



Introduction

After the Israelites receive the law, they eventually approach the promised land of Canaan.



Questions

1. What is God's intention to do with the land that they are to spy out?
2. What does Moses tell the spies to look at?
3. Why do most of the spies think they shouldn't go into the land?



Summary Points

- **v 1 and 2** The LORD tells Moses to send spies from the Wilderness of Paran (see map) into Canaan which he intends to give the Israelites
- **v 3 to 20** Moses sends one man from each of the twelve tribes to see what the promised land (see theme) is like
- **v 21 to 24** The spies see the inhabitants of the land and its fertility
- **v 25 to 33** After 40 days the twelve spies return. Most of them report that, although it is a fertile land, they can't overcome the current inhabitants

Timeline 1500 BC (see below)



Themes

The promised land

A selection of verses showing that God makes promises about a land to Abraham, the father of the Jews.

God invites Abram (later Abraham) to leave Ur of the Chaldees to go to another land:

Genesis 12 verse 1

Abram obeys God. When he arrives in the land, God promises to give it to him and to his offspring:

Genesis 13 verses 14 and 15

The writer to the Hebrews confirms this:

Hebrews 11 verses 8 and 9

God defines the extent of the promised land, which is identifiable territory in the Middle East:

Genesis 15 verse 18

The nation of Israel takes the land after the exodus from Egypt. Their control reaches its full extent in king Solomon's reign, but is then reduced again:

2 Chronicles 9 verse 26

Abraham does not receive the promised land in his lifetime:

Acts 7 verse 5

However, God's promises are always fulfilled and he will receive it when the Kingdom of God is established on the earth. Jesus tells his enemies that they will not be there:

Luke 13 verse 28

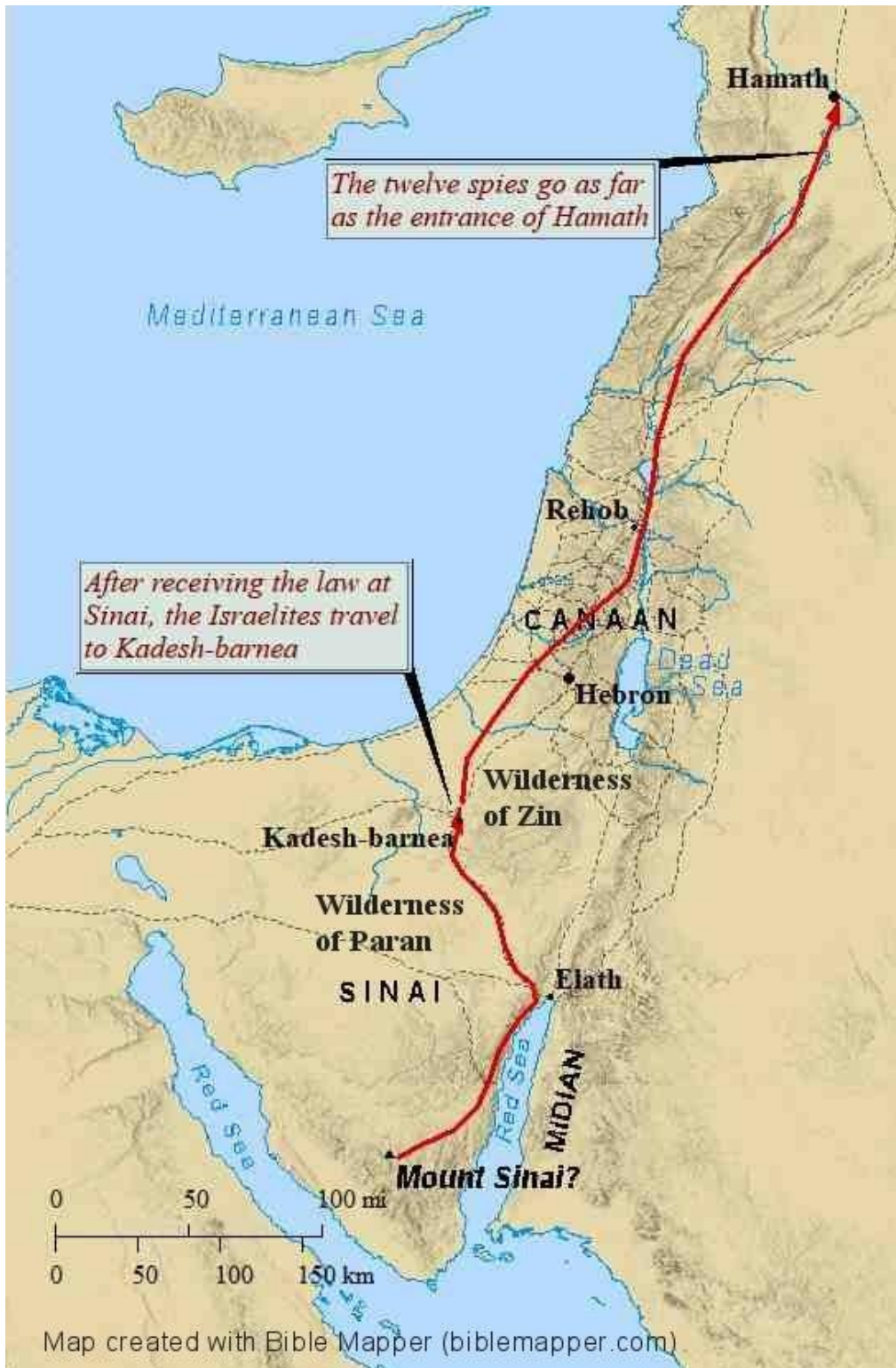
The promised land, with its capital city Jerusalem, is destined to be the centre of God's Kingdom on earth:

Micah 4 verses 2 and 3



Wilderness travels - to Kadesh-barnea

Map of the Israelites' journey from Sinai to Kadesh-barnea from where the spies go up through Canaan.



? Answers to questions

Verses which answer the questions:

Q 1: v 2, Q 2: v 18 to 20, Q 3: v 28 and 29



Bible timeline

