

We have considerable number of incidents on the way to the plains of Moab in the 40th year. But here we have two incidents given that are not dated in a way that we can recognize at least. From the order one would think that after the end of this rebellion there might have followed a period of 20 or 30 yrs. during which they were wandering in the wilderness before the march to the plains of Moab. We would think that from the order. But the order in the Scripture is not always necessarily a chronological order. It is not always such, and sometimes incidents are given for logical reasons in a certain order rather than for chronological. We find in the NT where we are told about the temptation of Christ. We are told about it three times, and the order is not exactly the same in any one of the three. Some people have said, Satan tempted Christ three ~~times~~ doing different times during each of the three temptations three times, so that there were the 3 different orders. And each Gospel tells about the same 3 temptations but in a different order because all three were repeated 3 times. I do not say that is impossible. It impresses me as extremely unlikely. I think it far more probable that the three temptations each occurred once, and the descriptions are so similar it seems far more reasonable to take it that way. Also there is no visible reason why it should have been done three times. It would seem much more likely that the arrangement is a logical arrangement, according to the purpose of the Gospel writer rather than a chronological arrangement. So if it says, ~~After~~ After something happened, or on a certain date this happened, ~~we know~~ ^{and so on,} the chronological arrangement. Otherwise we go slow about inferences. We have had whole denominations rise and denominations split and churches split because people take an inference from the scripture. And alas in many of these cases, if the cause of division was important in the Lord's sight, He could have with 5 words in the Scripture have made it so clear that no honest person could doubt that that is what the Lord says. I believe it is very very important that we take what is clear in the Scripture and stand upon it, and no make unnecessary discussions and divisions and disagreements over that which is not clearly taught in the Scripture. But it is often valuable to see what the different possibilities are. Alas sometimes something that is cast aside by people as uncertain when only a minor element of it is uncertain.