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Detailed Chronology of the Exodus from Egypt

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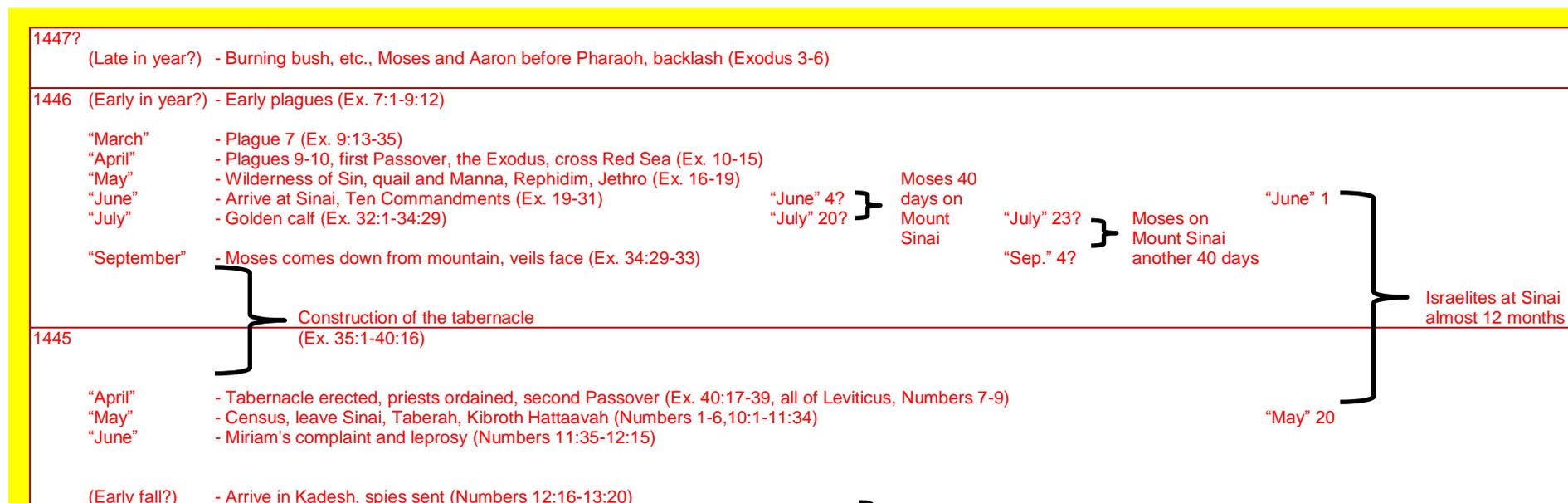
In this **chronology** I only include events from 1447 or 1446 B.C. through 1406 B.C., since this period contains month-by-month or even day-by-day detail in many cases, actually an amazing amount of detail perhaps not matched anywhere else in the Bible. This covers part of Exodus, all of Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, and part of Joshua. Earlier events in Exodus and later events in Joshua are already clearly shown on the [Bible chronology main page](#).

The dates provided are my own, based on information gleaned from the text itself. *The Narrated Bible* generally does not provide these detailed dates for this time period, which is a bit surprising, **given the amount of detail** the text **provides**. If anyone thinks I have interpreted the text incorrectly in a particular case, please let me know. Note that events are not necessarily sequential, and in a few cases it is not entirely clear which events occur first, as in the case of Leviticus 10 and following chapters versus Numbers 7:54 and following. I have just tried to place them as logically as possible.

The English month names given in quotes in the charts below are actually Hebrew months. To see what they correspond to, see [The Hebrew Calendar](#).

In *The Narrated Bible* the Laws in the Pentateuch are often rearranged by topic, so the page numbers are not as helpful as for the narrative sections. In these cases I do not provide page numbers, but simply have ~. It is not always clear when sections composed exclusively of laws and regulations were given. I will mark these in **green** to show that they do not really form part of the chronological narrative.

Month-by-month Summary View of the Exodus



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(Late in year?) - Spies return, people rebel and are judged (Numbers 13:25-13:22)

Spies explore the land for 40 days (Numbers 13:21-24)

1445 - 1407 - 38 years of wandering in the wilderness! (Numbers 14:21-35, Deu. 2:1,14)

1407 "April" - Return to Kadesh, death of Miriam (Numbers 20:1)
 - People complain about lack of water (Numbers 20:2-13)
 - Passage requested of Edom, refused (Numbers 20:14-21)

"August" - Mount Hor, death of Aaron, battle with Arad (Numbers 20:22-21:4a)

- Travel stages, cross Zered River (33 years after leaving Kadesh towards the end of 1445 to wander in the desert!) (Numbers 21:4b-35)

1406 - Arrive at Plains of Moab, trouble with Moab and Midian, Reuben and Gad settle in Gilead, directives for conquest (Numbers 22-36, Joshua 12:1-6)

"March" - Moses' Deuteronomy addresses, Death of Moses (all of Deuteronomy)
 "April" - Joshua takes leadership, spies in Jericho, first Passover in Canaan, manna ceases (Joshua 1:1-5:12)

- Initial Conquest of Canaan (undatable, unclear how much occurred during 1406) (Joshua 5:13-11:23,12:7-24)

Detailed Chronology of the Exodus

In Moses' Deuteronomy addresses he **retells** some of the events in the Exodus story. I have added a few of these references in the Deuteronomy column beside those events, but in **blue** to show that this is Moses' later recollection of them. (I will not provide page numbers in *The Narrated Bible* in these cases.) I have not included all of **Moses' retellings**, since Moses' style is a bit rambling, and it became too complicated to do so.

An almost complete list of the Israelite encampments is listed in Numbers 33, and I have given this list its own column. Most of these places are unknown.

As with all of my chronology material, I wrote this so that *I* would understand what happened, and hopefully it will help others as well.

Date	Verses that support the date	Israelite encampment or other location	Event(s)	Exodus, Leviticus, and Joshua	Numbers	Num. 33 camp list (183-184)	Deuteronomy	Date given (or implied) by Smith	Page in <i>The Narrated Bible</i>
1447? Late in year?		Midian	Burning Bush	Exodus 3:1-4:17					99
		Midian	Moses leaves for Egypt	4:18-23					101
		lodging place	Moses' son circumcised	4:24-26					102
		Mountain of God (Sinai)	Aaron meets Moses	4:27-28					
		Egypt (Goshen=Rameses)	Moses and Aaron meet Israelites	4:29-31					
		"	Moses and Aaron before Pharaoh, backlash	5-6					103

1446	Early in year? (Late?) March ¹		”	Plagues 1-6	7:1-9:12				1446?	105
		Exodus 9:31-32	”	Plague 7	9:13-35					108
			”	Plague 8	10:1-20					109
	“April” 11-13	10:22-23	”	Plague 9	10:21-23					
	“April” 14	12:6	”	Pharaoh refuses, Passover	10:24- 12:28					110
	“April” 15	12:29 13:3-4	”	Angel of Death	12:29- 13:16					112
	”	(Numbers 33:3)	”	The Exodus: leave Rameses (Goshen)	13:17-18		3-5			113
			Succoth		13:20		5-6			114
			Etham		13:20		6-7			114
			Pi Hahiroth	Crossing of the Red Sea	14:1-15:21		7-8			
			Marah	Bitter water made sweet	15:22-26		8-9			117
			Elim	12 springs, 70 palms	15:27		9-10			118
			Red Sea				10- 11			118
	“May” 15	16:1	Wilderness of Sin	quail and manna	16		11- 12			
			Dophkah				12- 13			
			Alush				13- 14			
			Rephidim (Massah, Meribah)	water from the rock, Amalek	17		14- 15			119
			”?	Jethro brings Moses’ family	18					120
1446*	“June” 1? ²	19:1	Wilderness of Sinai	arrive at Sinai, consecration	19:1-15		15		1445?	122
	“June” 3?	19:16	”	Moses meets God on the mountain	19:16-25					123
			”	Ten Commandments	20:1-17			5:6-21		123
			”	People afraid to meet God	20:18-20					
			”	First lawgiving	20:21- 24:4a					124
	“June” 4?	24:4	”	Moses called to the mountain again	24:4b-16a					126
	“June” 11?	24:16	”	God calls to Moses	24:16b-18					
			”	Second lawgiving	25:1-31:18					
	“July” 20?	32:5-6	”	Worship of golden calf	32:1-5					135
	“July” 21?	24:18	”	Calf destroyed, tablets broken	32:6-29					136
	“July” 22?	32:30	”	Moses intercedes for the people	32:30-34:3					137
	“July” 23?	34:4	”	Moses returns to the mountain	34:4-28					138
	“September” 4?	34:28	”	Moses comes down, veils face	34:29-33					139
			”	Construction of the tabernacle	35:1-40:16					140
1445	“April” 1	40:17	”	Tabernacle erected	40:17-38					147
	“April” 1		”	Cloud first appears over tabernacle		9:15				

		”	Laws about offerings	Leviticus 1-7				~
“April” 1?		”	Ordination of priests	8				148
“April” 1		”	Leaders of tribes bring offerings:		7:1-11			153
“April” 1		”	Judah		7:12-17			154
“April” 2		”	Issachar		7:18-23			
“April” 3		”	Zebulun		7:24-29			
“April” 4		”	Reuben		7:30-35			
“April” 5		”	Simeon		7:36-41			155
“April” 6		”	Gad		7:42-47			
“April” 7		”	Ephraim		7:48-53			
“April” 8?	Leviticus 9:1	”	Ordination of priests completed	9				149
“April” 8??		”	Nadab and Abihu die	10:1-7	3:4			150 152
“April” 8??		”	other issues with priests	10:8-20				150
“April” 8??		”	More laws	11-27				~
“April” 8		”	Manasseh		7:54-59			155
“April” 9		”	Benjamin		7:60-65			156
“April” 10		”	Dan		7:66-71			
“April” 11		”	Asher		7:72-77			
“April” 12		”	Naphtali		7:78-83			
		”	Summary of offerings		7:84-88			
		”	Moses hears God in Most Holy Place		7:89			157
		”	More laws		8			~
“April” 14	Numbers 9:1,3,5	”	second Passover celebrated		9:1-14			158
“May” 1	1:1,18	”	census of Israelites (without Levites)		1			159
		”	arrangement of camp		2			161
		”	separate census of Levites		3:1-39, 4:1-49			162
		”	redemption of the firstborn		3:40-51			165
		”	More laws		5-6			~
		”	Silver trumpets for mobilizing		10:1-10			166
“May” 20	10:11	”	leave Sinai		10:11-34	16	1:6-8,19a	166
“May” 23		Taberah	complaining and fire		11:1-3	—	9:22	168
		Kibroth Hattaavah	cry for meat		11:4-34	16- 17	9:22	
Late “June”	11:20-21	Hazereth	Miriam’s complaint and leprosy		11:35- 12:15	17- 18		170
		Rithmah				18- 19		
		Rimmon Perez				19- 20		171
		Libnah				20-		

						21			
		Rissah				21-22			
		Khelathah				22-23			
		Mount Shepher				23-24			
		Haradah				24-25			
		Makheloth				25-26			
		Tahath				26-27			
		Terah				27-28			
		Mithcah				28-29			
		Hashmonah				29-30			
		Moseroth / Moserah				30-31	10:6 ³		216?
		(Beeroth) Bene Jaakan				31-32	10:6		
		Hor Haggidgad / Gudgodah				32-33	10:7		216?
		Jotbathah				33-34	10:7		
		Abronah				34-35			
		Ezion Geber	(northern tip of Gulf of Aqaba)			35-36			
1445	(early fall?)	Kadesh in Wilderness of Zin (also the W. of Paran)	arrive in Kadesh		12:16	36-37	1:19b		171
		”	Spies selected and commissioned		13:1-20		1:20-23		
	(40 days)	13:25 (various places)	Spies explore the land for 40 days		13:21-24		1:24		172
1445	(late in year)	Kadesh	Spies return and give report		13:25-33		1:25		
		”	Israelites murmur, God declares judgment		14:1-35		1:26-40		
		”	Spies die		14:36-38				174
		”	People decide to obey, but too late		14:39-43		1:41-43		
		Hill Country	People are defeated		14:44-45		1:44-46		
		Kadesh	More laws		15				~
1445	(late in year)	”	Challenge to leadership		16-17				174
		”	Laws about priests and Levites		18				177
		”	More laws		19				~

1445 - 1407	14:33-34 (Deu. 2:14)		38 years of wandering in the wilderness! (Leave Kadesh initially heading south towards Red Sea)		(14:21-35) (14:25)		2:1		
1407 "April" ⁴	Numbers 20:1	Kadesh in Wilderness of Zin (also the W. of Paran)	Return to Kadesh, death of Miriam		20:1	36- 37			179
		"	People cry for water		20:2-12				
		"	(Second place named Meribah)		20:13				180
		"	Passage requested of Edom, refused		20:14-21				
		Mount Hor (border of Edom)	arrive at Mount Hor		20:22	37			180
"August" 1	33:38	"	Death of Aaron		20:23-29	38- 39	10:6 ³		180
		"	King of Arad heard about them		21:1a	40			
		"	King of Arad captures some Israelites		21:1b				
		Arad (Hormah)	Israel defeats Arad		21:2-3				
		Mount Hor (border of Edom)	Leave Mount Hor		21:4a	41			
		Zalmonah (on the Red Sea?)	Go by way of the Red Sea around Edom		21:4b	41- 42	2:2-12		181
			People impatient, bronze serpent		21:4c-9				
		Punon				42- 43			
		Oboth			21:10	43- 44			181
		Iye Abarim (Iyim) (border of Moab)			21:11	44- 45			181
	(Deu. 2:14)	Valley of Zered River	38 years after leaving Kadesh towards the end of 1445 to wander in the desert!		21:12		2:13-15		
		Dibon Gad (on Arnon River)			21:13-15	45- 46	2:16-25		181
		Beer			21:16-18				
		Mattanah			21:18-19				
		Nahaliel			21:19				
		Bamoth			21:19-20				
		Almon Diblathaim				46- 47			
		mountains of Abarim (near Nebo/Pisgah)			21:20	47- 48			182
		Amorite territory	Israelites defeat Amorites	Joshua 12:1-3	21:21-30		2:26-37		
		Bashan	Israelites conquer Bashan	12:4-5	21:31-35		3:1-11		
1406 Early in year?		plains of Moab (Shittim)	arrive at Plains of Moab		22:1	48- 49			185
			Balak and Balaam		22:2-24:25				
		plains of Moab (Shittim)	immorality with Moabite and Midianite women		25				191
		"	new census		26				
		"	the daughters of Zelophehad		27:1-11				
		"	Joshua commissioned to succeed Moses		27:12-23				

		”	More laws		28-30					~
		”	Vengeance on Midian (and Balaam)		31					
		”	Reuben and Gad settle in Gilead		32				3:12-20	
		”	directives for the conquest		33:50-36:13					
“March” 1	Deu. 1:3	”	Moses’ first Deuteronomy address						1:1-4:40	
		”	Moses sets apart eastern cities of refuge						4:41-43	
		”	Moses’ second Deuteronomy address						4:44-28:68	
		”	Covenant renewed in Moab						29-30	
		”	Final events in Moses’ life						31-33	
		Mount Nebo/Pisgah	Death of Moses						34:1-7	
		plains of Moab (Shittim)	People mourn Moses 30 days						34:8	
“April” 1	Deu. 34:8	”	Joshua takes the leadership	1					34:9	
“April” 2	Josh. 2:22	Jericho	Rahab hides the spies	2:1-21						
	Josh. 2:22		Spies hide in hills three days	2:22						
“April” 5	Josh. 2:22	plains of Moab (Shittim)	Spies return to Joshua	2:22						
“April” 6	Josh. 3:1	Jordan bank	Israelites move to Jordan bank	3:1						
“April” 9	Josh. 3:2,5	Jordan bank	Preparations for crossing	3:2-5						
“April” 10	Josh. 4:19	plains of Moab (Shittim)	Israel crosses the Jordan	3:6-4:18						
		Gilgal east of Jericho	Camp on west side of Jordan	4:19-24						
		”	new generation circumcised	5:1-9						
“April” 14	Josh. 5:10	”	first Passover in Canaan	5:10						
“April” 15	Josh. 5:11	”	People eat the produce of the land	5:11						
“April” 16	Josh. 5:12	”	Manna ceases	5:12						
		(throughout Canaan)	Initial Conquest of Canaan (undatable, unclear how much occurred during 1406) ⁵	5:13-11:23 12:7-24						

* Indicates a date about which I disagree with F. Lagard Smith’s *The Narrated Bible* (I have the 1984 edition).

The Hebrew Calendar

The English month names given in quotes in the charts above are actually [Hebrew months](#). The correspondence is as follows:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Pre-exilic Hebrew name:	אָבִיב 'ābīb (6: list)	זֵו ziw (2: list)					אֶתְנִים 'ētānīm (1: list)	בּוּל būl (1: list)				
Postexilic and modern Hebrew name:	נִיסָן Nīsān Nisan (2: list)	אֵיָר 'Iyyār Iyar	סִיּוֹן Sīwān Sivan (1: list)	תַּמּוּז Tammūz Tammuz	אָב 'Āb Av	אֵלּוּל 'Ēlūl (1: list)	תִּשְׂרֵי Tišrī Tishrei	מַרְחֶשְׁוָן Marḥešwān Cheshvan	כִּסְלוֹ Kislēw (2: list)	טֵבֵת Tēbēt Tevet (1: list)	שְׁבַט Šəbāt Shvat (1: list)	אָדָר 'Ādār Adar (8: list)

Approximately:

April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
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The English month equivalence is only approximate, and varies from year to year, since the calendar is actually lunar. This means that every month begins on the new moon, and that the months are always either 29 or 30 days long, since a lunar cycle averages 29.53 days, though [this can vary significantly](#). This means that the 12 months don't actually reach to the end of the year, but only to about 354 days. A "leap month" is added when needed to keep the months from moving into the wrong season. (This would need to occur about every three years.) This is called a [lunisolar calendar](#), and existed in the ancient Middle East well before this time, as the [Babylonian/Sumerian](#) calendar, which is found as early as the third millennium B.C., hundreds of years before the Exodus.⁶ It seems likely that the [Egyptian calendar](#) used at the time of the Exodus was also lunisolar; however, later [it changed to a form](#) more similar to our modern calendar. Originally the start of a new month was set by observing when the new moon occurred in the sky each month, so it was impossible to know in advance whether a given month would have 29 or 30 days, though in most cases it alternated from one month to the next, since the lunar cycle is quite close to 29.5 days. (Nowadays the calendar is mathematically predetermined, and [most months always have the same number of days](#), but this was not the case throughout Old Testament times.)

The names of the months are very seldom used in the Bible; instead, normally only the month numbers are used. (For [each month name used](#), a link to a list of its occurrences is provided in the chart [above](#).) Those used before the Babylonian exile are completely different from those used afterwards, as the Jews adopted the Babylonian names [during](#) that time. Only four of the older names occur in the Bible; the others are simply unknown.

The Bible never says that leap months were added, but they [almost certainly were](#), since even the name of the first month אֲבִיב 'ābīb means "[fresh, young ear\(s\) of barley](#)", and this makes it clear that this month occurred when the barley was ripe, and without leap months this correspondence could not be maintained. As the first link in this paragraph indicates, Jewish tradition used the ripening of the barley as an indicator of whether to add the leap month, which was always added right before אֲבִיב 'ābīb. Interestingly, in Exodus 9:31 we are told that the barley was ripe before the 7th plague, the plague of hail, and that because of this the Egyptians' barley crop was destroyed, and in fact this very word אֲבִיב 'ābīb is used in this verse to say that the barley was "in the ear"! (See endnote 1 for more on this.)

Because of this lunar calendar, the אֲבִיב 'ābīb of 1445 would not have started 365 days after the אֲבִיב 'ābīb of 1446, but only 354 days or so, and this would be the same for 1407 and 1406. This doesn't seem to affect any of the chronology in the charts above, since we are always told when a new אֲבִיב 'ābīb occurs, and don't need to add up any numbers from the end of the previous year, except in 1406, where we find that all of the events fit exactly in the time frame, with no slack time at all, assuming that the preceding month had 30 days. Also, it is impossible to know if there was a leap month in either of these cases, but there is no evidence that there was one.⁷

Throughout this chronology it turns out not to be necessary to know whether any given month had 29 days or 30 days, since almost all dates are given by month and day. The one place where this is not true is from "June" through "September" of 1446, where two periods of 40 days are specified, plus various additional days, but no days of the month are specified. I have assumed that "June" and "August" had 30 days and "July" 29, following the current Jewish conventions, since there is no way to actually know. I'm not sweating this, since my goal is just to get a picture of the actual time flow.

¹ This according to various commentators on this page: biblehub.com/commentaries/exodus/9-32.htm, based on Exodus 9:31-32.

² Different translations have interpreted the meaning of Exodus 19:1 in various ways, making it hard to determine which day they actually arrived at Sinai. If we look at various parallel translations, we see the problem. [The translations I have](#) listed, [some of the most popular](#), imply three different dates:

New American Standard Bible: **In the third month** after the sons of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, **on that very day** they came into the wilderness of Sinai. ("June" 15)

King James Bible: **In the third month**, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, **the same day** came they into the wilderness of Sinai. ("June" 15)

Holman Christian Standard Bible: **In the third month, on the same day of the month** that the Israelites had left the land of Egypt, they entered the Wilderness of Sinai. ("June" 15)

New Living Translation: **Exactly two months** after the Israelites left Egypt, they arrived in the wilderness of Sinai. ("June" 15)

New International Version: **On the first day of the third month** after the Israelites left Egypt--**on that very day**--they came to the Desert of Sinai. ("June" 1)

Good News Translation: ...on the first day of the third month after they had left Egypt they came to the desert of Sinai. (“June” 1)

English Standard Version: On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, **on that day** they came into the wilderness of Sinai. (“July” 1)

(Surprisingly, some of the translations in Spanish, such as the *Nueva Versión Internacional* or the *Dios Habla Hoy*, seem to suggest a fourth alternative, “three months after”, which would be “July 15”!)

The problem is that the Hebrew phrase **בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁלִישִׁי** /ba' hōdeš haššālī šī/ can be interpreted these three different ways, “in the third month”, “on the new moon (at the beginning) of the third month”, or “on the third new moon”, since **חֹדֶשׁ** /hōdeš/ can mean either “month” or “new moon”.

It might seem that the obvious interpretation is “June 15”, implied by four of the six versions above. However, Jewish tradition adheres to the “June 1” interpretation, and in fact claims that the Torah, or at least the Ten Commandments, were given exactly 50 days after the Exodus (though I only get 47 days to “June” 3, since either “April” had 30 days and “May” 29 or vice versa, so this would mean that Moses got the Ten Commandments on his third day on the mountain, or else I have calculated differently than Jewish tradition), which would correspond to the Feast of Weeks ([Shavuot](#)) or Pentecost, though the Old Testament never explicitly makes this connection. Therefore I have tentatively following this interpretation.

All of the subsequent dates through September 4 depend on this date, being **calculated** by adding together day counts provided in the text, as seen in the “Verses that support the date” column of the **large chart above**.

³ Deuteronomy 10:6-9 is a parenthetical section that has been confusing to many commentators, such as these: [biblehub.com/commentaries/deuteronomy/10-6.htm](#). The four place names listed in verses 6 and 7 seem to match four sequential place names given in the encampment list in Numbers 33, with slight variation in all or nearly all the names:

Numbers 33:30-34	1. Moseroth	2. Bene-Jaakan (the children of Jaakan)	3. Hor Haggidgad	4. Jotbathah
Deuteronomy 10:6-7	2. Moserah	1. Beeroth Bene-Jaakan (the wells of the children of Jaakan)	3. Gudgodah	4. Jotbathah (KJV Jotbath)
	Top is plural of bottom, though the meaning is uncertain.			

Though there are variations, the four names are too similar to just be a chance listing of **similar but** unrelated names, but must actually be the same names. **However, there** are several problems with this.

First of all the order of the first two names is swapped in Deuteronomy from that in Numbers, indicating that the route of travel was reversed.

Second, in Deuteronomy 10:6 it indicates that Moserah is where Aaron died and was buried, but Numbers 33:38-39 and Numbers 20:23-29 indicate that Aaron died on Mount Hor.

Third, the Israelites passed through these four places in Numbers 33:30-34 in the latter part of the year 1445, but Aaron died in August of 1407, 38 years later!

So, how do we reconcile these? Some who do not believe in the inerrancy of Scripture simply declare it to be an error, but this is entirely unnecessary, as the commentators mentioned above make clear. The location of Mount Hor is unclear, so what makes the most sense is to assume that Mount Hor is near Kadesh, that these four places are all very close to Mount Hor, Moserah being the closest, and that the Israelites passed through them twice, 38 years apart, but in Numbers 33 it was not thought necessary to repeat them on the list. The fact that they would have passed through four places so close together two different times is not a problem if we remember that God was the one leading them, and his priorities might not have been the shortest distance!

⁴ There is no mention of the people celebrating the **Passover** this year, perhaps because they were still in their **38-year** wandering stage, **though they celebrated it in 1446, 1445, and 1406**.

⁵ **What is clear is that later events, starting in chapter 13, did not occur during 1406, but from 1400 on.**

⁶ But this calendar may be much older, and may predate writing. Lunisolar calendars appear to have been the [original calendars of peoples all around the world](#). Noah also used a calendar of numbered months in Genesis 7 and 8, but the odd thing is that it does not appear to be lunisolar, since every month seems to have 30 days, based on the figures provided in the text.

Exodus 12:2 might seem to suggest that God invented this calendar from scratch for the Israelites in Exodus 12, or at least told them when the New Year was supposed to start. But I don't think the passage requires us to assume that, and given its striking similarity to the Babylonian/Sumerian calendar I consider it unlikely. Also, the word “month” is used twice during the time of the patriarchs, in Genesis 29:14 and in Genesis 38:24, which suggests that they were already using some kind of calendar.

⁷ I have looked for web sites of other Bible believers who have calculated these month-by-month sequences as I have, but those I have found seem to be *too* elaborate and to have particular agendas and claims that I don't think are biblical. If anyone knows of one that doesn't have these issues, please let me know.