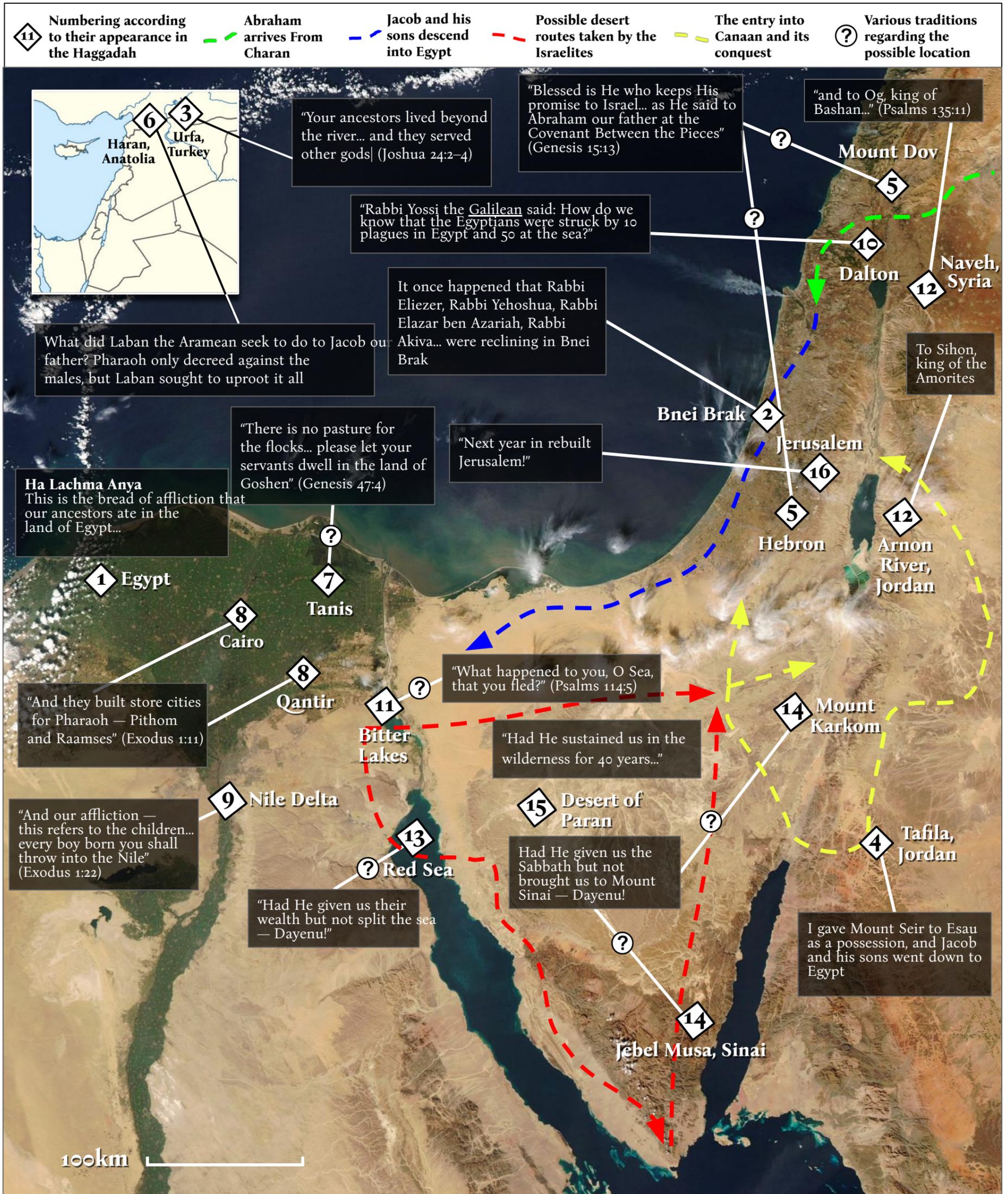


Haggadah on the Map

In every generation, each Jew should see himself as though he personally had been liberated from Egypt.



Dedicated to the memory of Moshe Zvi Gildoni - a wise-hearted Jew who loved telling the story of the Exodus from Egypt.

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Aerial imagery courtesy of NASA's MODIS Satellite, December 2010

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| Order of appearance in the Haggadah | Where? | When? | A Bit of Background |
|--|--|-------------------------|---|
| 1) "Ha Lachma Anya..." - This is the bread of affliction our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt. | Ancient Egypt | 13th-15th century BCE | Originally written in Aramaic, the spoken language of our people during the Babylonian Exile (6th century CE). |
| 2) "It once happened that Rabbi Eliezer, Rabbi Yehoshua, Rabbi Elazar ben Azariah, Rabbi Akiva... were reclining in Bnei Brak" | Ancient Bnei Brak, Mesubim Interchange | 2nd century CE | The city became famous as the home of Rabbi Akiva, who established a flourishing yeshiva there. The Sages interpreted the verse "Justice, justice shall you pursue" (Deuteronomy 16:20) as referring to Rabbi Akiva in Bnei Brak. |
| 3) "Your ancestors lived beyond the river... Terach, the father of Abraham and Nachor, and they served other gods." (Joshua 24:2-4) | Urfa, Turkey | 18th century BCE | The nation began as idol worshipers beyond the "great river," the Euphrates, which serves as a border between the Mediterranean and Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq/Iran). |
| 4) "I gave Mount Seir to Esau as a possession, and Jacob and his sons went down to Egypt." | Tafila, Jordan | 15th century BCE | Mount Seir is mentioned in the Bible as the home of Esau's descendants, the Edomites. It is a granite mountain range in southwestern Jordan. |
| 5) "Blessed is He who keeps His promise to Israel... as He said to Abraham at the Covenant Between the Pieces." (Genesis 15:13) | Har Dov or Hebron | 17th century BCE | God's promise to Abraham that his descendants would inherit the Land after Egyptian bondage. This is the very promise we sing about in "Vehi She'amda." |
| 6) "What did Laban the Aramean seek to do to our father Jacob? Pharaoh only decreed against the males, but Laban sought to uproot everything." (Deuteronomy 26:5) | Haran, Southeastern Anatolia | 17th century BCE | Even in Jacob's time, the spiritual survival of the people was at risk - this time from a family member. |
| 7) "There is no pasture for your servants' flocks, for the famine is severe in Canaan. Please let your servants dwell in the land of Goshen." (Genesis 47:4) | Tanis, Egypt | 15th century BCE | Due to famine in Canaan, Jacob's sons – through Joseph's mediation – ask Pharaoh for permission to dwell in Goshen and pasture their flocks. |
| 8) "And they built store cities for Pharaoh - Pithom and Raamses." (Exodus 1:11) | Heliopolis and Qantir, Egypt | 13th-15th centuries BCE | Pharaoh enslaved the Israelites with harsh labor, though there is no evidence they built the pyramids, which likely predate them by about 1,000 years. |
| 9) "And our toil - this refers to the sons. As it is said: 'Every son that is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall keep alive.'" (Exodus 1:22) | Nile River, Egypt | 14th century BCE | A new king who did not know Joseph feared the growing Israelite population and issued a decree to destroy them. |
| 10) "Rabbi Yossi the Galilean said: How do we know that the Egyptians were struck by ten plagues in Egypt and fifty at the sea?" (Mechilta) | Dalton, Israel | 2nd century CE | Modern readers may find the focus on plagues primitive, but they can be read as a metaphor for the human capacity to challenge destiny. |
| 11) "What happened to you, O sea, that you fled? The Jordan turned back." (Psalms 114:5) | Red Sea | 5th century BCE | From the Hallel blessing recited on holidays. This is the origin of the phrase "completing the Hallel." |
| 12) "To Sihon, king of the Amorites... and to Og, king of Bashan... for His kindness is everlasting." (Psalms 135:11) | Arnon Stream, Jordan / Naveh, Syria | 13th century BCE | Two regional kings defeated by the Israelites en route to conquering the Land. |
| 13) "Had He given us their wealth but not split the sea – Dayenu!" (Exodus 14:21) | Red Sea | 13th century BCE | Before the digging of the Suez Canal, it might have been possible to cross into Sinai on dry land – so why did they cross the sea? |
| 14) "Had He given us the Sabbath but not brought us to Mount Sinai – Dayenu!" (Exodus 19:2) | 13th century BCE (6th of Sivan, 2448) | Mount Sinai | Tradition and research suggest Har Karkom in the Negev or Jebel Musa ("Mount of Moses") in the Sinai Peninsula as possible locations for the revelation. |
| 15) "Had He sustained our needs in the desert for forty years but not fed us the manna – Dayenu!" (Exodus 16:31) | Desert of Paran (Sinai) | 13th-12th centuries BCE | Manna is described as tasting like "wafers with honey." Scholars identify it as a sweet secretion from a desert shrub or crystallized sugar on desert plants. |
| 16) "Next year in rebuilt Jerusalem!" | 13th century BCE | Jerusalem | Jerusalem means "City of Peace" - symbolizing harmony between body and soul, heaven and earth, and between ideals and the reality the Jewish people strive toward. |