

JESUS – NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES "Jesus is the Smitten Rock"

<u>1 Cor. 10:4</u> And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

Three weeks ago, we began looking at the typology of Moses, the Exodus, the Red Sea, and how it revealed the Lord Jesus Christ as "the Rock" in <u>1 Cor. 10:1-5</u>. Last week, we looked at the time Moses was directed by God to "smite the rock" (<u>Ex. 17:6</u>,) a picture of Calvary as prophesied by <u>Isa. 53:4</u>. The outline is as follows:

I. THE PATH OF LIFE SUFFERS ADVERSITY, 17:1

A. Life is an Adventure with Varied ExperiencesB. Life is According to Victorious Edicts

II. <u>THE PROBLEMS OF LIFE STIMULATE ACCUSATIONS</u>, 17:2-3

A. Life is an Attitude with Vocal EmotionsB. Life is an Accusation that will be VigorouslyExpressed

III. <u>THE PROGRESS IN LIFE SEARCHES FOR ANSWERS</u>, 17:4 A.Life is Asking for Vital Explanations – "...What shall I do unto this people..."

B. Life is Admitting the Vexing Extent – "...they be almost ready to stone me."

IV. <u>THE PROPOSAL FOR LIFE'S SOLUTIONS ARE</u> <u>AMAZING</u>, 17:5-7

A.Life is an Advantage yet to be Visually ExposedB.Life is an Answer about to be Valuably EnjoyedC.Life is an Awareness of the Vicious Encounter

Tonight, we consider a second occasion where Moses strikes a rock, twice, but was only directed by God to "...speak ye unto the rock before their eyes..." Let's consider the circumstances and ramifications of the second incident of "the Smitten Rock."



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I. LIVING IN THE MIDST OF DEATH AND SORROW, 20:1-5

<u>Num. 20:1</u> Then came the children of Israel, *even* the whole congregation, into the desert of Zin in the first month: and the people abode in Kadesh; and **Miriam died there**, and was buried there.

<u>2</u> And there was no water for the congregation: and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron.

<u>3</u> And the people chode with Moses, and spake, saying, **Would God that we had died when our brethren died before the LORD**!

<u>4</u> And why have **ye brought up** the congregation of the LORD into this wilderness, **that we and our cattle should die there**?

A. Time Passes – Life Stays Consistent

- Miriam and the unbelieving parents die during the past 40 years, 20:1-3
- <u>Heb. 9:27</u> And as **it is appointed unto men once to die**, but after this the judgment:
 - B. Trouble Prevails Life Stirs Complaints, 20:4-5

Job 14:1 Man *that is* born of a woman *is* of **few days**, and full of trouble.

The Israelites were "spiritual" enough not to blame God – just blame the leader following God's directions:

(vs. 4-5) "...ye brought up the congregation of the LORD into this wilderness...ye made us to come up out of Egypt..."

- The Israelites pretend that they had no choice but to follow Moses.
- The Israelites complain about "this evil place" that has "...no place of seed, or of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates; neither *is* there any water to drink."

II. <u>LEARNING THE MEANING OF DIRECTIONS AND</u> <u>SUBMISSIVENESS</u>, 20:6-9

<u>Num. 20:6</u> And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces: and **the glory of the LORD appeared unto them**.

- <u>7</u> And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
- <u>8</u> Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and **speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock**: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.
- <u>9</u> And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him.

A. The Separation for Seeking Wisdom, 20:6

- Moses and Aaron separated themselves from the complainers and sought God's guidance.
- The Lord was with them, and "the glory of the LORD appeared unto them."
 - B. The Submission for the Solution to Work , 20:7-9
- Moses and Aaron reacted well and were honored with God's presence and directions.

- Moses and Aaron were told what to do and what the results would be – <u>v. 8</u>.
- In <u>v. 9</u>, Moses was obedient and submissive in his actions to the Lord's directions.

III. <u>LOSING THE MOMENT DECLARED SANCTIFIED</u>, 20:10-13

<u>Num. 20:10</u> And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; **must we fetch you water out of this rock**?

<u>11</u> And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts *also*.

<u>12</u> And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them. <u>13</u> This *is* the water of Meribah; because the children of Israel strove with the LORD, and he was sanctified in them. A. The Pronouncement of Despair, 10:10 "...Hear now, ye rebels; **must we fetch you water out of this rock**?"

- While being obedient to God's directions, Moses exposed a heart of frustration toward the Israelites.
- Moses' passionate display of disdain for the Israelites also provoked an indication that he and Aaron were producing the water – "...must we fetch you water out of this rock?"

B. The Perfunctory Display, 10:11

- Instead of "speaking" to the rock, Moses struck it twice.
- After 40 years, a new generation of Israelites needed to see God's grace in providing His provisions, not the striking severity of the Law.
- In spite of Moses' mistake, God provided "...the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts *also*."

C. The Penalty for Disbelief, 20:12

Moses and Aaron were Israel's great leaders and should have been exemplary examples of obedience, yet they became examples of God's punishment upon disobedience, that He is no respecter of persons.

<u>2 Chron. 19:7</u> Wherefore now let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take heed and do *it*: for *there is* **no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons**, nor taking of gifts.

Rom. 2:11 For there is no respect of persons with God.

<u>Col. 3:25</u> But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and **there is no respect of persons**.

D. The Permanent Designation, 20:13

- The place of the chiding against Moses and Aaron would be known as "Meribah," a place of "strife" or "contention."
- Original Word: מְרִיבָה Transliteration: Meribah; Definition: "place of strife" or "contention," two places in the desert

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Moses and Aaron failed to accomplish the establishment of sanctification of the provision of water – a type of the Incarnate and Inspired Word of God.

<u>Deut. 32:48</u> And the LORD spake unto Moses that selfsame day, saying,

<u>49</u> Get thee up into this mountain Abarim, *unto* mount Nebo, which *is* in the land of Moab, that *is* over against Jericho; and behold the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel for a possession:

50 And die in the mount whither thou goest up, and be gathered unto thy people; as Aaron thy brother died in mount Hor, and was gathered unto his people:

51 Because ye trespassed against me among the children of Israel at the waters of Meribah-Kadesh, in the wilderness of Zin; because ye sanctified me not in the midst of the children of Israel.

52 Yet thou shalt see the land before *thee*; but thou shalt not go thither unto the land which I give the children of Israel.



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In spite of the spiritual failures of Moses and Aaron, the God of the Israelites "...was sanctified in them" as the "...the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts *also.*"

Summary

There are two different incidents of "the Smitten Rock." The first was done obediently in identifying the "smitten rock" of Isa. 53:4. The second was the result of anger and disobediently failing to emphasize the holiness of God – "...because ye sanctified me not int the midst of the children of Israel." The new generation needed to see God's grace, but instead, saw God's chastening upon Moses and Aaron.

<u>Conclusion</u>

<u>1 Sam. 15:22</u> And Samuel said, Hath the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? **Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice**, *and* to hearken than the fat of rams.

<u>1 Cor. 4:1</u> Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

<u>2</u> Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.