

Spiritual
Lessons from
the life of
Moses

Lesson 22-Rebellion and striking the rock

Num 15, 16...20

https://d3h6k4kfl8m9p0.cloudfron t.net/stories/PIDbOjryanTSIM9gDR KhQw.jpg

#### Continue from last week:

How do we know God's will?

- (a)Reading the bible Obey all of God's commandments, do the right thing, turn away from evil
- (b)Prayer Seek God's will in a specific matter
- (c)Holy Spirit Listen to our conscience guided by the Spirit
- (d) Godly counsel Consult pastor, mature Christians
- (e)Events and circumstances Guided by push and pull factors

	Disobedience of the 10 spies and the Israelites	God's punishment	Comment
5.	(1) 'They are stronger than we are'. The 10 spies spread a bad report of the land they had spied on.  (Num 13:31, 32)	(2) The 10 spies who spread the bad report were struck down by a plague. (Num 14:37)	How to overcome disobedience and disbelief: trust God's will, not our own will, reasoning and wisdom, Proverbs 3:5,6.

	Disobedience of the 10 spies and the Israelites	God's punishment	Comment
6.	(3) Started choosing a leader to bring them back to Egypt. (Num 14:4)		How to overcome disobedience and disbelief: trust God's will, not our own will, reasoning and wisdom.
	(4) Israelites wanted to kill Caleb and Joshua. (Num 14:10)		Proverbs 3:5,6.

	Disobedience of the 10 spies and the Israelites	God's punishment	Comment
7.	(5) When the Israelites realised God's anger and punishment with them, they changed their minds to claim God's promise of Canaan by attacking the Amalekites in the north.	The claiming of God's promise of Canaan by attacking of the Amalekites was too late. God was no longer with them because of their sin. With their stubbornness, the Israelites attacked the Amalekites and were defeated.  (Num 14:41-45)	When God is not with us due to our sin, we will suffer adverse consequences.  Be guided by God each step of the way.

#### Map of the Exodus:

https://blogger.googleusercontent.com/img/b/R29vZ2xl/AVvXsEi-mPn0IBLJ30fsd285k-lrsPwy04iMrh bGkw ewe-iK5Mp0LmnBqdhyphenhyphenMxoNqdgTVFYjuqtciXedl E-w9QPi59yoVdS0xglBpwJXeQpU-NQ76ot9pr 7MXM-QAOWWRNMta51FXnnTpY/s1600/Israel+in+wilderness.webp

https://www.thebiblejourney.org/find-people-places-maps/find-maps-diagrams/

- (1)Background: God punished the Israelites to wander 40 years in the wilderness.
- (2) The area of wandering is the red route in the map.

#### Map of the Exodus The 42 Camp Sites: Bashan The Victory over Og, king of Bashan (Num 21:33-35; Deut 3:1-11) Organized and Illustrated "Then they turned and went up by the way of Bashan, and Og the king of Bashan went out with all his people for battle at Edrei." (Num 21:33 for the First Time in History AND WILDERNESS JOURNEY Naphtali Gilead ... "And Moses recorded their starting places according to their journeys by the command of the 1 Succoth P120 (Exad 12:37; Num 33:5) The route of the 12 spies Lord, and these are their journeys according to their starting places," (Num 33:2) in the land of Canaan The Conquest of Gilead (Num 32:39-42) 2 Etham DDN (Exod 13:20; Num 33:6) Exod 13:17-19:3: 40:17: Num 10:11-12:16: Deut 1:1-3:29: 34:1-8: Josh 4:19 (Num 13:21-29) 3 Before Migdol 1390 BC, Joseph's bones were buried 16 years after entry into Canaan. (Josh 24:32) (Exod 14.2.9. Num 33.7) פנים מנדול The Battle against Midian (Num 31:1-12) They killed with the sword every male, the kings of Midian, and 4 Marah מרה (Exod 15:23: Nom 33:8) 1406 BC, ~ 1st month, 10th day Mediterranean Sea ML Gerly Balaam, the son of Boer. (Num 31:7-8) "Now the people came up from the Jordan on the tenth 5) Elim אילם (Excd 15:27: Num 33:9) day of the first month and camped at Gligal on the eastern edge of Jericho." (Josh 4:19) (אונה מל ים סוף Num 33:10) אונה By the Red Sea 7 The Wilderness of Sin The Plains of Moab The Battle of Hormah The early stage of the wilderness journey-lost due to disobedience. (Num 14:39-45; Deut 1:40-44) "And they camped by the Jordan, from Beth-jeshimoth as far as Abel-shittim in the plains of Moab." (Num 33:49) (Ixed 16:1: Num 33:11) The last stage of the wilderness journey-victory by defeating the king of Arad in southern part of Canaan. (Num 21:1-3) 24,000 died from the plague as a result of sexual immorality. Almon-The plague stopped after Phinehas killed Cozbi and Zimri, who of Abarim 40 diblathaim 1446 BC, 1st month, 15th day committed adultery. (Num 25:1-15) 9 Alush אלוש (Num 33:13) "And they journeyed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the 10) Rephidim רפידים (Book 17:1/19:2 Num 33:14) 1407 BC, 5th month, 1st day, - 8 months before entry into Canaan (Num 20:22-29) Dibon-gad 38 & Ammon first month; on the next day after Passover Then Aaron the priest went up to Mount Hor at the command of the Lord, and died 11) The Wilderness of Sinai the sons of Israel started out boldly in the there, in the fortieth year after the sons of Israel had come from the land of Egypt sight of the Egyptians," (Num 33:3) מדבר סיני (Excels:1-2 Num 13:15) on the first day in the fifth month." (Num 33:38) Mt. Nebo/Mt. Pisgah (Deut 32:49: 34:1-4) God shows Moses all of the Promised Land, Canaan, 12) Kibroth-hattaavah Now it came about when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God did not lead ווא אנא אנא (Num H. אנה התאוה them by the way of the land of the Philistines, even though it was near, for God Moab said, 'Lest the people change their minds when they see war, and they return to Egypt," (Exod 13.17) Rameses 13) Hazeroth חצרות (Num 11:35:33:17) The Victory over Sihon, King of the Amorites (Num 21:21–32; Deut 2:24–37) way of the Land of the Phillistines (Exad 13,17) 14 Rithmah התמה (או=33:18) "But Sihon...came to Jahaz and fought against Israel. Then Israel...took possession of his land from Arnon to the Jabbok..." EGYPT שלו (אברין פרין פרין (אברין אופר) (אברין (אברין פרין פרין אופר) Bene-jaakan 27 25]Hashmonah Bozrah 37 (Num 21:23-24) The Death of Miriam 1407 BC, 1st month, ~1 year before entry into Canaan lye-abarim 16) Libnah לבנה (Num 33:20) Then the sons of Israel, the whole congregation, came to the Kadesh-barnea Succoth 17] Rissah 707 (Num 33:21) wilderness of Zin in the first month; and the people stayed at Kadesh Moseroth Zalmonah Punon Now Mirlam died there and was buried there." (Num 20:1) 18 Kehelathah קהלתה (Num 33-22) The Death of Moses (Deut 34:1-8) 1407 BC, 11th month, ~2 months before entry into Canaan 19 Mount Shepher הרישפר Nam 33.23) Rithmah 14 "So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, 2) Etham The Way of Shur Rimmon-perez 15 Terah• 20 Haradah חַרֶּדָה (Num 33:24) Haradah according to the word of the Lord. And He buried him in the valley of the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no man knows his burial Edom "Hence God led the people around 21) Makheloth מקהלת (Num 35/25) The Wilderness of Shur (Etham) place to this day." (Deut 34:5-6) by the way of the wilderness to the (Exod 15:22: Num 33:8) Mount Shepher 19 / 22 22 Tahath חחח (Num 33:26) Red Sea: and the sons of Israel went up in martial array from the land of Libnah Egypt." (Exod 13:18) 23 Terah חקרת (Num 13:27) Those who were still alive from the 603,550 soldiers from the first 24) Mithkah מחקה (Num 33:28) Kehelathah census died, except Joshua and Caleb. (Deut 2:13-16) Makheloth Hor-·Baal-zephon (uncertain) 25 Hashmonah דשמנה (Num 33:29) 3 Before Migdol haggidgad 26 Moseroth חלסכו (Num 33:30) Tell the sons of Israel to turn back and 27) Bene-jaakan בני יעקן (Num 33:31) camp before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol :::: LEGEND :::: The Wilderness of Paran way of the Red Sea, to go around the land and the sea; you shall camp in front of Abronah 28) Hor-haggidgad הר הגדנה Okum 33:32) of Edom; and the people became impatien Baal-zephon, opposite it, by the sea." because of the journey." (Num 21:4) 1 ~ 42 Camp Sites during the Wilderness Journey 29 Jotbathah יְטָבְתָה (Num 33.33) • 4 Marah 30 Abronah עברנה (N=334) Journey from Rameses to the Wilderness of Sinai 31 Ezion-geber The Wilderness of Sin עצידן נבר (Nom 18:35) (אומר אוניה) Journey from the Wilderness of Sinai to Rithmah (Kadesh-barnea) Elim 5] Crossing the Red Sea 32) Kadesh-barnea (Exod 14:15-31) Journey from Rithmah (Kadesh-barnea) back to Kadesh-barnea ואנו (1-120 אברנע פרנע פרנע פרנע פרנע 7) The Wilderness of Sin By the Red Sea 13]Hazeroth Journey from Kadesh-barnea to Wadi (brook), Zered 33 Mount Hor הר ההר (Num 20:22: 33:37). Kibroth-The Graves of Greediness The Battle against Amalek (Exod 17:8-16) 8 Dophkah 34 Zalmonah צלמנה משוא צלמנה hattaavah 12 "So the name of that place was called Kibroth-Journey Across Wadi (brook) Zered to Gilgal "So Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.... I will utterly blot out memory of hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had been greedy. (Num 11:34) (Num 33:42) פרלן 9 Alush --- Roundtrip Route of the 12 Spies in Canaan 36) Oboth חבא (Num 21:10: 33:43) and named it "The Lord is My Banner." (Exod 17:13-17) --- Rattle Route 38 Dibon-gad דיבון נד Num 3345 Rephidim 10 Battle Site 39 Almon-diblathaim Midian The Wilderness of Sinai (Num 1566) עלמן דבלתימה 40) The Mountain of Abarim 1446 BC, 3rd month - 1445 BC, 2nd month, 20th day רים (Num 27:12: 33:47) (Num 10:11-12) Remained here about 1 year Wadi/ Intermittent Stream The Ten Commandments were given. (Exod 20:1-17) 41) The Plains of Moab - The tabernacle was erected: 2nd year, 1st month, 1st day of the Exodus. (Exod 40:17) ערָבָה מוֹאָב (Nam 33:45-49) The first census of soldiers (603,550): 2nd year, 2nd month, City Scale 1: 1,150,000 1st day of the Exodus. (Num 1:1-4, 46) 42 Gilgal 27 (losh 4:19) - Worship of golden calf: 3,000 people killed. (Exod 32:1-35) Copyright © 2010 Periplus Editions (HK) Ltd. Oral traditions recounted by Indigenous peoples during site visits were taken into consideration for the location of a few camp sites. This map is protected by copyright and may not be reproduced

Red Sea

or redistributed, in part or whole, without prior written perm

# (3) Places of wandering:

Rithmah (Kadesh) (start of the 40 years wandering)

Rimmon-perez

Libnah

Rissah

Kehelathah

**Mount Shepher** 

Haradah

Makheloth

Tahath

Terah

Mithkah

Hashmonah

Moseroth

Bene-jaakan

Hor-haggidgad

Jotbathah

Abronah

Ezion-geber

Kadesh (end point of the 40 years

wandering in Num 20:1)

(4) Num 15 – Supplementary Offerings
Offerings for unintentional sins
Sabbath-breaker put to death
Tassels on garments



#### (5) Rebellion in the Wilderness: Numbers 16:1-19

(v1-2) One day, while wandering in the wilderness, Korah conspired with Dathan and Abiram to incite a rebellion against Moses. Two hundred and fifty popular leaders were involved.

(v3-6) The rebels were dissatisfied of Moses and Aaron for setting themselves as leaders above all of them.

(v6-7) Moses said, 'You, Korah, and all those with you, take your censers tomorrow and light them, and <u>put incense upon them before</u> the Lord, and we will find out whom the Lord has chosen.'

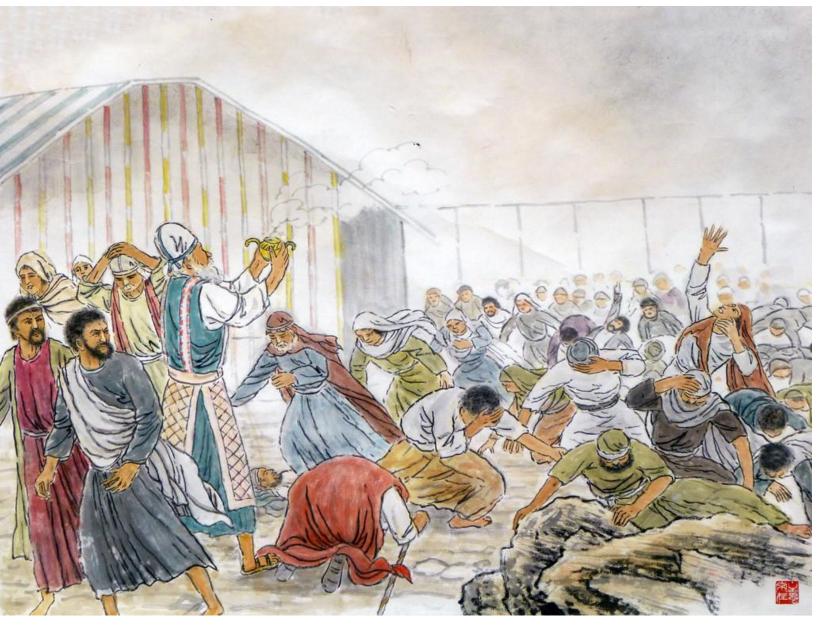


A censer for burning of incense



(v28-31) Moses said, 'By this you shall know that God has sent me to do all these things that I have done... if the Lord does a miracle and the ground opens up and swallows them and everything that belongs to them... then you will know that these men have despised the Lord.'

(v31-33) He had hardly finished speaking the words when the ground suddenly split open beneath them, and a great fissure swallowed them up, along with their tents and families and the friends who were standing with them, and everything they owned.



(v41-42) The very next morning all the people began muttering again against Moses and Aaron, saying, 'You have killed the Lord's people.' Soon a great, sullen mob formed; suddenly, as they looked toward the Tabernacle, the Cloud appeared and the awesome glory of the Lord was seen. (v46) Moses said to Aaron, 'Quick, take a censer and place fire in it from the altar; lay incense on it, and carry it quickly among the people and make atonement for them; for God's anger has gone out among them—the plague has already begun.

Rebellion against
Moses by Miriam
and Aaron. Num 12.



Rebellion against Moses by Korah, Dathan, Abiram and 250 leaders. Num 16.



Grumbling against Moses. Num 16:41

## (6) Spiritual Lessons

Moses was God's appointed leader. There was an earlier episode in which Miriam and Aaron rebelled against Moses, and Miriam was turned leprous (Num 12:10).

Korah and followers should have learnt from the earlier episode. They were stubborn and rebelled again.

Hence God punished them.

Even after God had punished Korah and the 250 leaders, the people grumbled against Moses for killing the Lord's people (Num 16:41).

God destroyed the grumblers - 14,700 Israelites died.

Note: The rebels failed to learn from the past sin of Miriam and Aaron. It was utter foolishness on the part of the rebels.

- Do not challenge the authority of our spiritual leaders. Naturally, we could give feedback to our pastors and church leaders in a civil manner.
   But do not usurp their authority. They have been ordained as servants of God.
- Sometimes we do not challenge them openly but we judge and criticise them unjustly in our hearts. We have a judgemental spirit and this is also sinful.
- Guard against <u>falling into the sin of others or repeating our own sins</u>.
   Examples: being overly critical, seeking self-glory,
   telling lies, gossiping and slandering others, being
   boastful, etc.

- In the midst of a trial or trouble, consider whether there has been <u>any</u> <u>sin or disobedience</u> in our lives. If there is, seek forgiveness and repent.
- Sometimes, there may not be any explicit sin that causes our sufferings.
   If so, it may be the Lord's way of growing our faith and directing us in our lives. Example: Joseph

- (7) Num 17- The budding of Aaron's staff
- (8) Num 18 Duties of Priests and Levites
  Offerings for Priests and Levites
- (9) Num 19 The water of cleansing



(10) The water at Meribah.

Numbers 20:1-12

(v1-3) After wandering for 40 years, the, the Israelites arrived at Kadesh. There was not enough water to drink at Kadesh.

(v3-5) The people quarreled against Moses and Aaron. A great mob formed, and they held a protest meeting.

(v7-8) God told Moses to speak to the rock and water would pour out.



Moses did not follow God's instructions properly.

(v12) The Lord said to Moses "Because you did not trust in me enough to honour me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them."

Num 20:7-8

<sup>7</sup> And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

8-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.

Num 20:9-11

<sup>9</sup> And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him.
<sup>10</sup> 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?

<sup>11</sup> And Moses lifted up his hand, and

<sup>11</sup> 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.

## (11) Waters at Meribah

At Kadesh, they cried out against Moses (Num 20:3-5) for food and drink, complaining that they would die in the wilderness.

God told Moses to <u>speak</u> to the Rock for water. But Moses <u>struck</u> the rock and water gushed out. Moses was wrong:

 He did not do as the Lord instructed. Moses struck the rock instead of speaking to the rock. Because Moses was angry, he drew attention to his own authority:

"Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?"

Commentators (<a href="https://heritagelutheran.org/2020/07/03/the-lesson-from-the-waters-of-meribah/">https://heritagelutheran.org/2020/07/03/the-lesson-from-the-waters-of-meribah/</a>) say that Moses should not lecture the people:

"ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?"

<u>We</u>? No, the Lord (not Moses) would bring water from the rock by His power, by His will.

 "And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel" (Num 20:12).

- Do not be stubborn and rebellious like the Israelites. Always check ourselves for sins and seek forgiveness and repent.
- Be diligent and <u>honour God</u> in all that we do.
- Do not draw attention to ourselves when we serve God in positions of authority. "Not I but Christ"
- Always <u>humble ourselves</u> in our service.

- Do not speak down to others or assert ourselves above others. God has the authority over the flock. Church leaders should be humble servants, serving the flock.
- Contrary to the example of Moses at the water of Meribah, we are to <u>follow the commandments of God exactly</u>, without adding to it or taking away from it.
- Even if you have believed in and served God for many years, we may still stumble like Moses.
   Walk close to God every moment!