Numbers 20

Chapter 20

1Then the children of Israel, the whole congregation, came into the Wilderness of Zin in the first month, and the people stayed in Kadesh; and **Miriam died there** and was buried there.

2Now there was no water for the congregation; so they gathered together against Moses and Aaron. 3And **the people contended with Moses** and spoke, saying:

"If only we had died when our brethren died before the Lord! 4Why have you brought up the assembly of the Lord into this wilderness, that we and our animals should die here? 5And why have you made us come up out of Egypt, to bring us to this evil place? It is not a place of grain or figs or vines or pomegranates; nor is there any water to drink."

6So Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and they fell on their faces.

And the glory of the Lord appeared to them.

Back at Kadesh (from the rebellion 38 years ago)

Miriam dies at around 130 years old in the 1st month.

Contended with Moses over water (similarly at Rephidim - Ex 17:2,6)

7Then **the Lord spoke to Moses**, saying, 8"Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water; thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals."

9So Moses took the rod from before the Lord as He commanded him. 10And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock; and he said to them,

"Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?"

11Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank.

12Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them."

13This was **the water of Meribah**, because the children of Israel contended with the Lord, and He was hallowed among them.

The Rod - Exodus 17:5 And the Lord said to Moses, "Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river, and go.

Psalm 106:33 "Because they rebelled against His Spirit, So that **he spoke rashly** with his lips."

Leviticus 5:4 'Or if a person swears, speaking thoughtlessly with his lips to do evil or to do good, whatever it is that a man may pronounce by an oath, and he is unaware of it—when he realizes it, then he shall be guilty in any of these matters.

Moses and Aaron did not believe and hallow God. What is the sin?

(Massah and) Meribah Ps 95

Heb 3:8 rebellion and testing Ex 17:7 Meribah

Ps 81:7 I tested you as the water of M.

14Now Moses sent messengers from Kadesh to the king of Edom. "Thus says your brother Israel: 'You know all the hardship that has befallen us, 15'how our fathers went down to Egypt, and we dwelt in Egypt a long time, and the Egyptians afflicted us and our fathers.

16'When we cried out to the Lord, He heard our voice and sent the Angel and brought us up out of Egypt; now here we are in Kadesh, a city on the edge of your border. 17'Please let us pass through your country. We will not pass through fields or vineyards, nor will we drink water from wells; we will go along the King's Highway; we will not turn aside to the right hand or to the left until we have passed through your territory.'

While at Kadesh, Moses sent a request to Edomite King

Moses' Song-Exodus 15 had foretold: "Then the chiefs of Edom will be dismayed; The mighty men of Moab, Trembling will take hold of them; All the inhabitants of Canaan will melt away" (v.15).

Genesis 36:6-8, 43 Then Esau took his wives, his sons, his daughters, and all ... and went to a country away from the presence of his brother Jacob. ⁷For their possessions were too great for them to dwell together, and the land where they were strangers could not support them because of their livestock. ⁸So Esau dwelt in Mount Seir. Esau is Edom. ... ⁴³Esau was the Father of the Edomites"

18Then Edom said to him, "You shall not pass through my land, lest I come out against you with the sword." 19So the children of Israel said to him, "We will go by the Highway, and if I or my livestock drink any of your water, then I will pay for it; let me only pass through on foot, nothing more." 20Then he said, "You shall not pass through."

So Edom came out against them with many men and with a strong hand. 21Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through his territory; so Israel turned away from him.

The Edomite response was an unbrotherly, "NO!"

Deut 2:4-6

22Then the children of Israel, the whole congregation, journeyed from Kadesh and came to Mount Hor. 23And the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in Mount Hor by the border of the land of Edom, saying:

24"Aaron shall be gathered to his people, for he shall not enter the land which I have given to the children of Israel, because you rebelled against My word at **the water** of Meribah.

25"Take Aaron and Eleazar his son, and bring them up to Mount Hor; 26"and strip Aaron of his garments and put them on Eleazar his son; for Aaron shall be gathered to his people and die there." 27So Moses did just as the Lord commanded, and they went up to Mount Hor in the sight of all the congregation. 28Moses stripped Aaron of his garments and put them on Eleazar his son; and Aaron died there on the top of the mountain.

Then Moses and Eleazar came down from the mountain. 29Now when all the congregation saw that Aaron was dead, all the house of Israel mourned for Aaron thirty days.

From Kadesh to Mt. Hor (Num 33:8)

by the border of the land of Edom (that is the region of Mt. Hor also called Mosera Deut 10:6, and Moseroth Num 33:30.

Aaron (123 years old) dies in the 5th month (Num 33:38) on Mt Hor (see Numbers 20:12) and Eleazar is invested as high priest.

Gathered to his people

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