

Trees of Olive

The Ancient City of Kadesh - The Dwelling Place of the Israelites for 38 Years During the 40 Years of Wandering

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For many years, many people believed that the Israelites were constant wanderers throughout the Wilderness for 40 long years. The belief that the Israelites wandered in the Wilderness for 40 long years must be understood on a broader, deeper, spiritual level of understanding. It must be understood that the Israelites did not go in and possess their Land of Milk and Honey - their Land of Canaan, when they were commanded of the true God to do so; therefore, they wandered from their true and blessed place of settlement. By not being in the proper place where the true God of the Universe - the Great Yehovah Elohim desired for them to be, they wandered from their true place of settlement, and from living in the great blessings, prosperity, and perfect peace that the true God had for them - for 40 long years.

In studying and meditating in the Holy Scriptures I noticed a verse of Holy Scripture that speaks of the fact that the Israelites dwelt in a city for 38 of the 40 years while they lived in the Wilderness of Sinai.

In Numbers 20:16 it is written: “And when we cried to the Yehovah, he heard our voice, and sent an angel, and has brought us forth out of Egypt: and, behold we are in **Kadesh**, a city in the uttermost of your border.”

In Deuteronomy 2:14 it is written: “And the space in which we came from Kadesh-Barnea, until we were come over the brook Zered, was **thirty and eight years**; until all the generation of the men

of war were wasted out from among the host, as the Yehovah

The journey of the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan Land was to be in a straight path - led of the true God, even though they traveled through the Wilderness. The Israelites did not hopelessly and blindly wander from place to place in the Wilderness; instead, they were perfectly led by the true God from Egypt to Mt. Sinai, and from Mt. Sinai to the City of Kadesh. It was at the City of Kadesh where they were commanded of the true God to go into the land of Canaan, and also where they sent the twelve spies to spy out the land of Canaan. (Read: Numbers 13:25-26) Sadly to say, ten of the 12 spies brought back an evil report and instilled fear into the hearts of the people. The people feared; and they murmured against Moses, and against the true God. The true God laid upon the people a judgment by which they were to spend 40 years in the Wilderness; they were cursed to remain in the Wilderness for 38 more years. From the Holy Scripture verse of Deuteronomy 2:14 the Israelites remained at the City of Kadesh for those 38 long years.

It is amazing to see and understand that Kadesh was indeed a city; it was a city that the Israelites dwelt in for 38 years. Kadesh was a city in the southern area of Canaan Land. The City of Kadesh was in existence for over 400 years “before” the arrival of the Israelites because it is mentioned several times in the Book of Genesis. On various Bible maps, the City of Kadesh is shown to be located on or near a river that flows through certain areas of the Sinai Desert - the alleged River of Egypt. In order for the people to have dwelt at the City of Kadesh for such a long period of time of 38 years they needed a good supply of water; and if there was a good supply of water, there would have been some sort of agricultural vegetation for the people from time to time. Read other Holy Scripture verses concerning this ancient City of Kadesh. (Read: Genesis 14:1-7; 16:14; 20:1; Numbers 20:1; 20:14-16; 20:22; 27:14; 32:8; 33:36-37; 34:4; Deut. 1:2,19; 1:46; 2:14; 9:23; 32:51; Joshua 10:41; 14:6-7; 15:1-3)

Due to the fact that Moses and the Israelites knew that they were destined to remain in the Wilderness for 38 more years they had to have established some sort of permanency of a dwelling place in the Wilderness for their families, and that dwelling place was the City of Kadesh. In considering this City of Kadesh becoming the dwelling place of the Israelites for 38 long years there are some questions to consider: 1) Was the City of Kadesh abandoned before the arrival of the Israelites from Egypt? 2) How many Israelites' households came out of Egypt? 3) How many homes were there already built in this City of Kadesh before the arrival of the Israelites? 4) In knowing that families were to be in this place for 38 long years did

the Israelites build more homes, even mud-brick homes in this City of Kadesh? 5) Was there economic trade with the surrounding cities and areas during this entire time period of 38 years, especially knowing the fact that the Israelites had cattle and various livestock? 6) Did the Israelites purchase olive oil and various spices from the surrounding cities in this southern area of Canaan Land, and even from other areas, especially olive oil and spices for the worship at the Holy Tabernacle, and also for different functions during these 38 long years? 7) How many of the Israelites ventured out and traveled to other areas for trade during this long period of time of 38 years? 8) What type of schooling did the people have for these 38 long years? 9) What type of life did the Israelites have in this City of Kadesh for these 38 long years? 10) Most important, can this ancient City of Kadesh be properly located in the Negev of the southern area of the land of Israel today? If so, archaeological studies and excavations could be done to locate this ancient City of Kadesh. In studying the Holy Scriptures there is no record of what happened during the 38 long years of the Israelites living in this ancient City of Kadesh in the Wilderness of Sinai.

Wandering in the Wilderness for 40 Long Years? The meaning of the Israelites wandering in the Wilderness for 40 long years must indeed take on a deeper, spiritual level of meaning and understanding, especially in that they wandered from their true, blessed and appointed place of establishment, and from the perfect blessings, prosperity, and perfect peace that the true God had for them. When a person is not in the **“Perfect Straightway and Perfect Will”** that the true God has for him or her, and is not living in the very best that the true God has for him or her, truly that person is in reality in a state of **“Wandering in their Wilderness,”** regardless of time, city or place.
