

"YOU SHALL BE MY PEOPLE"

Moses' Last Words (1)

Lesson 10

December 20

Numbers 20 describes another turning point in Israel's long journey to the Promised Land:

...the whole congregation, came into the wilderness of Zin in the first month, and the people stayed in Kadesh. And _____ died there and was buried there.

Now there was no water for the congregation. And they assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron. And the people _____ with Moses...(20:1-3)

As Moses and Aaron go to the tabernacle and fall on their faces, the LORD instructs:

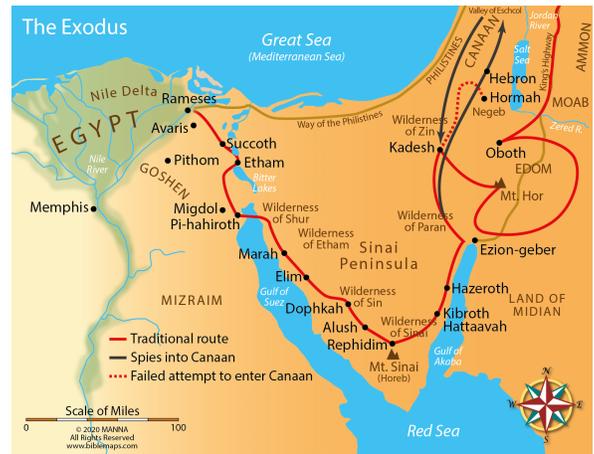
"Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you and Aaron your brother, and _____ the rock before their eyes to yield its water. So you shall bring water out of the rock for them and give drink to the congregation and their cattle." And Moses took the staff from before the LORD, as he commanded him. (20:8-9)

However, what happens next is one of the defining moments in Moses' life.

Then Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels: shall we bring water for you out of this rock?" And Moses lifted up his hand and _____ the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their livestock. And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not _____ in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them." These are the waters of Meribah, where the people of Israel quarreled with the LORD, and through them he showed himself _____. (20:10-13)

Joshua is appointed by God as the next leader who will guide Israel into the Promised Land (**Num 27:12-23**). The big book of *Deuteronomy* contains the last words of Moses, a series of speeches where he reminds, warns, challenges, and encourages Israel to live as the people of God. We'll wrap this whole study up next Wednesday, but for now, notice some key points at the beginning of Moses' last words:

- 🔊 Moses' first speech (1:1-4:43): "this is how we got _____"
- 🔊 Moses' second speech (4:44-11:32): "this is who _____ are to be as the people of God"
 - The Ten Commandments (5:1-21)
 - The _____ commandment (6:1-25)
 - _____ the LORD your God (7-8)
 - What does the LORD your God _____ of you? (10:12-11:32)



For Class & Family Discussion:

- What should we learn from **Numbers 20**? The LORD instructed Moses to “tell the rock before their eyes to yield its water” (**20:8**). Instead, Moses “lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice” (**20:10-11**). As a result, “Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them” (**20:12**). What was the big deal? What do we need to learn?
- Let’s spend the rest of our time in *Deuteronomy*. As Moses recounts Israel’s recent history—the “this is how we got here” part of his last words—he gave them a warning (**Deut 4:9**). How would you rephrase that warning in your own words? Is there anything we can learn from that same warning?
- After reminding Israel of the Ten Commandments (**5:1-21**), Moses points them to the greatest commandment of all (**6:4-5**). Centuries later, that’s how Jesus would describe it—“the great commandment in the Law” (**Matt 22:36-37**). Why? What makes this one so special?
- What do you think it means to put this commandment “on your heart” (**Deut 6:6**)?
- What did Moses want to make sure the children of Israel did with their own children (**6:7-9**)?
- What could happen once Israel got to the Promised Land that might lead them to “forget the LORD” (**6:10-12**)? A similar warning is in **8:17**. Are we ever in the same sort of danger?
- Notice in **Deuteronomy 7:6-11** how the people and the LORD are described. What did they need to understand and remember?
- What did Moses say the LORD “required” of Israel in **Deuteronomy 10:12-15**. Does he require the same of us today? What’s that going to look like in everyday life?