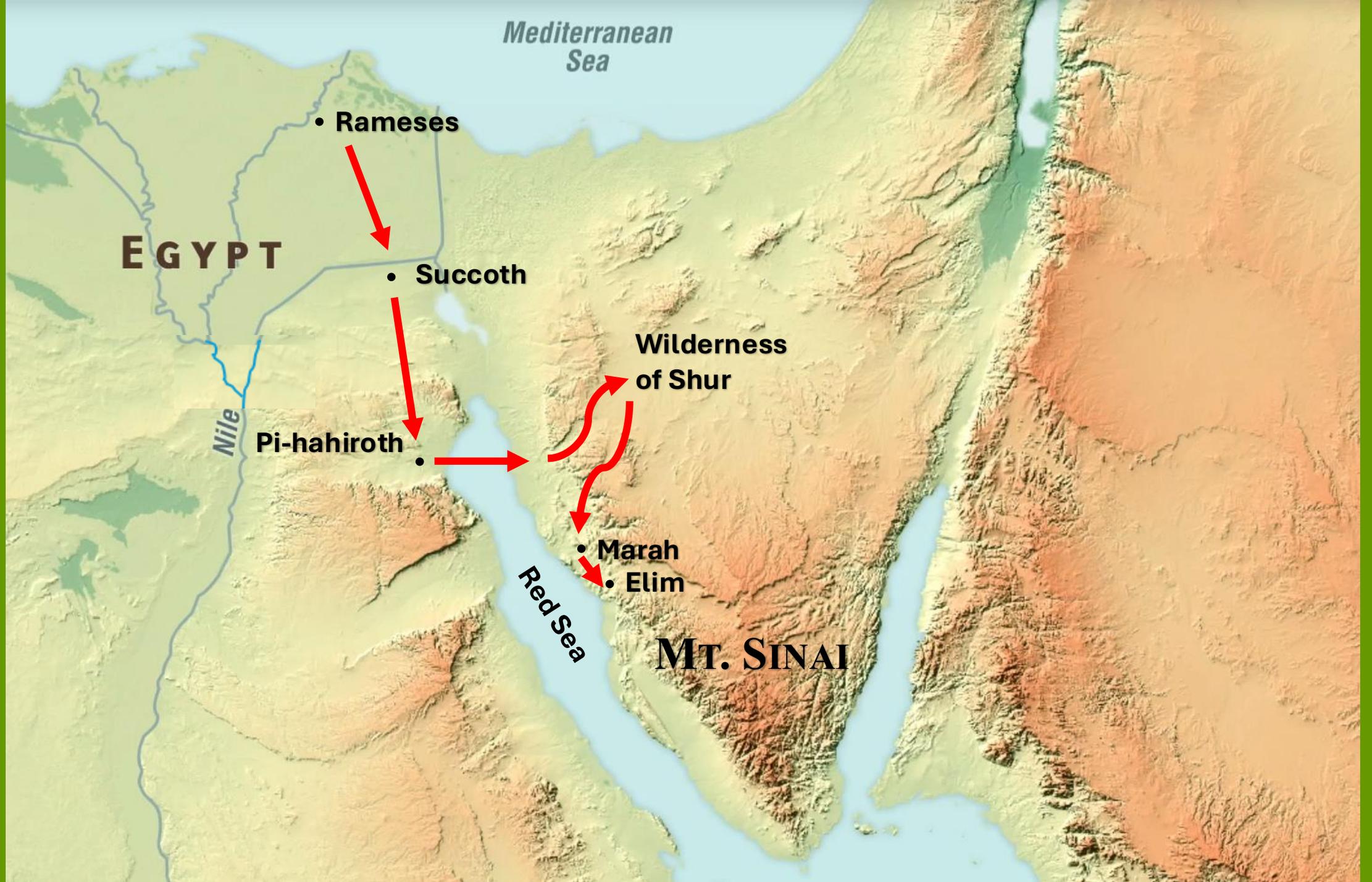
Pi-hahiroth

• Marah

Red Sea

MT. SINAI

Nile



Mediterranean Sea

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EGYPT

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Wilderness of Shur

Pi-hahiroth

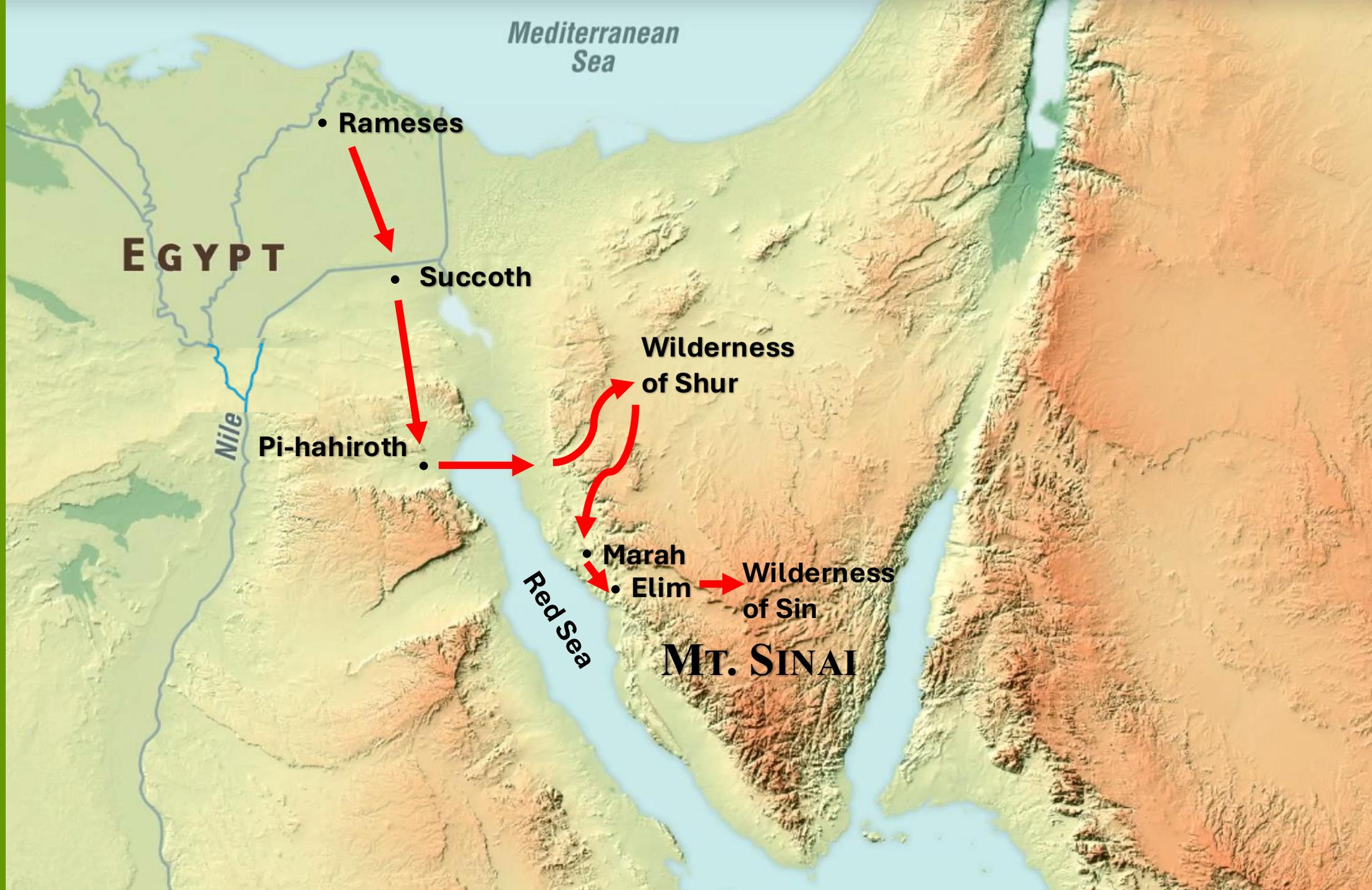
• Marah

• Elim

MT. SINAI

Nile

Red Sea



Mediterranean Sea

EGYPT

• Rameses

• Succoth

Pi-hahiroth

Wilderness of Shur

• Marah

• Elim

Wilderness of Sin

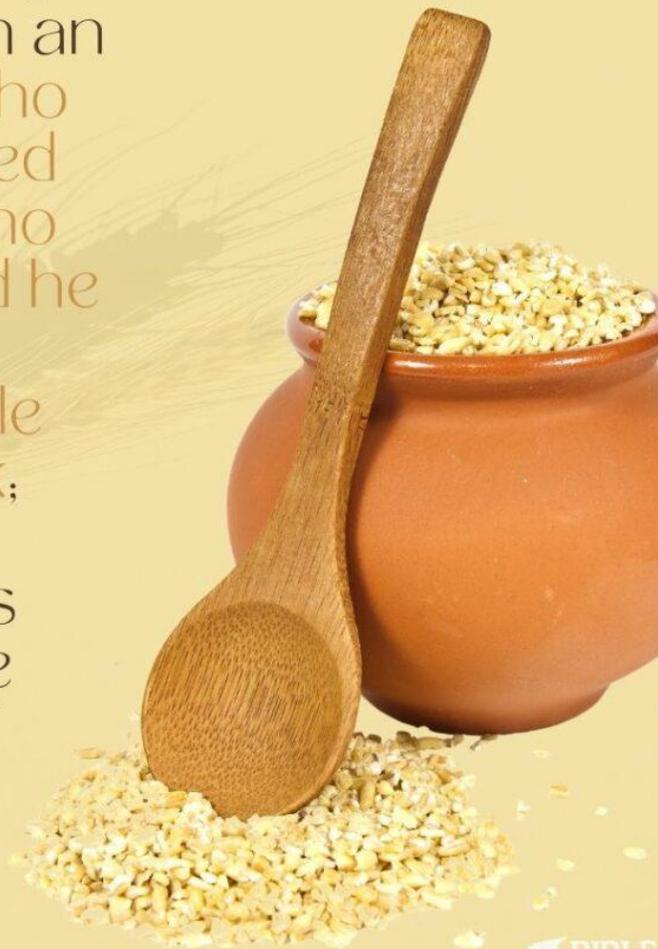
MT. SINAI

Nile

Red Sea

“When they measured it [the manna] with an omer, he who had gathered much had no excess, and he who had gathered little had no lack; every man gathered as much as he should eat.”

Exodus 16:18



BIBLE
GRAD

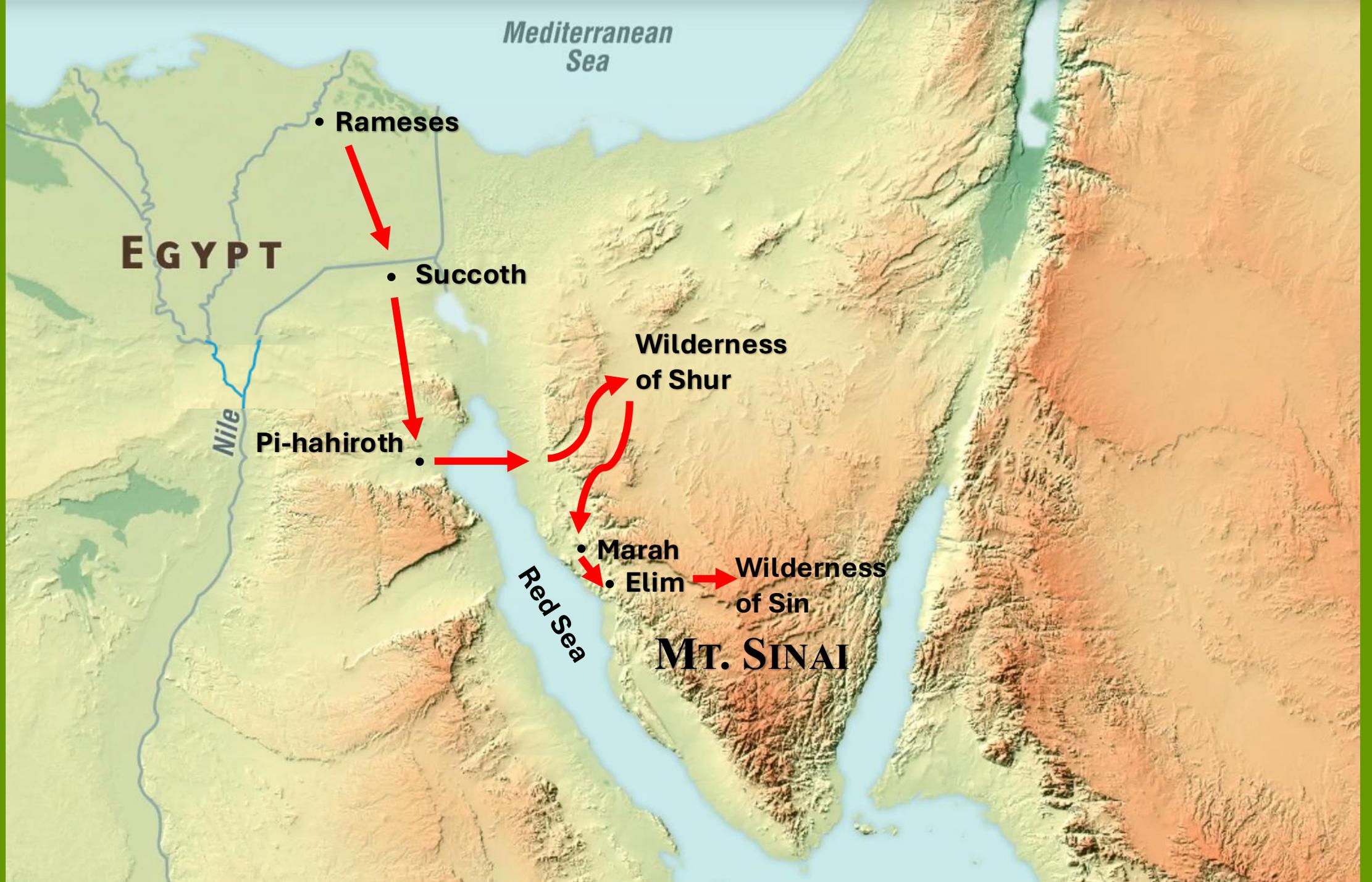
1 omer \approx 6 pints

6 pints = 12 cups = 3 quarts

2 million people = 12 million pints a day.

9 million pounds daily = 4,500 tons.





Mediterranean Sea

EGYPT

• Rameses

• Succoth

Pi-hahiroth

Wilderness of Shur

• Marah

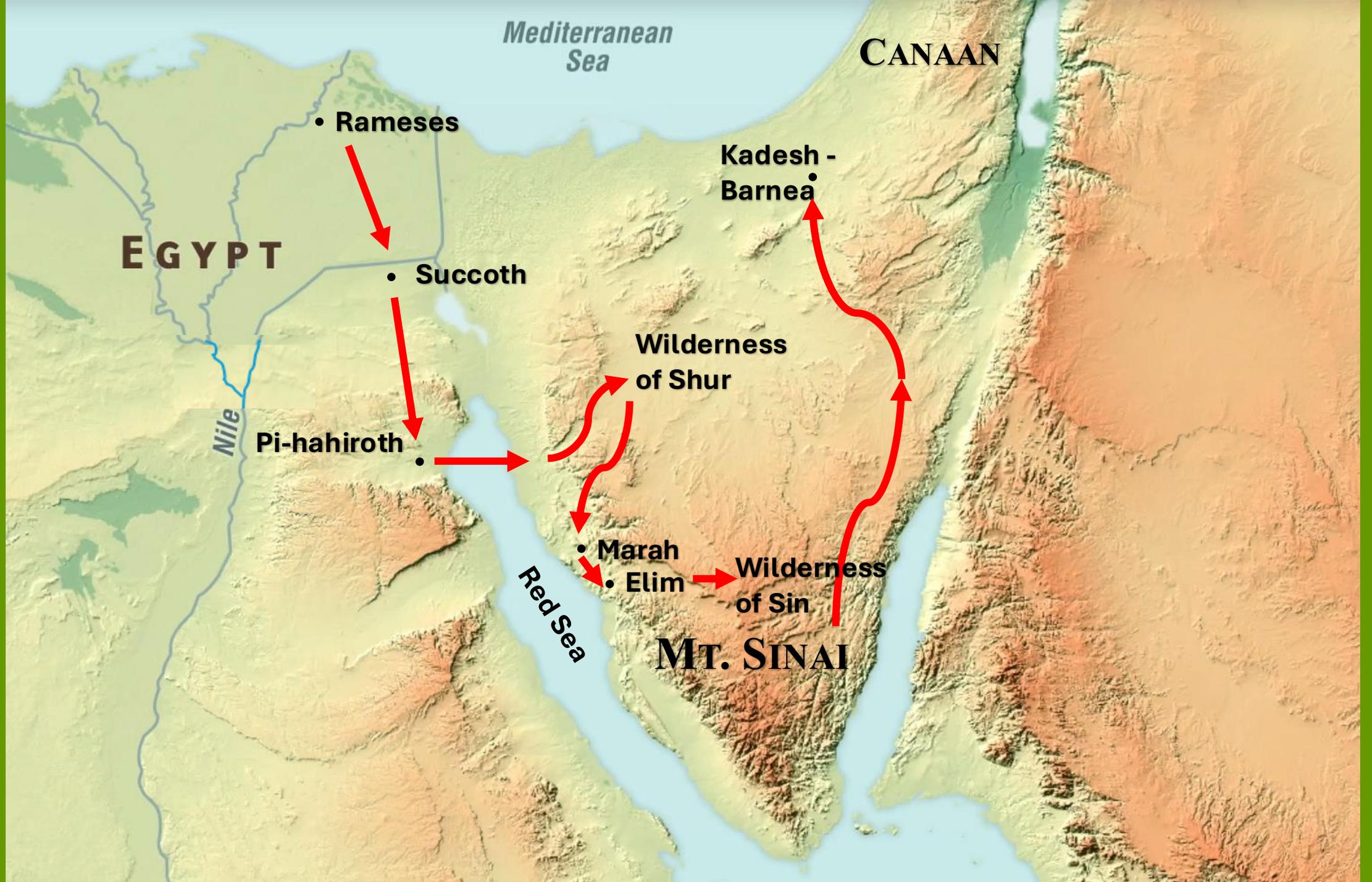
• Elim

Wilderness of Sin

MT. SINAI

Nile

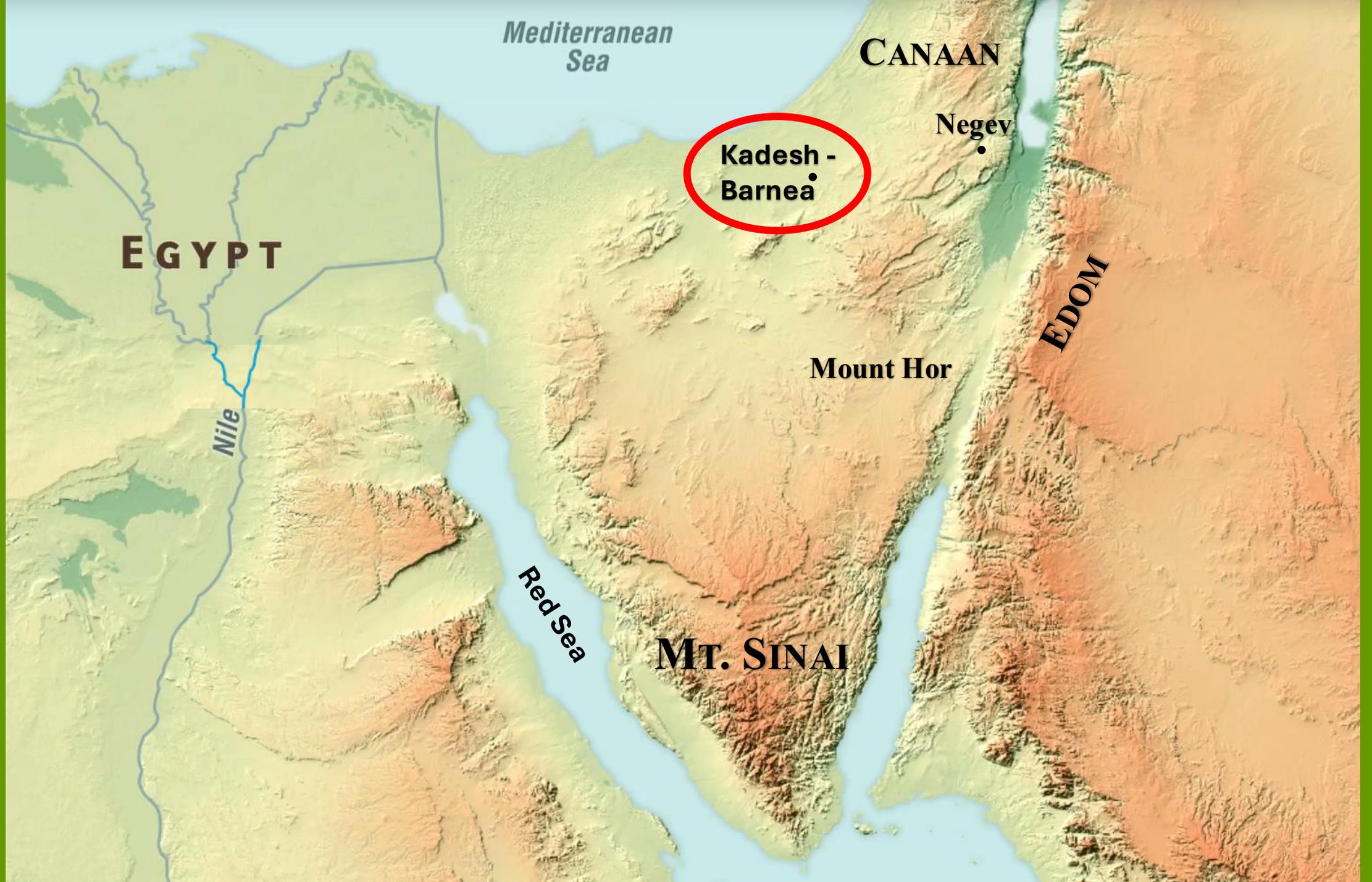
Red Sea



**During the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness,
the nation of Israel was a _____ people!**

The Bronze Serpent: Judgment and Mercy

Theme: God disciplines His people but also provides a path to restoration by grace alone through faith alone, in the person of Jesus Christ alone.



*Mediterranean
Sea*

CANAAN

Negev

**Kadesh -
Barnea**

EGYPT

Nile

Mount Hor

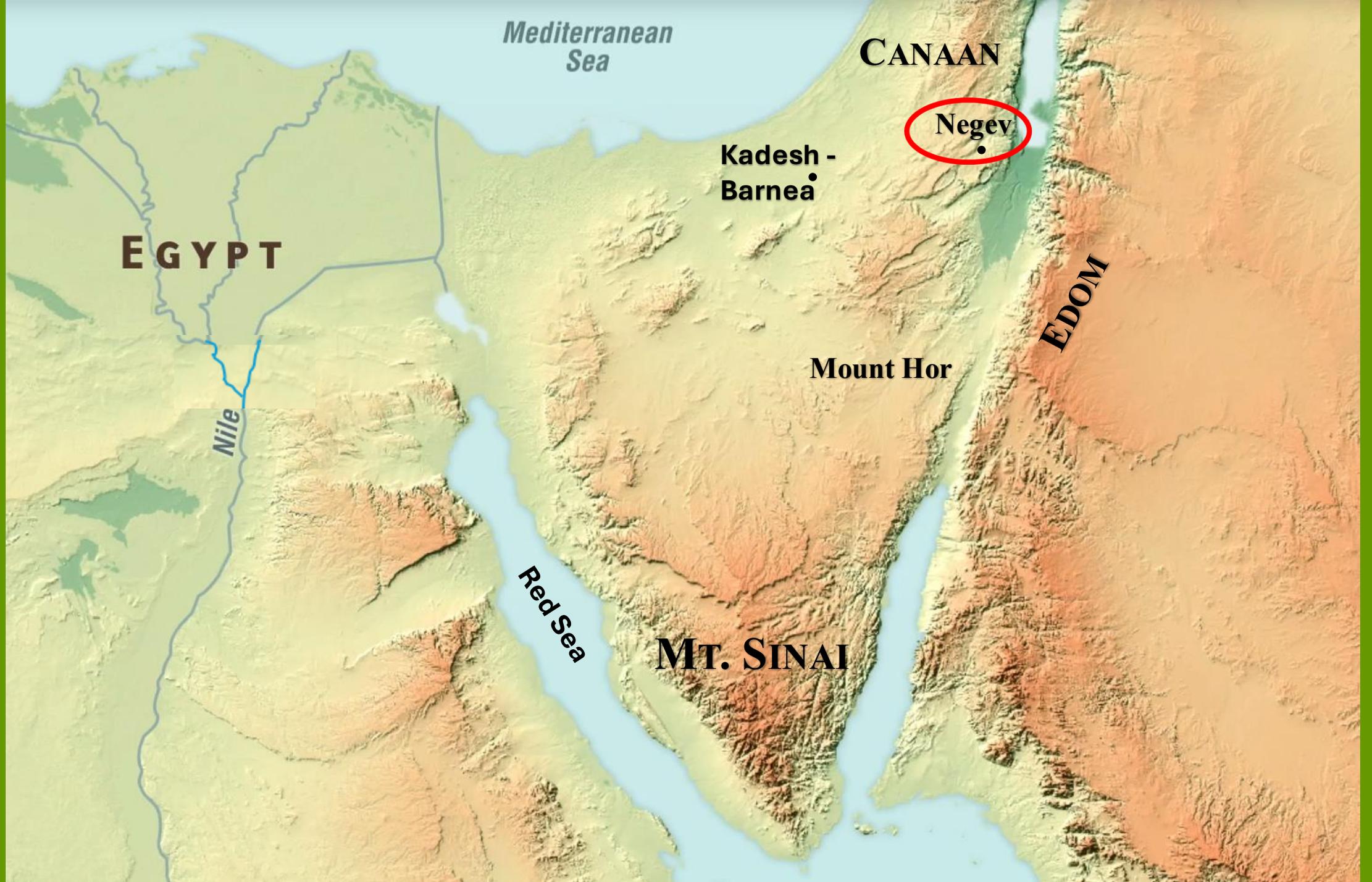
EDOM

Red Sea

MT. SINAI

The Bronze Serpent: Judgment and Mercy

I. The Canaanite Threat (1)



Mediterranean Sea

CANAAN

Negev

Kadesh - Barnea

EGYPT

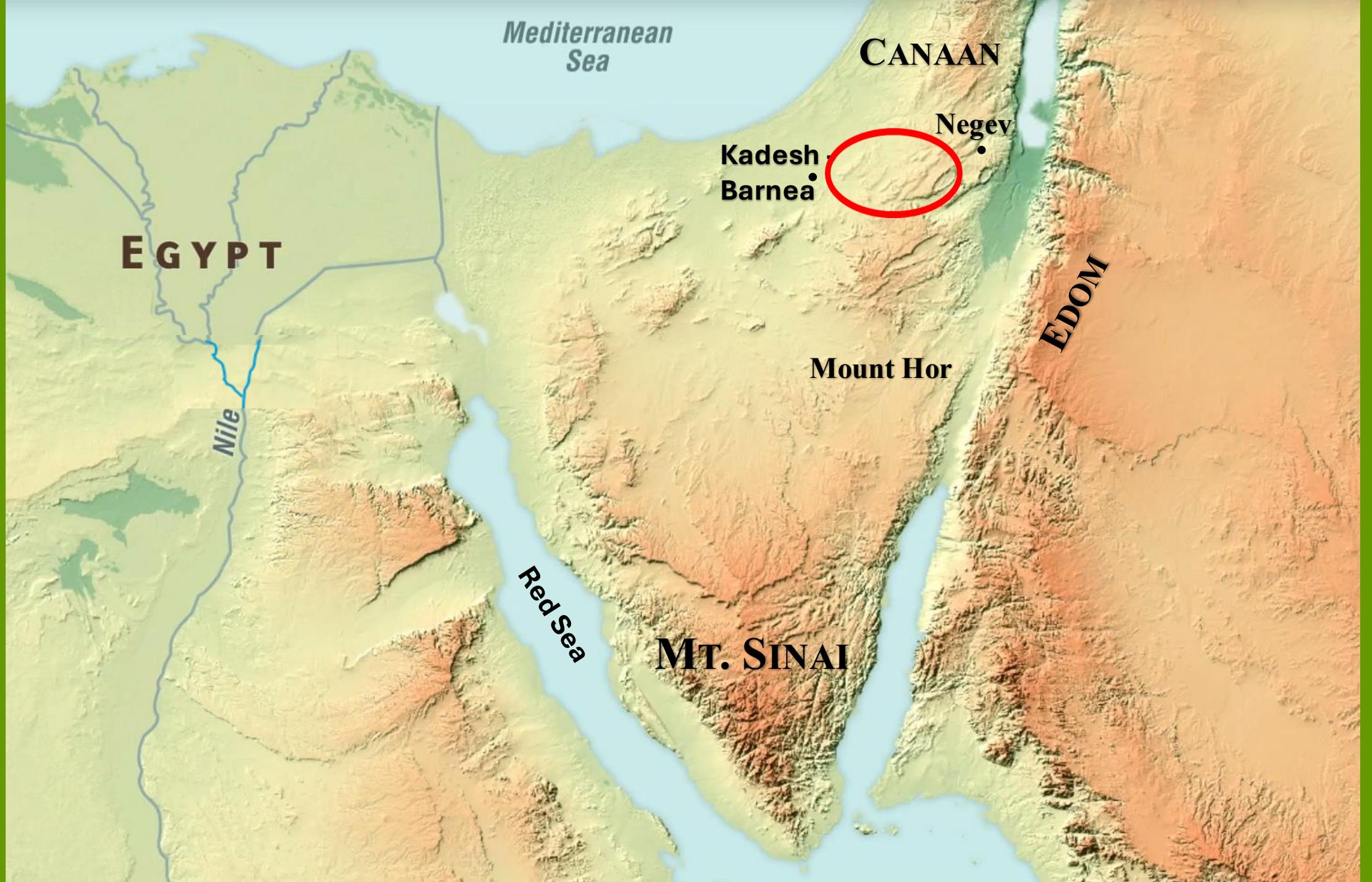
Nile

Mount Hor

EDOM

Red Sea

MT. SINAI



*Mediterranean
Sea*

CANAAN

Negev

Kadash
Barnea

EGYPT

Nile

Mount Hor

EDOM

Red Sea

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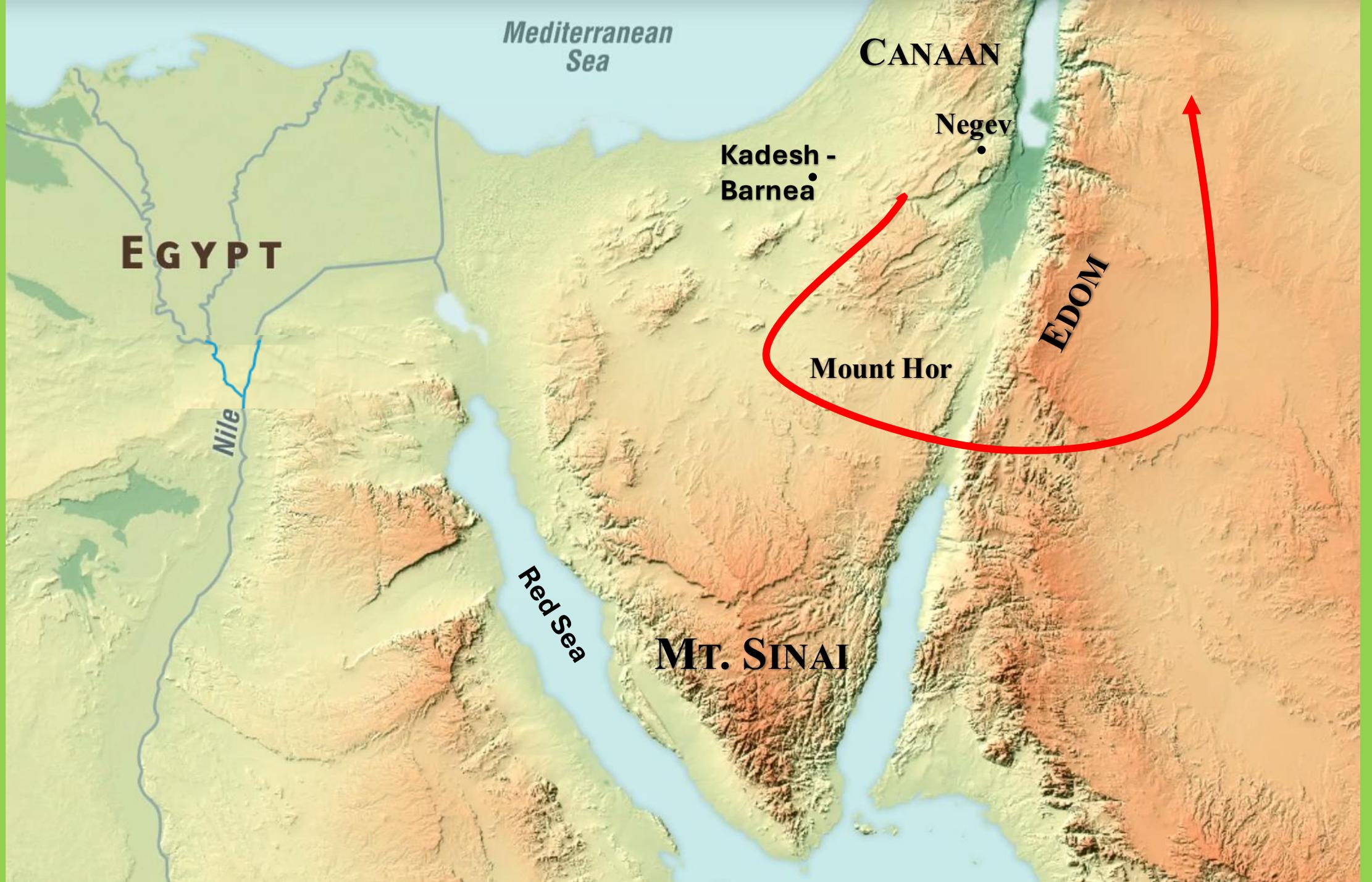
The Bronze Serpent: Judgment and Mercy

I. The Canaanite Threat (1)

II. Israel's Appeal and Vow to God (2)

III. God's Response and Israel's Victory (3)

IV. Discouragement and Complaint. (4-5)



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Israelites' Complaints in the Wilderness

Passage	Location / Context	Nature of Complaint
Exodus 14:10–12	Red Sea	Fear and accusation that Moses brought them out to die.
Exodus 15:22–24	Marah	Water is bitter; people grumble.
Exodus 16:1–3	Desert of Sin	Hunger; longing for Egypt's food.
Exodus 16:19–20	Camp in wilderness	Disobey manna instructions; spoilage leads to complaint.
Exodus 17:1–4	Rephidim	No water; quarrel with Moses.
Numbers 11:1–3	Taberah	General complaining about hardships.
Numbers 11:4–6, 10, 18–20, 31–34	Kibroth Hattaavah	Craving meat; despising manna.
Numbers 12:1–2	Hazeroth	Miriam & Aaron complain against Moses' leadership.
Numbers 14:1–4	Kadesh (after spies' report)	Refusal to enter land; desire to return to Egypt.
Numbers 16:1–3, 11, 41	Korah's rebellion	Challenge to Moses & Aaron; next-day grumbling.
Numbers 20:2–5	Kadesh (later)	No water; complaint about lack of produce.
Numbers 21:4–5	Route around Edom	Impatience; complaint about journey and manna.

Implications When We Complain.

1. It implies God is not good.

Psalm 119:68a

You are good and do good.

Implications When We Complain.

- 1. It implies God is not good.**
- 2. It suggests God is not sovereign.**

Psalm 135:5-6a

⁵ For I know that the Lord is great. And that our Lord is above all gods. ⁶ Whatever the Lord pleases, He does...

Implications When We Complain.

- 1. It implies God is not good.**
- 2. It suggests God is not sovereign.**
- 3. It accuses God of being insufficient.**

Psalm 68:19

Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burden, The God who is our salvation.

Implications When We Complain.

- 1. It implies God is not good.**
- 2. It suggests God is not sovereign.**
- 3. It accuses God of being insufficient.**
- 4. It denies God's wisdom.**

Psalm 147:5

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure.

Romans 11:33-36

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! ³⁴ For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? ³⁵ Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again? ³⁶ For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

Implications When We Complain.

- 1. It implies God is not good.**
- 2. It suggests God is not sovereign.**
- 3. It accuses God of being insufficient.**
- 4. It denies God's wisdom.**
- 5. It forgets God's past faithfulness.**

Psalm 77:11-12

¹¹ I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. ¹² I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds.

Romans 1:21-22

²¹ For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

²² Professing to be wise, they became fools,

The Bronze Serpent: Judgment and Mercy

I. The Canaanite Threat (1)

II. Israel's Appeal and Vow to God (2)

III. God's Response and Israel's Victory (3)

IV. Discouragement and Complaint. (4-5)

V. Judgment and Mercy (6-9)

Theme: God disciplines His people but also provides a path to restoration by grace alone through faith alone, in the person of Jesus Christ alone.

1 John 4:9-10

⁹ By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

The Bronze Serpent: Type of Christ

1. The Bronze Serpent as a Type of Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:21

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

The Bronze Serpent: Type of Christ

- 1. The Bronze Serpent as a Type of Christ.**
- 2. The Israelites' Condition Mirrors the Sinner's Condition.**

Psalm 49:7-8

⁷ No man can by any means redeem his brother Or give to God a ransom for him—⁸ For the redemption of his soul is costly, And he should cease trying forever—

The Bronze Serpent: Type of Christ

- 1. The Bronze Serpent as a Type of Christ.**
- 2. The Israelites' Condition Mirrors the Sinner's Condition.**
- 3. The Remedy Is Lifted Up.**
- 4. The Cure Comes by Looking.**

There was life in a look...It was not by doing, but by looking... So it is with Christ. Look to Him—look and live...this is the heart of the gospel: salvation is not earned; it is received by faith.

Charles H. Spurgeon

The Bronze Serpent: Type of Christ

- 1. The Bronze Serpent as a Type of Christ.**
- 2. The Israelites' Condition Mirrors the Sinner's Condition.**
- 3. The Remedy Is Lifted Up.**
- 4. The Cure Comes by Looking.**
- 5. The Universality of the Invitation.**
- 6. The Simplicity of the Gospel.**
- 7. The Exclusivity of the Remedy.**

Acts 4:12

And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.