

10. *Did the Israelites Wander in the Wilderness for Forty Years or Forty-One Years?*

In chapters eight and nine of this section, we addressed several items of concern regarding the unjustifiable liberties that Glenn Moore takes with Yahweh's Word. For example, we addressed two separate texts in which he added words ("more" and "and") that, if they were *really* in the text, would greatly aid his cause. However, since the words aren't actually in the text, his incorporating them into the text of his own volition becomes a matter of a man acting in defiance of the commandment found in Deuteronomy 4:2:

²Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish *ought* from it, that ye may keep the commandments of Yahweh your Almighty which I command you.

In this chapter, we will address yet another word that Glenn slips into the text. It was such a subtle addition that we didn't even notice it until a couple of months after we had already quoted and commented on Glenn's remarks. While in the process of editing our study, it dawned on us that a certain word that Glenn incorporated into his exposé on Numbers 14, in which he commented on the Israelites' forty years in the Wilderness, was not found in the text of Scripture. Is this word critical to Glenn's premise? Absolutely. Yet, as an added word, it is another example of how Glenn will manipulate Scripture in order to make it fit his interpretation.

Glenn Adds "Another" Word to Scripture

We have previously read Glenn's reasoning for believing that the Israelites could not have entered the Promised Land during a Jubilee Year. In a nutshell, Glenn believes the Israelites left the Promised Land during a Jubilee Year, and since the next Jubilee Year couldn't have arrived for another 49 years, this makes an entrance into the Promised Land any sooner than the next 49th year an impossibility. According to Glenn, then, the Israelites would have had to have wandered for 49 years if they were to have entered the Promised Land during a Jubilee Year. With this backdrop, we will once again quote from Glenn's commentary, but this time we will focus on a word he adds that is critical to his premise and not only exposes his lack of integrity, but also skews his Jubilee count:

Reading Leviticus 25:2 may, on the surface, suggest that the count to the Jubilee starts when they enter the land. [See Cycle 53 in the [Jubilee Calendar Synopsis](#) for a complete overview.] However, if you understand the statement to be a detailed description of what they were actually to do when they come into the land--then it could be seen from an entirely different perspective. In the second year of the Exodus they refused to listen to Joshua and Caleb and, as a result, were told to wander in the wilderness for 40 **more** years. If the year of the Exodus was indeed a year of Jubilee (as I believe the chronological evidence of the lives of the patriarchs indicates), then in the second year of their journey they are told to wander in the wilderness **another** 40 years, then the year they enter the land would be the 42nd year from the Exodus--a Sabbatical year ($42 \div 7 = 6$). **Since the 42nd year from the Exodus** would have been a Sabbatical year, does this line up with the Scriptural account? Yes it does!¹

No, it doesn't, as we are about to see!

¹ This quote was copied and pasted from W. Glenn Moore's "Answers to Objections" page on his web site as updated between April 20-25, 2009. The entire set of questions and answers may be read by accessing the following URL: http://www.itsaboutthattime.net/answer_objections.htm.

First of all, let's face it: Glenn has the Israelites wandering in the Wilderness for forty-two years, even though Scripture plainly states that it was **forty** years:

For the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, till all the people *that were* men of war, which came out of Egypt, were consumed, because they obeyed not the voice of Yahweh: unto Whom Yahweh sware that He would not show them the land, which Yahweh sware unto their fathers that He would give us, a land that floweth with milk and honey. (Joshua 5:6; see also Psalms 95:10, Acts 7:36, Hebrews 3:17)

Glenn makes the mistake of believing that the forty years of wandering that Yahweh imposed upon the Israelites began at the moment in which His judgment was given to Moses. However, as we have already seen from the texts of Scripture that were recorded "after the fact," *the forty years were retroactive to the year the Israelites departed Egypt*. Thus, contrary to Glenn's conclusion, the forty year count did *not* start ticking when Yahweh passed down His sentence to Moses in Numbers 14:33-35:

³³And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcases be wasted in the wilderness.

³⁴After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, *even* forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, *even* forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.

³⁵I Yahweh have said, I will surely do it unto all this evil congregation, that are gathered together against Me: in this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.

Notice that Yahweh doesn't state that the Israelites would wander in the wilderness for forty years *in addition* to the two that they had already sojourned there. The question one might ask is, "Did the forty-year count begin when they left Egypt or did it begin when the people rebelled in response to the negative report by the ten spies?"

Glenn's answer: When the people rebelled in response to the negative report given by the ten spies.
Scripture's answer: When the Israelites departed Egypt.

We encourage you to go along with Scripture's answer.

As a double witness to the fact that the Israelites wandered in the Wilderness for **forty** years, please refer to the following two passages of Scripture: Exodus 7:7, where we read that Moses was eighty years old when he and Aaron confronted the Pharaoh of Egypt, and Deuteronomy 34:7, where we read that Moses was 120 years old when he died. For those who like "holy math," $120 - 80 = 40$. We also read in Exodus 7:7 that Aaron was 83 when he and Moses confronted the Pharaoh, and he was 123 when he died in the Wilderness (Numbers 33:38-39). We also read in this same passage that his death was in the fortieth year after the children of Israel came out of Egypt.

Secondly, if you refer back to Glenn's commentary above, you will notice that I highlighted the word "another." That is because this is the word that Glenn **adds** to the text of Numbers 14:33-35. Glenn says that in the second year of their journey (having just completed their first year), they were told to wander in the wilderness **another** 40 years, even though the word "another" appears **nowhere** in the text. This, then, is yet another example of how Glenn manipulates Scripture whenever and wherever it might seem to suit his purpose. *In this case, it is a critical addition to the Word because it makes the difference as to whether or not the year the Israelites entered the Promised Land could have been a Sabbatical Year!*

In short, Glenn’s model *requires* believing that the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for forty-one years. Otherwise, they could not have *possibly* entered the Promised Land during a Sabbatical Year, which is critical to his premise! After all, if it wasn’t a Jubilee Year when the Israelites entered the Promised Land ... *nor* was it a Sabbatical Year, then why did Yahweh command that the land keep a Sabbath unto Him? Obviously, it had to either be a Sabbatical Year or a Jubilee Year ... but with Glenn’s model, it could *not* have been either a Sabbatical Year or a Jubilee Year. Here is an illustration from Glenn’s own Jubilee calendar that depicts the problem²:

Jubilee Calendar

Cycle 53

Week	1st Day Year	2nd Day Year	3rd Day Year	4th Day Year	5th Day Year	6th Day Year	Sabbatical Year
1	2549 Plagues Exodus Spring 1436 BCE Fall 1437 BCE	2550 Start of 40 Years Year 1	2551 2	2552 3	2553 4	2554 5	2555 6
	Fall 1437	Fall 1436	Fall 1435	Fall 1434	Fall 1433	Fall 1432	Fall 1431
2	2556 7	2557 8	2558 9	2559 10	2560 11	2561 12	2562 13
	Fall 1430	Fall 1429	Fall 1428	Fall 1427	Fall 1426	Fall 1425	Fall 1424
3	2563 14	2564 15	2565 16	2566 17	2567 18	2568 19	2569 20
	Fall 1423	Fall 1422	Fall 1421	Fall 1420	Fall 1419	Fall 1418	Fall 1417
4	2570 21	2571 22	2572 23	2573 24	2574 25	2575 26	2576 27
	Fall 1416	Fall 1415	Fall 1414	Fall 1413	Fall 1412	Fall 1411	Fall 1410
5	2577 28	2578 29	2579 30	2580 31	2581 32	2582 33	2583 34
	Fall 1409	Fall 1408	Fall 1407	Fall 1406	Fall 1405	Fall 1404	Fall 1403
6	2584 35	2585 36	2586 37	2587 38	2588 39	2589 40	2590 Israel Enters Land on Sabbatical Year
	Fall 1402	Fall 1401	Fall 1400	Fall 1399	Fall 1398	Fall 1397	Fall 1396
7	2591	2592	2593	2594	2595	2596	2597
	Fall 1395	Fall 1394	Fall 1393	Fall 1392	Fall 1391	Fall 1390	Fall 1389
2598 53rd Jubilee		Top Numbers = Creation Date (CD) Black Numbers = Common Era (CE) Red Numbers = Before Common Era (BCE)					

Notice that Glenn Moore places the start of the 40 years during the “2nd Day Year,” which is one year following the Israelites’ exodus from Egypt. As we have already seen in this chapter, *Scripture aligns the start of the 40 years with the very year of the Exodus* – a full year *prior* to the one offered by Glenn. If the year Glenn believes the Israelites left Egypt (1436 BCE) was a Jubilee Year, then forty years later was the spring of 1396 BCE. However, Glenn’s calendar shows them entering the Promised Land in the spring of 1395 BCE – **FORTY-ONE** full years after their departure from Egypt. Glenn *needs* that 41st year in order to get the Israelites into the Promised Land during his proposed Sabbatical Year!

NOTE: In consequence to presenting Glenn with the clear fact that the Israelites only wandered in the Wilderness for 40 years, he has since modified his calendar so as to get the Israelites into the Promised Land the previous spring (1397 BCE)! See Part III, chapter 7 for details.

When we take a close look at Cycle 53 of Glenn’s “Jubilee Calendar,” we see the conundrum that Glenn is faced with if he truly aspires to align his calendar with the Scriptural account. I find Glenn’s calendar somewhat confusing to follow, probably due to the fact that he begins each year in the fall, even though Yahweh plainly told Moses and Aaron that the year begins in the spring (Ex. 12:1-2).³ Nevertheless, we see that the “1st Day Year” of that cycle begins in the fall of 1437 BCE. Glenn notes that the

² This excerpt from Cycle 53 of Glenn’s “Jubilee Calendar” was taken from Glenn’s web site: <http://www.itsaboutthattime.net/XLS%20Files/Jubilee%20Calendar.xls>. **NOTE:** Glenn has since changed this calendar so as to reflect agreement that the forty years began when the Israelites left Egypt. He now believes (as before) that the Israelites entered the Promised Land in the spring, but he has now adopted that position that they weren’t required to begin observing the land Sabbath until *fall* of that year. This new (as of July 11, 2009) position will be more fully addressed as time allows. Until that time, we continue to witness the instability of Glenn’s exegetical methods.

³ For an in-depth review of Glenn’s belief that Yahweh originally ordained a “fall-to-fall” calendar, see Part III, entitled “[Do Sabbatical Years Start in the Spring \(Abib\) or the Fall \(Tishri\)?](#)”

plagues began a little later – in the spring of 1436 BCE. Presuming that the Israelites did indeed leave Egypt in the spring of 1436 BCE, and also presuming that, as Scripture says, the Israelites wandered in the Wilderness for a total of 40 years, this means they must have entered the Promised Land in the spring of the year 1396 BCE. As Glenn would say, “Just do the math!”

This having been established, Glenn desperately *needs* the year 1397-1396 BCE to be a Sabbatical Year. However, as we can clearly see from his calendar, it is not. The only way Glenn was able to make his “Exodus to Promised Land” calendar work was by inserting the word “another” into the text of Numbers 14:33:

³³And your children shall wander in the wilderness **[ANOTHER] forty years**, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness. (*Numbers 14:33 with “another” added for illustration purposes only*)

Again, although the word “another” isn’t found within the text of Numbers 14:33, Glenn puts it in anyway. Of course, he doesn’t boldly insert the word “another” into an actual quote from Scripture (as in the example above) because it would allow readers to easily catch such an obvious infraction; rather, he very subtly *suggests* that it’s there by writing, “... then in the second year of their journey they are told to wander in the wilderness **another** 40 years, then the year they enter the land would be the 42nd year from the Exodus--a Sabbatical year ($42 \div 7 = 6$).” If the word “another” was truly in the text, Glenn’s “Exodus to Promised Land” calendar would work. However, since the word “another” is *not* found in the text of Numbers 14:33-35, Glenn’s proposed calendar falls short ... a year short ... skewing the rest of Glenn’s “Jubilee Calendar” in the process.

As an addendum to the above commentary, shortly after being presented with the above conundrum, Glenn Moore revised his proposed calendar so as to bring the Israelites into the Promised Land a year in advance of his previous proposal. Of course, this in turn presents a radical change from one of Glenn’s most firmly-held positions – that the Israelites entered the Promised Land *during* a Sabbatical Year. As we read in Glenn’s commentary above, “... the year they enter the land would be the 42nd year from the Exodus--a Sabbatical year” Glenn **now** believes they entered the Land six months *prior* to a Sabbatical Year.

Thus, we now see that Glenn has abandoned the belief that the Israelites entered the Promised Land during a Sabbatical Year, since, even with Glenn’s proposed model, the Sabbatical Year didn’t begin until six months later!