

of the wilderness who did not hesitate to sell food and water for money. The statements of Moses in Dt.ii.4-9 show that he was extremely careful to avoid border incidents which might have led to a general conflict with the pass of the people of either nation.

d. The death of Aaron (xx.22-29)

Aaron died near the border of Edom. The Hebrew word translated coast (23) means simply a border, whether of a body of water or of a section of land. The sin at Maribah is cited as the reason why Aaron could not enter the Promised Land, since he had not been a party to the rebellion at Kadesh. To prevent any interregnum, Eleazar, his son, was installed in his place even before his death. The death of Aaron occurred on the first day of the fifth month of the fortieth year (xxxiii.38).

e. Victory over Arad (xxi.1-3)

Verses 1 probably refers to the attack upon the Israelites which had occurred after the death of the spies nearly thirty-eight years earlier (xiv.45). Which dwelt in the south (1). Heb. nageb: see note on xiii.17. Before the start of the long march around Edom, the defeat was avenged and some of the Canaanite cities destroyed. Hormah (3). See Dt. 1.44n.

f. The incident of the brazen serpent (xxi.4-9)

Since Edom had refused to allow Israel passage through its land, the congregation had already begun the long march which would take them south, east, and then north around the land of Edom (xx.21-22) .

By the way of the Red sea (4). See note on xiv.25. In the course of the march, renewed murmuring against God and against Moses (4-5) led to divine punishment in the form of a scourge of serpents. Similar scourges occur in the same general region in modern times. For an account of one, cf. T.E.Lawrence, The Seven Pillars of Wisdom, pp. 269-270. When the people cried for help (7), God provided a means by which they could be healed (8). Moses made a serpent of brass and set it up on a pole (9). If a man who had been bitten looked at the brazen serpent on the pole, he would be healed. Christ used this as a symbol of the fact that He Himself would