

Mount Sinai in Arabia

לא תרצח
לא תנאף
לא תגנב
לא תפנה
לא תחמד

אבני יהוה
לא יהיה
לא תשא את
שם יהוה
אלהינו

What Does the Evidence Show?

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We want to thank the Lord for the discoveries the late Ron Wyatt made that prove the Bible true. He is the first person in my lifetime who brought these discoveries to our attention. He, his two sons, and his wife, Mary Nell, risked their lives at times to confirm the biblical archaeological discoveries they were making. Many, since then, have proved Ron's discoveries to be authentic and exact. We are now sharing the fifth in our series on **Bible Archeology: the true Mt Sinai. May you find great blessing in reading this magazine.**

Published by New Life Mission (NLM), © 2025, a charitable ministry in Oklahoma dedicated to the work of sharing educational information on current events, prophecy, health, and temperance since 1986. For a FREE subscription, contact:

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Mount Sinai

Introduction

The discovery of the true location of Mount Sinai, the mountain where Moses received the law of God and where the covenant with Israel was affirmed, would be a momentous breakthrough, both historically and spiritually. Such a find would serve as a powerful validation of the biblical narrative, reinforcing the credibility of Scripture and anchoring its stories in reality. For believers, it would be more than just an archaeological achievement; it would be a re-affirmation that events described in the Bible are not a mere allegory but are grounded in actual history.

This confirmation would strengthen faith in a God who is not distant or abstract but enters into history, speaks to His people, and calls them into relationship with Him. In an age of skepticism, it would be a powerful reminder that God genuinely cares for humanity and has always sought to lead, protect, and bless those who follow Him.

For generations, many people were taught that Mount Sinai was located in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. This tradition was largely accepted without question, despite the fact that no substantial historical or archaeological evidence has ever been found there to support such a claim. In recent years, however, a growing number of researchers and Bible scholars have pointed to a different location: a mountain in northwestern Saudi Arabia, often identified as Jabal al-Lawz.

This historically significant mountain, with its distinctive twin peaks, stands as one of the highest points in the Tabuk (tab-buck) region, reaching an elevation of 8,460 feet, or 2,580 meters, above sea level.



Many archeologists believe that Jabal al-Lawz, a mountain in northwestern Saudi Arabia, is the real Mount Sinai where God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.

Jabal al-Lawz

The name, Jabal al-Lawz, is of Arabic origin and translates to “Mountain of Almonds” in English. “Jabal” means “mountain,” and “al-Lawz” refers to almonds. This name is derived from the presence of almond trees in the area surrounding the mountain, especially in the spring, when these trees bloom with beautiful white to pink flowers.

The name reflects the natural characteristics of the region, where almond trees are known to grow, adding to the unique beauty and mood of the landscape.

Almonds are a very healthy food, so they are a treasure for the residents of the country.



Media Coverage

Unlike the traditional site in Egypt, this location features compelling physical evidence, including ancient altars, inscriptions, and geographical features that match the biblical description of the Exodus journey. Supporters of this view also cite Galatians 4:25, where Paul wrote, “Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia,” suggesting that even in the early Christian era, Mount Sinai was believed to be in Arabia.

Media coverage has echoed what many independent researchers and faith-based explorers have long claimed: the traditional Egyptian location lacks supporting evidence, while the Saudi site continues to reveal clues consistent with Scripture and ancient history. As this narrative gains momentum, the idea that Mount Sinai was real and it lies in Arabia is no longer a fringe theory but a topic of serious discussion in both religious and secular circles.

The Jerusalem Post

On June 11, 2024, an article entitled, “Is the Real Mount Sinai in Saudi Arabia Instead of Egypt?” was published. Brian Schrauger reported that Ron Wyatt, in the early 1980s, was one of the very first to claim to have found the real Mount Sinai in the Arabian Tabuk Province near the country’s southwest border. Mr. Wyatt, and his two sons had quietly hiked across the border from Jordan and were later discovered and detained for 75 days. All of his videos and photos were confiscated by Saudi officials, and later he and his sons were miraculously expelled from the country. The Mount Sinai site was also fenced off by the Saudi government. However, since Saudi Arabia relaxed its tourism in 2019, many more explorations of the Mount Sinai region have been conducted, and more information has come to light.

The Rock of Horeb

Mr. Schrauger made a visit to the long-speculated Egyptian location of Mount Sinai and the more credible Mount Sinai location in Saudi Arabia. He was convinced beyond any doubt of the authenticity of the latter site and expressed the following:

“Unlike the Sinai Peninsula, everything we saw in Saudi Arabia fit the biblical narrative and did so with an abundance of archaeological and geographical evidence. ... On the first day of exploration, we set out to find the Rock of Horeb, the rock split by Moses’ rod overlooking the plains of Rephidim. According to the biblical text, when the masses became angry with Moses for lack of water, God told him to make his way to ‘the rock at Horeb.’

“As we drove, rounding one hill after another, suddenly it appeared. Emerging from the peak of a stony platform, a solitary, huge, 12-meter torso-shaped rock towered over the plain below. Split down the middle, it was impossible to miss. Climbing the natural platform on which it stood, we saw that its size was breathtaking. Standing at the base of the split, looking down at the landscape below, it was easy to see how hundreds of thousands, maybe more, were able to assemble and witness what, as instructed, Moses did.” [1]

The rock itself is massive—four stories or more—and split down the middle from top to bottom, with signs of erosion and water-worn chan-



Here is the (more than) 60 foot split right down the middle, with waterwashed areas at its base. “Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel” Exodus 17:6.





The Rock of Horeb at Mount Sinai is split clean in half, with clear evidence of smooth water erosion at its base.

nels beneath it, suggesting that a large volume of water once flowed from it. This physical evidence aligns closely with the biblical narrative, making it a compelling piece of the puzzle in the search for the true location of Mount Sinai. For those who believe in the historical accuracy of the Bible, the Rock of Horeb stands as a reminder of God's miraculous provision and adds credibility to the idea that events described in the Book of Exodus did take place in this region of Arabia.

Fox News Report

On October 15, 2019, Fox News published a report giving significant credence to the idea that the true location of Mount Sinai is in Saudi Arabia. The article highlighted the findings of researchers and explorers who claim the mountain known as Jabal al-Lawz matches the biblical description of the Arabian site more closely than the traditionally accepted site in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula:

“Early Jewish, Christian, and Bedouin traditions have long attested this site to be the real Mount Sinai. The controversial theory contests the traditional location in the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula. On the northwest side of the mountain is the Split Rock of Horeb, a massive stone several stories tall, split down the middle, with evidence of water erosion at its base.” [2]

By covering these discoveries and perspectives, Fox News helped bring mainstream attention to the idea that the Saudi Arabian site is in fact the biblical Mount Sinai, encouraging further exploration and seri-



Above: Petroglyphs i.e., rock carvings, on the altar where the golden calf was made by Aaron (Exodus 32-34). These Egyptian-like images drawn by the children of Israel are not found anywhere else in Arabia, except on rocks all around the base of Mount Sinai.

Below: Dr. David Kim, a Christian who was the personal physician of the Arabian prince, explored this sight on many occasions while living in Arabia. Here he points to the oldest image found to date of the golden lampstand like that which was made by the children of Israel for the sanctuary. God commanded Moses, "Let them make Me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them" Exodus 25:8.



ous scholarly debate. It is deeply encouraging for Christians to witness the secular world increasingly affirming the historical accuracy of the Scriptures.

The Telegraph reported on new findings and investigations conducted by scholars and explorers that support this alternative theory as well. Their report highlighted the physical features, such as the blackened mountain peaks, the ancient altars, and the inscriptions found on rocks that align closely with the biblical account in the Book of Exodus.

Ancient Altars and Petroglyphs

The ancient altars and petroglyphs found at the base of Mount Sinai in Saudi Arabia are significant because they appear to directly support key elements of the biblical Exodus account. These altars, constructed from large, uncut stones, closely resemble the type of altar described in Exodus 20:25, which God instructed Israel to build. Even more compelling are the petroglyphs etched into nearby rocks, many of which depict bulls or calves, images that most likely are linked to the golden calf incident recorded in Exodus 32. The presence of these artifacts suggest the area was once a site of worship and ritual activity, matching events that took place at Mount Sinai when the Israelites camped there. For researchers and believers alike, these findings provide physical, visual evidence that reinforces the biblical narrative and offers a deeper connection to the historical roots of faith.

In November 2018, World Net Daily published the following about altars and petroglyphs:

“This is a mountain with a dark-colored basalt rock on the top, as well as a cave on its front, [called by many] the Cave of Elijah, with an altar at its base and bulls carved all over it, the Golden Calf altar.” The article also reported a second altar with an animal corral, and pillars nearby, consistent with God's command to Moses to build a fence at the base of the mountain. “In addition, newly discovered petroglyphs at the foot of the mountain depict archers, echoing a warning by Moses recorded in Exodus that anyone who set foot on the mountain would be shot with arrows.” [3] (See Exodus 19:12-13.)

The petroglyphs found at the base of Mount Sinai are not random or decorative carvings. They are related to biblical themes, making them compelling archaeological features identifying the true Mount Sinai. These ancient rock carvings prominently feature images of bulls and calves, which many scholars and explorers believe may be directly linked to the golden calf incident in Exodus 32. According to the Bible, while Moses was on the mountain receiving the Ten Commandment tables, carved in stone by the finger of God, the Israelites constructed and worshiped a golden calf, violating God's commandments. More than 3,000 souls who had led in this apostasy died that day.



Jabal al-Lawz is a mountain in Saudi Arabia believed to be the real Mount Sinai. It is famous for its charred, blackened peak and overwhelming amounts of archaeological evidence around its base.



The Darkened Peaks of Mount Sinai

One of the most striking features of the mountain believed to be Mount Sinai is its darkened, scorched peak, which stands in stark contrast to the surrounding landscape. “And ye came near and stood under the mountain; and the mountain burned with fire unto the midst of heaven, with darkness, clouds, and thick darkness” Deuteronomy 4:11. “And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly” Exodus 19:18. These descriptions match what explorers and researchers have found at Jabal al-Lawz: a mountain with a summit that appears to have been exposed to intense heat, suggesting a literal fulfillment of the biblical Exodus account.

A Mountain or Volcano?

The official geological explanation for the black, charred appearance of the rocks at the summit of Jabal al-Lawz is that it results from natural volcanic or metamorphic processes. [4] Geologists suggest the dark coloration is due to a type of rock known as basalt or other igneous formations that have been exposed through ancient volcanic activity or intense heat and pressure within the Earth's crust. This is how the "experts" explain the darkening of rocks. The problem with this explanation is there are no volcanoes in the area. Jabal al-Lawz, i.e., Mount Sinai, is a mountain with no craters, magma chambers, or vents—all typical features of real volcanoes. There are no lava fields anywhere close to this location.

Mountains and volcanoes are formed differently: one through the collision of Earth's tectonic plates, the other through magma, hot molten rock that rises from beneath the earth's surface and erupts, causing lava flows. Again, Jabal al-Lawz is a real mountain. You can see clearly from its folding, jagged cliffs it was formed by the different layers of the earth's crust as it was compressed, folded, and elevated, forming into mountain ranges. On the other hand, volcanic mountains take different shapes and have gentle slopes formed by flowing lava, which is not the case when analyzing the geography of Jabal al-Lawz.

This leads to the question: Where did the burned black rocks come from that cover the peak of Mount Sinai and the nearby peaks, because they are there? You can't ignore what is so obvious. The answer is simple: The peaks of Jabal al-Lawz were on fire. Burned organic matter appears black because of the formation of charcoal or carbon residue



The black smoke is due to matter being turned into ash.

during the combustion process.

Here's why this occurrence happened at Mount Sinai: The black residue is the naturally occurring color that is left over when burned organic matter was charred. It is the result of leftover carbon, also known as charcoal. This is what happens when matter is burned: It changes color.



The dark coloration on Mount Sinai came from the accumulation of soot, ash, and intense heat, causing thermal alteration of the ground surface and the rocks.



Ancient Man-Made Altar and Pillars

“And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel” Exodus 24:4.

As stated in the biblical account, Moses built both an altar and twelve pillars “under the hill” at the base of the mountain. What is extraordinary is the fact that at the base of Jabal al-Lawz, there is evidence of man-made structures.

One notable discovery is an ancient altar at the foot of the mountain. This man-made structure aligns with biblical descriptions of altars used for sacrifices. Excavations have revealed ash, animal bones, and other remnants consistent with sacrificial practices. This altar has no steps, and is made entirely of uncut stones, exactly as God commanded it to be built.

“An altar of earth thou shalt make unto me, and shalt sacrifice thereon thy burnt offerings, and thy peace offerings, thy sheep, and thine oxen: in all places where I record my name I will come unto thee, and I will bless thee. And if thou wilt make me an altar of stone, thou shalt not build it of hewn stone: for if thou lift up thy tool upon it, thou hast polluted it. Neither shalt thou go up by steps unto mine altar, that thy nakedness be not discovered thereon” Exodus 20:24-26.

What is even more significant is that at the end of this altar, there is a pit with layers of ash. Apparently, the Saudi government excavated the man-made structure and found “ash, animal waste, bones, and charcoal” while “digging 3-4 feet at the site.” [5]

Additionally, located at the base of the mountain are the remnants of marble pillars that were set up to represent the twelve tribes of Israel. These pillars were also markers for the children of Israel not to pass over or beyond them. As God promised to reveal Himself on Sinai, He told Israel to stay away. There were boundaries that could not be crossed.

“And thou shalt set bounds unto the people round about, saying, Take heed to yourselves, that ye go not up into the mount, or touch the border of it: whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death” Exodus 19:12.

The discovery of a man-made altar and stone pillars at the base of Jabal al-Lawz shows the area was occupied or used by people in ancient times and provides crucial context when identifying the mountain as the true location for the biblical Mount Sinai. The presence of similar structures at Jabal al-Lawz, an altar constructed of uncut stones, ashen remains, and multiple stone pillars, mirrors this description with striking accuracy. Such archaeological features are not only consistent with ancient cultural and religious practices but also lend credibility to the theory that this site matches the biblical setting. Without tangible signs of



According to the biblical account, Moses built an altar at the foot of Mount Sinai and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel (Exodus 24:4).



ancient human activity, such as these altars and pillars, it would be difficult to justify any proposed location as the authentic Mount Sinai. Therefore, these findings are considered vital evidence in support of Jabal al-Lawz being the historical and scriptural mountain where the Israelites gathered, and God met with Moses.

The Cave of Elijah

According to 1 Kings 19, the prophet Elijah fled in fear for his life from King Ahab and Queen Jezebel after the Mount Carmel experience, and journeyed to Mount Horeb, also known as Mount Sinai. Upon arriving, he found shelter for the night in a cave on the mountain. The next day, God instructed Elijah, “Go and stand at the opening of the cave because I am about to pass by” (verse 11, Clear Word edition). What followed was a series of dramatic natural events: a powerful wind that shattered rocks, an earthquake, and a fire. Yet, the LORD was not in any of these. After the turmoil, Elijah heard a gentle whisper. Recognizing the presence of God, he pulled his cloak over his face and stood at the cave entrance.

This biblical account implies the presence of a distinct, visible cave located on the mountain itself. At Jabal al-Lawz, there is indeed a prominent cave that is clearly visible from ground level and easily accessible when you climb. Situated on the front face of the mountain, above the area believed to be the altar of Moses and the remnants of the twelve pillars, this cave matches the biblical description remarkably well. It measures approximately 15 feet high, 20 feet wide, and 20 feet deep, gradually tapering to about 8 feet in height toward the back. Spacious, sheltered, and naturally concealed, it would have provided a safe and comfortable refuge for a lone traveler like Elijah.

Finding Elijah’s cave on Jabal al-Lawz is a significant clue in identifying this mountain as the true Mount Sinai. According to 1 Kings 19, Elijah traveled to Mount Horeb, i.e., Mount Sinai. The text clearly places the cave on the mountain itself, making its presence a key geographical marker. The existence and visibility of this cave from the base of the mountain, along with its suitability as a shelter, aligns closely with the biblical narrative. As such, it adds weight to the growing body of evidence suggesting the real Mount Sinai is not in the traditional Sinai Peninsula of Egypt but rather in modern-day Saudi Arabia.

Other Artifacts of an Ancient People

If one is to accurately pinpoint the location where approximately 600,000 men—plus women and children, totaling around 2-3 million people—camped for nearly a year at Mount Sinai, as described in the Bible, there must be clear, substantial evidence of such a massive, prolonged occupation. This was not a brief stop; it was the place where the



Israelites received the Ten Commandment Law carved in stone, established the covenant, constructed the sanctuary, and were given the full set of ritual and civil laws. Such an extended stay by a population of that size would surely leave behind traces: artifacts, tools, utensils, altars, and structural remains. At Jabal al-Lawz in Saudi Arabia, numerous discoveries support such a historic event. Archaeological finds in the surrounding region include ancient fire pits, grindstones, tent site remnants, animal bones, and a variety of tools and utensils, all indicating that a large group of people once lived there.

In review: The belief that Jabal al-Lawz in Saudi Arabia is the true Mount Sinai is not based on a single piece of evidence but rather on a compelling combination of multiple features that align closely with the biblical narrative. Among these are the mountain's scorched, blackened peak—



suggesting exposure to intense heat; ancient altar remnants constructed of uncut stones consistent with Exodus instructions; Elijah's cave; and nearby petroglyphs depicting bovine figures, which many interpret as linked to the golden calf incident described in Exodus 32. Taken together, these elements have led a growing number of researchers, explorers, and faith communities to embrace the idea that Jabal al-Lawz is indeed the historical location where God met with Moses and gave the Ten Commandments. This convergence of physical evidence with scriptural accounts has sparked renewed interest and serious discussion among scholars and believers.

Manna

Shortly after crossing the Red Sea, Israel ran out of provisions, not only to drink but also to eat. Again they cried to Moses rather than asking God for help. As was his custom, Moses took their request to the LORD. God promised, "I will rain bread from heaven," and the next morning little white wafers lay on the ground. Every morning before the sun came up, the people rose to gather manna for the day. Six days a week the manna fell. On Friday they gathered enough for the Sabbath also because no manna fell on Sabbath morning. See Exodus 16.

[1] <https://www.jpost.com/archaeology/article-805710>

[2] <https://www.foxnews.com/world/saudi-arabia-christian-tour>

[3] <https://www.wnd.com/2018/11/mt-sinai-in-saudi-arabia-see-for-yourself/>

[4] <https://jabalmaqla.com/blackened-peak/>

[5] <https://jabalmaqla.com/moses-altar-and-the-12-pillars/>



Above: Pottery and ceramics used for jars, cooking, bowls, cups, and oil lamps are some of the most telling signs of human activity at the Mount Sinai location in Saudi Arabia.

Below: Moses receives the Ten Commandment Law written by God's own finger in stone. Does this not show how eternal His law is?





Their Journey to Marah and Elim

Let us travel back in time to the day when Israel came across the sea path and landed on the Arabian shore. From the Red Sea, the hosts of Israel again set forth on their journey under the guidance of the pillar of cloud. They were full of joy in the consciousness of freedom, and every thought of discontent was hushed.

For three days, as they journeyed, they could find no water. The supply they had taken with them was exhausted. There was nothing to quench their burning thirst as they dragged wearily over the sunburned plains of the desert.

Moses, who was familiar with this region, knew what the others did not: At Marah, where springs were found, the water was unfit for drinking. With a sinking heart, he heard the glad shout, "Water! Water!" echo along the lines of 2-3 million people. Men, women, and children in joyous haste crowded around the water pool, when lo, a cry of anguish burst forth; alas, the water was bitter. In despair, they immediately reproached Moses, not remembering the divine presence in that mysterious cloud had been leading him as well as themselves. Moses did what they had forgotten to do; he prayed earnestly to God for help. "And the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet" Exodus 15:25.



From Marah, the people continued walking on their journey to Elim,

where they found “twelve wells of water” (verse 27) and seventy palm trees. Here they remained for several days. When they had been a month absent from Egypt, their store of provisions had begun to fail. How was food to be supplied for this vast multitude? Even the rulers and elders of the people joined in complaining against the leaders of God’s appointment: “Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger” Exodus 16:3. Shortly after, God sent manna to supply them with food for the next forty years.

Israel had not really suffered from hunger yet; their present needs



were supplied, but they began to worry about the future. The LORD permitted difficulties to surround them and their supply of food to diminish so they would learn to rely upon Him to supply all their needs just as He had promised to do. God wanted to teach them to endure privation, inconvenience, and real suffering, but they were ready to faint at every obstacle encountered, even though He had brought them out of bondage in Egypt in a miraculous way. He wanted to fit them to occupy an honorable place among the nations and receive sacred trusts.

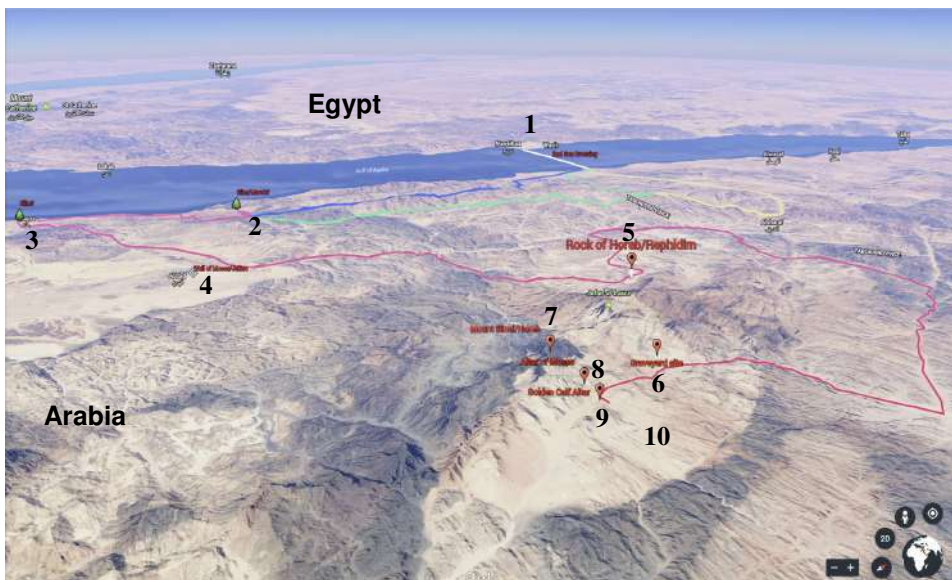
Are we any different today? All through the ages, God has been trying to teach His children these same lessons. He would have all who are on their way to the heavenly Canaan endure trials, exposure to hunger, thirst, weariness, and dangers, and accept each trial as a preparation for the heavenly Canaan. Hopefully, we can learn from Israel, who traveled before us through the dry, barren deserts on their way to the earthly Canaan. Yes, they did a lot of murmuring and complaining all along the way. Let their experiences benefit us today.

[See Exodus 15:22-27; 16-18; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 291-294.](#)



Above: The camping area for 2-3 million people.
Center: The stream bed from the split rock that flowed down over the rocks and formed a lakebed. which a person can still see to this day.
Below: The graveyard area, which was about three miles from camp.





An aerial view that shows where different events took place and their location in relation to Mount Sinai, i.e., Mount Horeb.

- 1) The crossing site from Egypt to Arabia
- 2) Marah, where Moses cut a tree and made the bitter waters sweet
- 3) Elim, where there are still 12 wells and palm trees
- 4) The home of Jethro, father-in-law to Moses
- 5) The split rock that Moses struck and water flowed out
- 6) Graveyard, where several thousand were buried
- 7) Mount Sinai, where Moses met with God, face to face
- 8) Where the Tabernacle was pitched and animal sacrifices took place
- 9) Where the golden calf apostasy took place
- 10) The general area where the first Old Testament sanctuary was built, which teaches us the plan of salvation and helps us understand what is going on in heaven, even now.

The Sanctuary message, in the Bible, is a vital truth for all Christians. It reveals God's plan of salvation in a clear, structured way. Through the earthly sanctuary, believers can understand the depth of God's justice, mercy, & redemptive work. Every element of this message, from the altar of sacrifice to the Most Holy Place, points to Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the



world. It shows that Christ is our High Priest, interceding on our behalf, offering forgiveness and power for transformation. This message deepens our appreciation of the gospel & God's character, giving us hope and assurance in Christ.



Archeology Proves the Bible True



Was there really a flood that covered the whole earth? Is Genesis 6-8 really true? Is there any evidence of a worldwide flood?

Be sure to ask for our magazine, *Genesis and Geology, When the Stones Cry Out*. We show the evidence of a worldwide catastrophic event in numerous places around the world. We also show the remnants of a very large ship, the very dimensions of Noah's ark, still in eastern Turkey near the place where the ark rested on the mountains of Ararat.

What about the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah? Are there any ruins near the Dead Sea that prove those cities really existed?

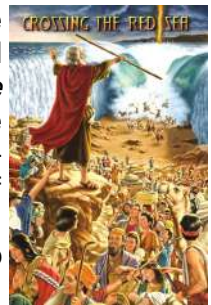
Ask for our magazine, *On the Road to Sodom*, to learn the details. When God promised to give to Abraham the country of Palestine, it seems Satan had already laid claim to this land. The most evil activities were going on in the five cities of the plain. The LORD with two angels, made a visit to Abraham. He fed them lunch, then God relayed to him their message. The angels went on to Sodom to get Lot and his family to leave the city. See remnants of the cities in this magazine.

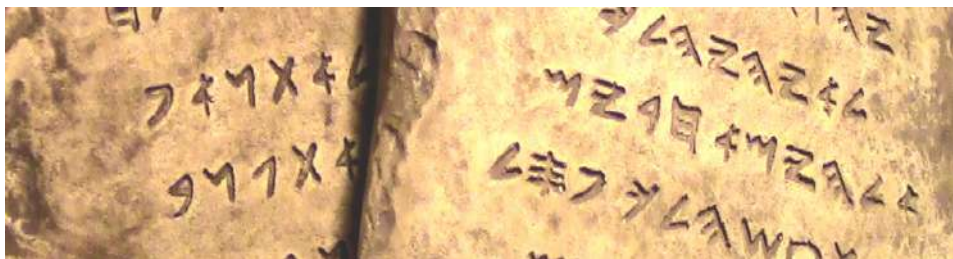


Is there any real evidence of Israel having been in the land of Egypt, as recorded in Genesis 38-50? Ask for our magazine, *Ancient Israel in Egypt, the Evidence Validates Scripture*. You will be able to see the grain bins built by Joseph when he was working next to the Pharaoh during the seven years of plenty, before the seven years of famine. God used Joseph to save the nation, including his own people who moved to Egypt from Palestine during the severe famine.

What evidence do we have today that proves the crossing of the Red Sea during the time of Moses and the children of Israel? Order our magazine, *Crossing the Red Sea*. You will see pictures of chariot wheels in the bottom of the sea to this day, for the Egyptian army followed Israel onto the path through the sea in hopes of bringing them back to Egypt. It is a remarkable story!

God never leaves the world without evidence to confirm Bible facts.





America's Ancient Decalogue: Fact or Fiction?

Long before the U.S. Congress approved our Bill of Rights in 1789 and several centuries before our Founding Fathers signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776, it appears that a much more important document had been forged here in America. What could be more important than these two founding documents?

In the mountains of New Mexico, just 35 miles south of Albuquerque, is an ancient carving of God's Ten Commandments that predates the landing of the Pilgrims in America and the subsequent signing of the Mayflower Compact of 1620, which is another significant event in the history of the United States. In fact, the American (USA) version of God's Ten Commandments predates the coming of Christopher Columbus in 1492 to the Caribbean and the arrival of Leif Erikson, the Nordic explorer who visited the shores of North America around the year A.D. 995, approximately 500 years before Columbus.

This is certainly amazing when you think about it. In a quiet wilderness area outside of Los Lunas, New Mexico, is an 80-ton piece of mountain that is in the middle of Hidden Mountain. There is no museum, visitor's center, gift shop, or tour bus. What you will find is the ancient presence of the Hebrew God of Abraham through carvings on a stone mountain. This is the oldest known inscription of the Ten Commandments we still have today in our world. It is also the only place where we can still find the ancient Hebrew name of God on a stone altar dedicated to Him. It is the first place in all of the Americas where the biblical God is referenced. It is America's very own Ten Commandments and predates the founding of this great nation.

Some locals and their ancestors have known about these strange writings since the early 1800s and called the monument "Mystery Stone" because no one knew the translation, meaning, or origin for a very long time.

Paleo-Hebrew Alphabet

Now called the *Phoenician Inscription Rock*, it wasn't until 1949 that experts finally discovered the ancient writings are actually the Ten Commandments written in the distinct ancient Paleo-Hebrew alphabet.



A view of Hidden Mountain outside of Albuquerque, New Mexico where an ancient copy of the 10 Commandments has been found that dates back to around 500 B.C.

This is the same writing Moses used when he wrote the Bible. This was the same language used by Abraham and Israel until the fifth century B.C. After the Babylonian captivity, the exiled Jews began learning Aramaic, the official language of the Babylonians. The Jews continued using Aramaic during the Medo-Persian, Greek, and Roman rule as their national language. In fact, the Paleo-Hebrew alphabet was never revived after the Babylonian dispersion of Israel around 587 B.C.

By the time of Christ, the nation had almost completely forgotten the ancient Paleo-Hebrew language. It was the Jewish scholars and rabbis who used the ancient language, and then, only sparingly. That is why the Jews could not understand Jesus when He addressed His Father, while hanging on the cross, in the original Paleo-Hebrew language:

“And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken Me? Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, This man calleth for Elias. And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink. The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him” Matthew 27:46-49.

The Jews, by this time, were so accustomed to using Aramaic, the ancient Hebrew was almost completely forgotten. Sadly, shortly after

the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, the Paleo-Hebrew alphabet fell completely out of use. Today, the Jews in the state of Israel speak Ivrit, which is a modern form of Hebrew that was created during the end of the 19th century by Jewish scholars. It is very different from classical Hebrew.

Those Who Believe

What about the ancient carvings of the Ten Commandments found in New Mexico? Is it for real or just a hoax? The experts are saying this is not a hoax. The fact the inscription is in Paleo-Hebrew leads many of today's experts to fairly conclude the engraving was done sometime prior to 500 B.C. There have been published studies by archeologists, scientists, and other professionals who are saying the inscription in New Mexico is authentic.

The following is just a short list of published works on this subject by people who take their work very seriously:

1. Cline, Donald, "The Los Lunas Stone," Epigraphic Society, Occasional Publications 2, part 10, 1968-1973.
2. Deal, David Allen, *Discovery of Ancient America*. Irvine, CA: 1984.
3. Fell, Barry, "Ancient Punctuation & the Los Lunas Text," Epigraphic Society, Occasional Publications 5, part 137, 35-41, 1985.
4. Gordon, Cyrus, "Diffusion of Near East Culture in Antiquity and in Byzantine Times," Orient Publications, 1995.
5. Leonard, Phillip M. and McGlone, William R. "An Epigraphic Hoax on Trial in New Mexico," Epigraphic Society, Occasional Publications, 1988.
6. Moorehouse, George E., "The Los Lunas Inscriptions: A Geological Study," Epigraphic Society, Occasional Publications, 1985.
7. Pummer, Reinhard, "How to Tell a Samaritan Synagogue from a Jewish Synagogue," Biblical Archaeology Review, vol. 24, num. 3, May-June, 1998, pp. 24-35.
8. Skupin, Michael, "The Los Lunas Errata," Epigraphic Society, Occasional Publications 18, 1989, 249-252.
9. Tabor, James D., "An Ancient Hebrew Inscription in New Mexico: Fact or Fraud?" United Israel Bulletin, Vol. 52, 1997, pp. 1-3.
10. Underwood, L. Lyle, "The Los Lunas Inscription," Epigraphic Society, Occasional Publications 10, 1982, part 1, 57-67.

The Translation

The skeptic may argue, the idea of a Hebrew presence or lost tribe of Israel in America is nothing new. There are many groups alleging that position.

However, what we see in New Mexico is a legitimate text; experts have checked and said the inscription was written around 500 B.C. [\[1\]](#)

The text is a summary of the Ten Commandments and is basically translated as follows:

“I am Jehovah your God, who has taken you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of slaves.

- 1) There must be no other gods before my face.
- 2) You must not make any idol.
- 3) You must not take the name of Jehovah in vain.
- 4) Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
- 5) Honor your father and your mother so that your days may be long in the land that Jehovah your God has given to you.
- 6) You must not murder.
- 7) You must not commit adultery.
- 8) You must not steal.
- 9) You must not give a false witness against your neighbor.
- 10) You must not desire the wife of your neighbor nor anything that is his.”

A Credible Fact

The fact that the Ten Commandments were here in America long before we became a nation is a very solemn thought. There are three points that make this story all the more credible and believable:

1. Besides the scientific studies, it is quite evident no one is profiting from this. There is no hoaxster trying to commercialize and monetize this stone memorial. No one has appeared in *The National Geographic* seeking personal fame for the discovery.

2. This could not possibly be a person trying to play a joke on some college professor or on another individual. Why? Because the locals and their ancestors have known about this since the year 1800. For many generations, no one knew how to read the inscription.

3. This is New Mexico, formerly Old Mexico. The Mexicans spoke Spanish, the Americans spoke English, the Indians in this region didn't even have an alphabet, and early Christian missionaries were not trying to share the gospel in classical Paleo-Hebrew.

There is a little twist to this story. There are two ancient Greek letters mixed in with the text of the Ten Commandments inscription. We know the Greek alphabet was being used as early as the eighth century B.C. and came into prominence when Alexander the Great began spreading Greek culture throughout the world after he became king of Greece, Babylon, Persia, Egypt, and Asia in 331 B.C.

Therefore, whoever carved the inscription had to be well-versed and educated in both ancient Hebrew and Greek. Regardless of when the work was done, it is quite a testament to the God of heaven. The inscription lists the Hebrew name of God several times, which shows the author wanted to make sure others knew there is a God who has a



Above: The 80-ton boulder that contains the writings of the Ten Commandments. Below: The largest of only three Ten commandment stones found throughout the world is located outside in Las Lunas, New Mexico. Experts say this inscription was written about 500 B.C.



P4X4 KHTX P4E 9WX KH3LX E4E3 M4KX
 out of the land has taken you who your God Jehovah I (am)
 . M4E7 LO M4PHX M43LX E3E3 XL
 my face (1) before other gods there be not
 XWT XL . L47 KL E3WOT XL A M4D9O T494 M4P44
 take not idol shall you make not (2) of slaves from house of Egypt (3)
 M4M TX 94KXZ . X4WL E4E3 M TX
 day of Remember (7) in vain Jehovah name (4)
 LO4L K4X TX4 KH9X TX Δ9K . 4WΔXL T9WE
 so that and your mother your father Honour to keep holy the sabbath
 KH3LX E4E3 9WX E4ΔXE LO KH4M 94K4X M
 your God Jehovah that ground upon your days will be long
 XL . 941T XL . 7X4T XL . H49T XL . XL 4TM
 not you must steal not you commit adultery not you must murder not to you has given (5)
 KOP TWX Δ4HT XL . 9KW ΔOKOP9 E4OT
 your neighbour wife of you must desire not false (6) witness against neighbour give testimony
 . KOP4L 9WX LX4
 is your neighbours that and all

This is the Interlinear translation of ancient Paleo-Hebrew text as found on the stone in New Mexico. Read the English text from right to left, but each phrase from left to right.

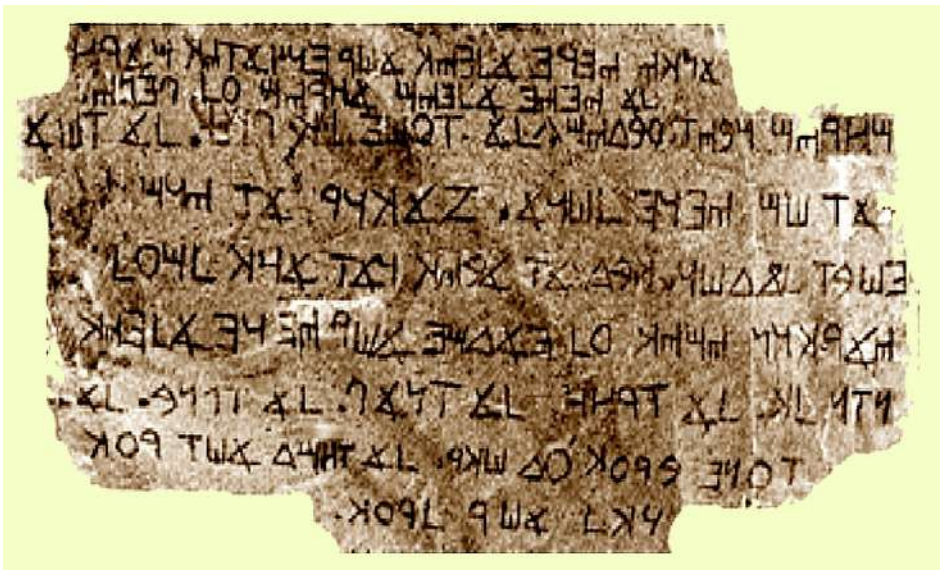
law, and that law was permanently binding as long as humanity exists on this earth. Therefore, the author carved it in stone.

A Spiritual Lesson

The only downside to all of this is the Ten Commandments have actually fallen off the side of the mountain. An 80-ton piece of rock that has the Ten Commandments inscribed on it has broken off and is actually lying on its side. We know it was originally intact and in place, but now it seems to have fallen. Is there a spiritual lesson in this? Is there a message that maybe God wants us to know? And so it is; many in this world have broken the Ten Commandment Law of God! They are even promoting a new theology concerning the fourth commandment. This has been going on since, the emperor, Constantine, in A.D. 321.

God has given His children on earth a high calling: "And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in" Isaiah 58:12.

[1] <http://wnd.com/2010/03/129385/>



Enhanced and Reconstructed Photo of the Inscription

Whosoever commits sin disobeys the law:
for sin is the transgression of the law.

Do we make the Law void or of no effect when we have faith?

Certainly not! On the contrary,

We confirm and uphold the Law

[since it convicts us of sin,

pointing us to the need of salvation].

Prove yourselves to be obedient to the Law,

And not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

If any be a hearer of the Law but not a doer,

There has been a defect in the hearing of it.

Whoever looks into the perfect Law of liberty

and obeys what God asks

is not merely a hearer of the Word, but a doer of His Law,

and this person shall be blessed in their actions.

Obedience shows their religion is not vain.

1 John 3:4; Romans 3:31; James 1:22-25 (Easy English Paraphrase)

Is God's Law Still Binding?

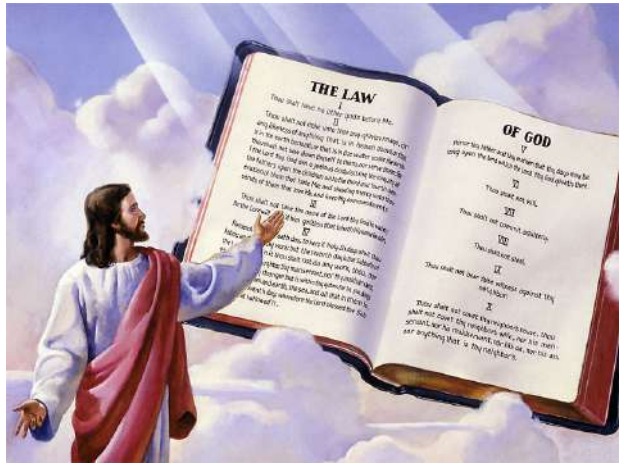
No error accepted by the Christian world strikes more boldly against the authority of Heaven, none is more directly opposed to the dictates of reason, none is more pernicious in its results, than the modern doctrine, so rapidly gaining ground, that God's law is no longer binding upon men. Every nation has its laws, which command respect and obedience; no government could exist without them; and can it be conceived that the Creator of the heavens and the earth has no law to govern the beings He has made? Suppose that prominent ministers were publicly to teach that the statutes which govern their land and protect the rights of its citizens were not obligatory—that they restricted the liberties of the people, and therefore ought not to be obeyed; how long would such men be tolerated in the pulpit? But is it a graver offense to disregard the laws of states and nations than to trample upon those divine precepts which are the foundation of all government?

It would be far more consistent for nations to abolish their statutes, and permit the people to do as they please, than for the Ruler of the universe to annul His law, and leave the world without a standard to condemn the guilty or justify the obedient. Would we know the result of making void the law of God? The experiment has been tried. Terrible were the scenes enacted in France when atheism became the controlling power. It was then demonstrated to the world that to throw off the restraints which God has imposed is to accept the rule of the cruelest of tyrants. When the standard of righteousness is set aside, the way is open for the prince of evil to establish his power in the earth.

Wherever the divine precepts are rejected, sin ceases to appear sinful or righteousness desirable. Those who refuse to submit to the government of God are wholly unfitted to govern themselves. Through their pernicious teachings the spirit of insubordination is implanted in the hearts of children and youth, who are naturally impatient of control; and a lawless, licentious state of society results. While scoffing at the credulity of those who obey the requirements of God, the multitudes eagerly accept the delusions of Satan. They give the rein to lust and practice the sins which have called down judgments upon the heathen.

Those who teach the people to regard lightly the commandments of God sow disobedience to reap disobedience. Let the restraint imposed by the divine law be wholly cast aside, and human laws would soon be disregarded. Because God forbids dishonest practices, coveting, lying, and defrauding, men are ready to trample upon His statutes as a hindrance to their worldly prosperity; but the results of banishing these precepts would be such as they do not anticipate. If the law were not binding, why should any fear to transgress? Property would no longer be

safe. Men would obtain their neighbor's possessions by violence, and the strongest would become richest. Life itself would not be respected. The marriage vow would no longer stand as a sacred bulwark to protect the family. He who had the power, would, if he desired, take his neighbor's wife by violence. The fifth commandment would be set aside with the fourth. Children would not shrink from taking the life of their parents if by so doing they could obtain the desire of their corrupt hearts. The civilized world would become a horde of robbers and assassins; and peace, rest, and happiness would be banished from the earth.



Already the doctrine that men are released from obedience to God's requirements has weakened the force of moral obligation and opened the floodgates of iniquity upon the world. Lawlessness, dissipation, and corruption are sweeping in upon us like an overwhelming tide. In the family, Satan is at work. His banner waves, even in professedly Christian households. There is envy, evil surmising, hypocrisy, estrangement, emulation, strife, betrayal of sacred trusts, indulgence of lust. The whole system of religious principles and doctrines, which should form the foundation and framework of social life, seems to be a tottering mass, ready to fall to ruin. The vilest of criminals, when thrown into prison for their offenses, are often made the recipients of gifts and attentions as if they had attained an enviable distinction. Great publicity is given to their character and crimes. The press publishes the revolting details of vice, thus initiating others into the practice of fraud, robbery, and murder; and Satan exults in the success of his hellish schemes. The infatuation of vice, the wanton taking of life, the terrible increase of intemperance and iniquity of every order and degree, should arouse all who fear God, to inquire what can be done to stay the tide of evil.

Courts of justice are corrupt. Rulers are actuated by desire for gain and love of sensual pleasure. Intemperance has beclouded the faculties of many so that Satan has almost complete control of them. Jurists are perverted, bribed, deluded. Drunkenness and revelry, passion, envy, dishonesty of every sort, are represented among those who administer the laws. "Justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter" Isaiah 59:14. *The Great Controversy*, 583-586.

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The Law of God

I

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

II

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

III

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

IV

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

V

Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

VI

Thou shalt not kill.

VII

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

VIII

Thou shalt not steal.

IX

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

X

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's.