

# SMITE the Rock; SPEAK to the Rock

## And what all that means to us today (Ex 17; Num 20)

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All scriptures are from the NKJV unless noted otherwise.

**Summary:** *In the time between the first Passover and Pentecost, YHVH gushed water from the Rock after it was smitten. Forty years later, He does it again but this time Moses is told to speak to the Rock. Why the difference? Why were Israel's elders on the rock with Moses the first time, and not the second time? Why did Moses' disbelief in this instance keep him from entering the Promised Land? And what does all this have to do with us today?*

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Shalom and happy sabbath everyone. At least it's still the sabbath as I'm recording this. Welcome to Light on the Rock, the free website designed to help you. We sell nothing on this site. Everything is freely yours. This is Philip Shields, host of Light on the Rock, speaking from Orlando, FL. If anyone hearing this lives in FL, and would like to chat about the topics we have on this site, please contact me through the website "Contact Us" link.

I hope you've all noticed **our new website capabilities**. Our webmaster Scott, has done a great job I think to keep the familiar look and feel while totally redesigning the whole site. You can now use **the SEARCH bar** to look up topics you want to study. Most of the old blogs still have to be posted, and Scott's working away at that, but all the sermons are up there now. If you have any questions or comments, we'd love to hear them. I'd recommend you **check out the 2-3 minute video on the left side of the site** so you learn about the many new features. Also be aware you can now easily load sermons on to your **smart phones**, Ipads or cd's. Be sure to check out our blogs, which are short essays or articles. I am able to keep those updated more easily than entire sermons.

Let's get into the message. On May 17, as I record this, we're on **day 28 of the count to Pentecost**. We believe in the Sunday Pentecost, not the Sivan 6 kept by Judaism. The Sivan 6 Pentecost would make a 3day/3 night burial and resurrection of our Lord impossible, for starters, at least when tied to the resurrection account in the gospels. Anyway, we're on day 28 to the 50-day count.

**In the book of Exodus, chapter 17, we can read of something that happened in just about the same time period we're in now – between Passover and Pentecost.** They've left Egypt with a high hand, crossed the Red Sea, watched Pharaoh's armies be destroyed, came to the bitter waters that were made sweet, -- and then again later – they had not water to drink. So they complained.

I doubt you and I would have done much better. They have children and animals that need water, and they've run out of the water they might have brought along. "We'll all die, unless water is supplied", they're saying. Have you gone a long time without water? It's very tough.

**There are TWO separate occasions where God brought water out of the Rock.**

There are 2 separate rocks mentioned. The lessons from these 2 separate times speak volumes to us today, if we have ears to hear and eyes to see. So today, as we do our count to Pentecost, let's look at these stories. You may feel you know the story well, but I submit to you – there's so much more going on than a quick read will give you. This is not just a historical lesson from the Bible. It will be full of instruction for each of us, including me, so bear with me as we go through it.

Yeshua – Jesus Christ – is the Rock. And that's one reason I call this website "Light on the Rock". It's focused on Him, not on us. We are grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. He's the Light of the world and He's the Rock of our salvation. That rock was SPLIT, as we'll soon read. And incidentally, the lighthouse we use on our website is on a rock called (I found out later) "Split Rock Lighthouse". I love it.

So they've crossed the Red Sea – but they're not yet ready to receive the law – which happens in Ex 19-20 and beyond. So now turn to Exodus 17, so we see the context – BEFORE the giving of the law and before the 10 commandments in codified form at least, they needed water and sustenance.

**Exodus 17 – the first time water came from the Split Rock**

The first incident of water from the Rock happens at a place called Rephidim. I don't agree with the Bible maps at all that guess it's in the Sinai peninsula, because by Ex 17, they've crossed the Red Sea. Check the Bible map that shows the Exodus at the back of your Bible. Do you see anywhere where they cross the Red Sea? No. They've bought in to the liberal lie that the real Red Sea was nowhere crossed, and that they might have gotten through the REED Sea ... but that would have left them in Egypt. When they crossed the real Red Sea, they left Egypt.

Scripture tells us that this same Red Sea was where Solomon built his navy, based at the port of Eilat, which is there to this day. I've been there.

**1 Kings 9:26-2**

"King Solomon also built a fleet of ships at Ezion Geber, which is **near Elath [called Eilat today] on the shore of the Red Sea**, in the land of Edom. 27 Then Hiram sent his servants with the fleet, seamen who knew the sea, to work with the servants of Solomon"

SO, they've crossed the Red Sea, the real Red Sea, and now are in Arabia. And that's exactly where Paul says the real Mt Sinai is, also referred to as Horeb in the Bible.

**Galatians 4:25** "For this Hagar is **Mt. Sinai in Arabia....**"

So the REAL Mt Sinai, is in Arabia, not the "Sinai" peninsula. They're in a wilderness time. You might enjoy the sermon I have called "Your Wilderness Time". Just use the Search bar. You can also Google "Split Rock Arabia" and see images/pictures where some feel there is still to this day a rock that seems miraculously split down the middle.

Keep in mind also that Scripture says this Rock represented Jesus Christ, who is also our Rock, who provides for us all the nourishment we need when we need it.

**1 Corinthians 10:1-4**

Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, 2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink.

**For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.**

**We're going to read of a ROCK whose side was STRUCK, and out of it GUSHED flowing water, picturing the coming of the Holy Spirit I believe. And that stricken Rock was Christ. But the scriptures say it was like a RIVER blowing out of that rock. So let's read it and learn some valuable lessons.**

**As usual, I use the revealed name of God – YHVH – and not “the LORD”. I don't know why we mistranslated his name, while keeping all the original pagan names in the scriptures without translation or change (like Baal, Dagon, etc.)**

**Exodus 17:1-7**

Then all the congregation of the children of Israel set out on their journey from the Wilderness of Sin, according to the commandment of YHVH, and camped in Rephidim; but there was no water for the people to drink. 2 Therefore the people contended with Moses, and said, "Give us water, that we may drink."

So Moses said to them, "Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt YHVH?" 3 And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, "Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"

4 So Moses cried out to YHVH, saying, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me!"

5 And YHVH 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.

So this was to be done with Moses and the elders of the nation. It's going to be different the second time. This first time, Aaron is not even mentioned. Now don't miss this next verse:

6 Behold, **I will stand before you** there on the rock in Horeb;

OK, you got that? I missed this the first few times I read quickly through this passage. YHVH himself was standing there in front of Moses and the elders of Israel. Get this. It is vastly important. He says, again, “**I will stand there before you** (and the elders –v 5--with Moses)...” Here, the Hebrew for “rock” is “*tsur*”, meaning a large rock or boulder.

6 Behold, **I will stand before you** there on the rock in Horeb; **and you shall STRIKE the rock**, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink." **And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.**

**Now I want you to get this:** the ROCK – which pictures Yeshua – was struck in the sight of the elders of Israel. When Moses struck the ROCK, the One who became Yeshua also was

standing there on the smitten rock with them. That rock pictured HIM and He's right there standing in front of them on the rock too. It pictures HIS being smitten, being struck by us, or by GOD the Father for that matter, for OUR sins.

As Moses struck the rock – that first rock – it was depicting how we have to accept that our sins caused our Messiah to be stricken. That's picturing the scourging and ultimately the crucifixion. That's picturing how Yeshua had to be struck hard, as the rock was, while in the presence of the elders. All this before we could experience Pentecost; before we could receive His Law or receive the Holy Spirit – pictured perhaps by the immense amount of water that came out of this Rock. Remember what Jesus said on the last day, that great last day of the Feast of Tabernacles (the 7<sup>th</sup> day)? (Be watching for a sermon on "How well do we receive?")

**John 7:37-39**

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." 39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

**Let's finish Ex 17:7... then move on.**

7 So he [Moses] called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the contention of the children of Israel, and because they tempted YHVH, saying, "Is YHVH among us or not?"

Remember it says the Rock, Christ -- was stricken the first time in the presence of the elders. What do we read at the illegal arrest, trial and crucifixion of Yeshua? Who were the loudest voices demanding that Christ be savagely stricken and crucified?

**Luke 23:13, 20-24**

Then Pilate, when he had called together **the chief priests, the rulers, and the people**, 14 said *to them*, .... [jump to v. 20]

20 Pilate, therefore, wishing to release Jesus, again called out to them. 21 **But they shouted, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!"**

22 Then he said to them the third time, "Why, what evil has He done? I have found no reason for death in Him. I will therefore chastise Him and let Him go."

23 But they were insistent, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified. **And the voices of these men and of the chief priests prevailed.**

**Mark 14:53**

And they led Jesus away to the high priest; and with him were assembled **all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes.**

**Isaiah 53:4-5**

Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;

**Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.**

5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

I have a photo of a HUGE split rock that stands out in Arabia, about 4 stories high, on the west side of a mountain whose top has been burned with fire – a mountain called **Jebel el Lawz**. Many believe this is where all this split rock incident took place.



YHVH did split the rock. But even in their complaining, He gladly provided them with their sustenance. Nobody died here. Almighty God was like a MOM who has to hear her little kids yap all morning about how they're hungry, but then gladly prepares a table of food for them, cold watermelon, drinks, hot and cold food... because she loves them. Do you not see God this way? Sure, a MOM might say – “be quiet for a minute. I'll get it...” but in the end, she loves her kids and provides for them.

**Psalms 105:40-43**

“The people asked, and He brought quail, And satisfied them with the bread of heaven.

**41 He OPENED the rock, and water gushed out;**

**It ran in the dry places like a river.**

**42 For He remembered His holy promise, And Abraham His servant.**

**43 He brought out His people with JOY, His chosen ones with GLADNESS”.**

**Psalms 78:14-16**

“In the daytime also He led them with the cloud, And all the night with a light of fire.

**15 He SPLIT the rocks in the wilderness, And gave them drink in abundance like the depths. 16 He also brought streams out of the rock, And caused waters to run down like rivers.”**

**THE SECOND TIME WATER flowed from THE ROCK**

The second time Moses was to be used to bring water from the Rock was in a different place – far north of the first time. It's now 40 years later. They're literally in their final year of wandering and from entering the promised land. So close. Miriam dies here. Aaron will die here – soon after this incident.

**Numbers 20:1-13**

Then 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.

WHEN was this? It was the **first month of the year**. What happens in the first month? It's Passover season. It's a time of grace, of mercy, of passing-over our sins. Keep that in mind. It's a time when God is being hallowed and worshiped, of Him being seen as holy and powerful and all-providing. It's the time when they should be recalling His mighty power at the Exodus. Are you with me so far? This was also the 40<sup>th</sup> year of their wandering. They're almost there, almost to the Promised Land! Continue now in Num 20.

**2 Now there was no water for the congregation; so they gathered together against Moses and Aaron.**

3 And the people contended with Moses and spoke, saying: "If only we had died when our brethren died before YHVH! 4 Why have you brought up the assembly of YHVH into this wilderness, that we and our animals should die here? 5 And 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 [they're saying, i.e., "this is not the Promised Land"]; nor is there any water to drink."

6 So 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 YHVH appeared to them.

GREAT START. Lesson: when we're in trouble, or faced with a huge crisis, leave the problem ("went from the presence of the assembly) and go to GOD. They went to the door of the tabernacle, and prostrated themselves. Right on their faces. How many of us ever pray like that today, flat out on the ground with our faces to the ground? We should during times of serious crisis. And what happened? The glory of Yehowah appeared to them.

7 Then YHVH spoke to Moses, saying, 8 "Take the rod; **you and your brother Aaron** gather the congregation together.

The FIRST time, when the rock was smitten, it was done in front of the elders of Israel and God stood there with them. But this second time, it was to be done only with Aaron, who represents Christ as HIGH PRIEST – but now in front of the entire congregation. Now God is presenting Himself through the High Priest role of Aaron as the good benefactor. "The Rod" may be a reference to Aaron's rod, the one that budded – but we can't be sure here. We will see shortly that Moses uses HIS rod again.

God continues: "**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."

The Rock is Christ. In **Exodus 17**, the word for rock is "tsur" – meaning a big boulder or rock. But here it's a different word – "**sela**" – A HUGE PROMONTORY, A CLIFF-LIKE ROCK, A **HIGH and lofty place**. God wanted to be elevated here in the sight of all Israel, especially as they were coming to Passover. The most significant usage in Scripture for "Sela" -- is to refer to God Himself as our Sela, or in Greek – Petra – BIG CLIFF-like rock.

When you think of "Sela", think of something like the massive cliff El Capitan at Yosemite, or the 12-story (1200 feet) Tahquitz rock in southern California, or Beacon Rock in the Columbia Gorge between Oregon and Washington. So think of Sela meaning "Exalted, big-as-all-get-out Rock". Three of us climbed the cliff of Tahquitz with our rock climbing equipment in 1977.

The first one was at Mt Sinai – also called Horeb. The 2<sup>nd</sup> time it was right at the entrance of the Promised Land – at Kadesh (Num 20:1).

The first time we are able to use anything from God, we have to FIRST ACCEPT the SMITTEN Christ, the smitten Rock, Yeshua CRUCIFIED for us and for our sins. BUT AFTER we accept the Christ, we MUST NOT continue to smite our Savior, but this time in our need, **SPEAK TO HIM**.

YHVH wanted Israel to learn that now that they are his people, in his grace he will hear our needs, he will supply our needs, if we will but **SPEAK** TO him. We are also near the REAL promised land. It's not a time to be sinning. It's not a time to be striking the Rock that is Christ again. It's the time to be speaking to Him, building on that crucial relationship.

But I also want you to notice that even in their complaining, 40 years of belly-aching, we don't hear Yah saying, "Moses, you and Aaron just stand over there. I'm fed UP with these people. I'm just going to BLAST them into oblivion!" NO. That's not the God we serve.

Instead, in the midst of all their belly-aching, God wants Moses to exalt Him, and show His loving-kindness. Yehowah in essence is saying, "Just speak to the rock. Very simple. And let me be MAGNIFIED before all of them. It's coming to Passover time when I pass over their sins and I want them to once more experience my forgiving nature and my loving grace." As we'll read shortly, YHVH wanted to be hallowed in the eyes of Israel.

Think of this for a second: in all their complaining, what would you and I have done? Turned off the manna? I might have. But the Eternal God did not! So Moses was to speak to the Rock and Israel would have seen the wonderful grace of God in spite of their complaining. But what does Moses do?

9 So Moses took the rod from before YHVH as He commanded him.

"The rod from before YHVH". Was this Aaron's rod that was in ark? I personally think so. That's the rod that is "before YHVH" below the mercy seat. Get the context and read carefully what's being said here.

10 And 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 (SELA)?**"

This is the first time that Moses or God or anyone called the chosen nation -- "You REBELS". It's the very first time. It is **Strong's word 4784**. Moses is calling THEM "rebels" -- but I want you to remember this, because it will come up in a minute again.

And instead of magnifying God, and hallowing God's name, Moses talked about himself! "Must WE bring water out of this rock", he roared, as if he had ANY power to do so himself! So God was not magnified. We've all done this in times when our actions don't bring glory to God.

Let's continue reading in Numbers 20, the 2<sup>nd</sup> time that water came out of a rock.

11 Then Moses lifted his hand ***and STRUCK the rock TWICE with HIS rod;*** and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank.

This verse is significant in a number of ways.

- Moses uses HIS rod of judgment, not the rod of Aaron that was "before the LORD" under the Mercy Seat.
- He strikes the Sela -- that pictures CHRIST -- TWICE. You don't strike Christ twice! But God, in his mercy to Moses, doesn't humiliate Moses but brings water from the rock even though Moses lost his temper and disobeyed Yah. But God initially does not say "disobeyed" -- but something else. And it's at the core of where our problems lie: we try to work things out ourselves. We don't really want to believe in God or Christ as we should.

Now let's see what Moses and Aaron had to hear from Yehowah's lips -- about them!

12 Then YHVH 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.***"

God says Moses and Aaron did not BELIEVE him. Our belief results in action. Moses in his anger may have wondered how speaking to a rock would bring about water, when the first time he was "successful" by *striking* the rock. Or maybe the disbelief was to think Israel was so evil they could never properly hallow God. *Whatever is going on here, God is equating Moses' actions with disobedience that started from his lack of belief.*

**Belief is another word for faith. Our salvation is from faith to faith IN GOD.** It starts and ends with belief (or faith). We are told to believe in Jesus Christ. Peter, in teaching the Gentiles (Cornelius and family) pointed them to Yeshua, to Jesus Christ.

Yeshua also defined "the work of God" for his day, at least, as believing in Him. John 6:28-29. People came to Yeshua asking him "what work must WE do to do the works of God." Yeshua's answer: "*THIS is the work of God: that you BELIEVE IN HIM whom HE sent*".

WE are to believe in the Messiah, the ROCK. But it is GOD'S work. HE leads us to repentance (Romans 2:4) and it's HIS work from start to finish. The Christ is the author and finisher of our faith, and so that's why we look to him (Hebrews 12:1-2). It all starts with believing fully in HIM, not in ourselves; not in what works WE do but faith in the works GOD did and continues to do for us through Jesus Christ as our Savior.



I'm not saying we don't do good works. But let's get the sequence right. God in his mercy removes the judgment ("Neither do I condemn you"), then in that state of no-condemnation we are able by His power to go sin no more, at least as a way of life. We all still sin and stumble.

**(the next 5 paragraphs are not in the audio)**

Believe HIM and believe IN him. But having said that, remember there are so many verses which say that once we believe, there will be resulting good works (Eph 2:10, about good works, comes after Eph 2:8-9 about being saved by faith and grace without our works.) More on that at a later time. But changing, overcoming, obeying, doing good works do not give us salvation – but are PROOF of the salvation God has given us.

**Ephesians 2:4-10**

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, *and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus*, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

8 **For** by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is **the gift of God**, 9 **not of works**, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that *we should walk in them*.

So we're not saved by works, it's "not of yourselves", salvation is not of works. But, after we receive God's grace for salvation, then we in fact will do good works. That's verse 10. But even that is "HIS workmanship, created in Christ Jesus FOR good works..." I absolutely preach good works. **But I don't preach good works will save you, but good works, changing, overcoming, fighting sin, doing good -- are the evidence of your salvation in Christ.** For example, Zacchaeus was called first, and God rejoiced over him, then as he received the Lord's salvation ("Now has salvation come to this house"), he did good works, refunded what he had stolen, etc.

And in the story of Numbers 20, Israel was belly-aching and griping. But God made an effort to show them His glory, his kindness, his love in spite of that. "SPEAK to the rock" – no need to keep hitting it this time around.

**That's what Luke 15 and its parables are all about.** That even when we go astray and are like a lost sheep or lost coin or a lost son, we can now see our great God will REJOICE when we are found, when we come home and when we speak to Him. When you sin, yes – you're in trouble if you don't speak to God. But if you will SPEAK to Him, he will REJOICE over you. There's a big angelic party in heaven over you and what you are speaking to your Redeemer. I'm not being soft on sin. I'm saying we must understand GOD knows the spirit is willing but our flesh is weak and He wants to be our Savior. He wants us looking to Him. Hallelujah. So yes, you must repent when you sin – but come now confidently in his grace and the knowledge of his awesome mercy that HE WILL receive you. HE WILL flow the abundant water of his grace and spirit to you – if you will just speak to him.

The audio picks up here:

**Now notice the next verse in Numbers 20:13 now.** Even in our disobedience and rebellion, when God wants something done, He'll get it done. He still, somehow in all this

mess, is hallowed among them. Hallowed meaning “made holy” or “seen as holy”. Remember most of the people present at this point were children or yet unborn when the water-from-the-rock miracle of Exodus 17 happened. So for them to see this huge cliff-like rock just burst open with water, was a great miracle and reaffirmed their faith in him. Remember, these are the same folks who a year later were very obedient under Joshua as they conquered the Canaanites. We don’t hear them complaining so much after this.

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

Now God dishes out TOUGH, tough punishment for Moses. Because Moses – now get this, according to God himself, did not BELIEVE YHVH to hallow him in the eyes of Israel – to make GOD be holy, be sanctified, be hallowed – MOSES disobeyed and had a consequence for his sin. He did not get to lead Israel into the Promised Land.

There’s a lot going on here. These are all “types” of the spiritual reality as well.

- **The One who leads us into the REAL promised land** – the Kingdom of God – is Yeshua, a short form of Yehoshua, or as we would say it in English, Joshua. So Joshua pictures Yeshua; **Joshua pictures Christ**, who is the one who actually brings us into the kingdom. Yehoshua means “the salvation of Yah”. Yeshua simply means “Salvation”. Yeshua was Yah in the flesh. He IS salvation.
- **Also realize that as ALL the original adults 20 and over who came out of Egypt had to die in the wilderness and were not allowed to go in, so we must let the old self DIE.** We must become a NEW CREATION in Christ. HE’s the creator of the new creation. We’re not. He is. ONLY the new creation is going into kingdom of God – pictured by those born during the wilderness time or those who were not yet 20 year old adults when God decreed that particular generation ages 20 and older would all die in the wilderness (except for Joshua and Caleb).

What is so interesting is that all thru the Bible, belief/faith and OBEDIENCE are always linked. Moses called them REBELS - MARAH – **Strong’s 4784**. The NEXT time in Scripture this word “Marah” – Rebels – is used, is very tough, very interesting.

The next few verses in Numbers 20 is about how Edom wouldn’t let them pass through their land. Then Aaron dies. So let’s pick up the thread again connected to the Rock:

#### **Numbers 20:22-24**

22 Now the children of Israel, the whole congregation, journeyed from Kadesh and came to Mount Hor. 23 And YHVH 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 (both) **REBELLED against My word at the water of Meribah**".

I checked the Hebrew here. It’s the SECOND time that this Hebrew word “marah” (Strong’s 4784) is used (don’t confuse with #4785 and others). The first time was when Moses called the Israelites rebels and Moses did not hallow God in their eyes. The second time “rebel” is used, or that root word is used, YHVH is using the VERY SAME WORD on Moses, TO Moses, and is calling Moses now the very same thing Moses had called the Israelites: a REBEL. Ouch.

This hits Moses very, very hard. It hits me hard too. When God was going to wipe out Israel after the gold calf incident, we read of Moses pleading for Israel and their forgiveness. But where are the people all pleading for MOSES' forgiveness? It's a tough sentence. It hits Moses hard.

**Deuteronomy 3:23-29**

23 "Then I pleaded with YHVH (Strong's 3068 – Yehowah) at that time, saying: 24 'O Adonai Yehowih (Strong's 3069; Lord GOD), You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your mighty hand, for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do anything like Your works and Your mighty deeds? 25 I pray, let me cross over and see the good land beyond the Jordan, those pleasant mountains, and Lebanon.'

26 "But YHVH was angry with me on your account, and would not listen to me. So YHVH said to me: 'Enough of that! *Speak no more to Me of this matter.* 27 Go up to the top of Pisgah, and lift your eyes toward the west, the north, the south, and the east; behold it with your eyes, for you shall not cross over this Jordan. 28 But command Joshua, and encourage him and strengthen him; for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which you will see.'

29 "So we stayed in the valley opposite Beth Peor.

Some other interesting things: God corrected Moses and Aaron privately. God even backed up Moses, even after he struck the rock.

Now let's get into some **speculation**. If that Rock pictures Christ, we know that Christ won't be struck – or crucified - twice. Those who do, do not go into the kingdom. Maybe in a basic way, Moses' striking the rock twice could be PICTURING what happens when someone disobeys after knowing better and strikes the Rock. I'm **NOT** saying Moses won't be in the Kingdom. No way am I saying that. But I am saying that I see a TYPE, a picture, here of what Moses did. He struck Christ twice (struck the 2<sup>nd</sup> rock 2x) – and those who do so, who strike Christ again, will not be in the kingdom. So in PICTURE, in TYPE, this might also be another reason Moses was not allowed to go into the Promised Land.

**Hebrews 6:4-6**

"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, **since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.**"

Moses was supposed to HALLOW God in their presence here. He was supposed to demonstrate God's mercy and God's grace, even in their imperfection, but Moses could not and did not. He was supposed to teach us that after we receive the stricken Christ, we just need to SPEAK to him after that.

Moses was not punished for losing his temper. That wasn't the issue. He got even angrier when he came down from the Mt Sinai with the first set of 10 commandments and threw both tablets on to the rocks and smashed and broke all ten! But God did not chastise Moses for that. God did not punish Moses for that hot temper, even though he broke the very tablets on which the 10 commandments had been written with the very finger of God! God

punishes Moses here for not hallowing Him, by not somehow believing God, and speaking of God's mercy and God's love – and in refusing, Moses REBELLED, Moses disobeyed – and HE became the very thing he accused Israel of being: a REBEL. That's according to God himself in Numbers 20:24 – “YOU REBELLED against my Word at the water of Meribah.”

Somehow, In Numbers 20:13, somehow it says that God was still hallowed in their eyes, somehow.

SO let's wrap up. I thought it was a good lesson at about the time we are in now in the count to Pentecost. We're not at Pentecost yet, but this happened actually a bit earlier than in our count – in the first month of the Hebrew calendar (at least the Numbers 20 incident did). The Exodus 17 incident was probably about halfway to the 50 count to Pentecost, right where we are too.

### **Quick recap and we'll wrap up:**

- The rock pictured here is Christ (1 Cor 10:4) and throughout scripture, God is pictured as the ROCK of our salvation and our Strong Rock (Deut 32:4; Isa 8:13-15; Psalm 118:22; Isa 28:16; 1 Pet. 2:4-8 where He is called the Living Stone, and so many more.)
- We have to **accept the stricken Christ** first, in the presence of the elders, before we can receive His blessings. God was on that Rock in Exodus 17 too.
- AFTER we strike the rock, we must not Strike it again – but now we **SPEAK** to Yeshua and pray. And now we accept His graciousness without losing our temper. The 2<sup>nd</sup> miracle **happened in the Passover** season --- a time showing us God's grace and love for us and how he passes over our sins when we come under the blood of the Lamb of God.
- Moses brought them out of Egypt, but now God wanted the type of Yeshua – **Yehoshua – to bring them to the Promised Land**. The old self – pictured by the previous generation – has to die first in our own “wilderness” before we can go into the Promised Land.
- **God's GRACE is powerful, representing His tender kindness to us to watch over us**. As I said, he still provided water for them in their complaints. He still gave them victories over their enemies. He still kept the manna flowing until they crossed the Jordan. **What a loving God we have**. Sure, he can get very angry too – but what we read in scripture is an incredibly patient, merciful and forgiving God. That was the picture Moses was supposed to convey when He was supposed to speak to the Rock.

In any case, the Holy Spirit is flowing. The Rock is gushing out its water. And we're coming up to Pentecost. Today Sabbath May 17 is day 28 in the proper count to Pentecost.

Until next time, this is Philip, your brother in our Messiah asking for blessings, peace and shalom to all of you as you walk in *His* light. Until next time.... Shalom and joy!

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