
42 Journeys...

Rabbi Alon Meltzer

*A New Page of Talmud –
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These were the marches of the Israelites who started out from the land of Egypt, troop by troop, in the charge of Moses and Aaron. Moses recorded the starting points of their various marches as directed by the LORD. Their marches, by starting points, were as follows: - **Bamidbar 33:1-2**¹ Why are these stations recorded here? In order to make known the loving acts of the Omnipresent: that although He had decreed against them to make them move about and wander in the wilderness, you should not think that they wandered and moved about without cessation from one station to another station all the forty years, and that they had no rest, for you see that there are here only forty-two stages. Deduct from them fourteen, all of which were their stopping places in the first year after they left Egypt. It follows that during the whole of the thirty eight years they made only twenty journeys. – **Rashi on Bamidbar 33:1**² It may be compared to the case of a king whose son was ill and whom he took to a distant place to cure him. When they returned home the father began to enumerate all the stages, saying to him, “Here we slept, here we caught cold, here you had the head-ache, etc.”- **Midrash Tanchuma,**

on Bamidbar 33:1³ There was a very great necessity in mentioning the journeying’s. For although the miracles and wonders that were done were recognized as true by those who saw them, in later times these events would be matters of hearsay, and those who hear about them might deny them altogether. – **Maimonides, The Guide for the Perplexed**⁴

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אלה מסעי בני-ישראל
Bamidbar 33:1

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