

# Numbers 20,27:12-23

## Passages in Deuteronomy

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### Day 1

Miriam's Death; Water from the Rock. Read Numbers 20:1-13

1. Who died just before entering the land? 20:1 (Why wasn't she allowed to enter the promised land?)
2. What same old complaint did the people have at Kadesh? 20:2-5 (Since, these events are believed to have taken place in the 40<sup>th</sup> year of wandering, what does this indicate about the new generation?)
3. How did Moses and Aaron react? 20:6 What does this say about the seriousness of this rebellion?
4. List the instructions the Lord gave Moses. 20:8
  - *Take the rod*
  - How gracious was the Lord being with these people?
5. List what Moses said and did.
  - 20:10a
  - 20:10b
  - 20:10c
  - 20:11a
6. How did Moses' attitude and actions stray from God's?
7. How did God respond in spite of Moses' disobedience? 20:11b

CONTENDED/  
QUARRELED

8. What was this event portraying? 1 Corinthians 10:4 (See also John 7:37)

9. Of what did the Lord accuse Aaron and Moses? 20:12a

- What did they fail to convey about the Lord? 20:12b (How are their actions described in 20:24b.)

**FYI: Honor me as holy/ hallow me/ sanctify me** (20:23) OT:6942 *qadash* "to set apart...to be treated as holy, to consecrate."  
- The Complete Word Study Dictionary Old Testament (980)

"What Moses did was an *unholy* thing. He made God look no different than an angry man or one of the temperamental pagan gods. He did not reflect the heart and character of God before the people... Moses ruined this picture of the work of Jesus God intended." "There are a hundred *explanations* for Moses frustration here...but not a single *excuse*...Moses was being judged by a stricter standard because of his leadership position with the nation, and because he had a uniquely close relationship with God."  
- David Guzik

10. What consequence did Moses and Aaron face? 20:12c (How do you think God felt about having to make this judgment? What tone do you hear in His words to Moses?)

- The decision to deny Moses entrance into the promised land seems harsh to many. Here are some questions to ponder and discuss with your small group:  
*How would their example of disobedience damage/obstruct/be a stumbling block to their leadership with the new generation? What would overlooking this disobedience/disrespect say about the fairness of God's judgment of others for their disobedience? How would it affect the probability of this future generation's faithfulness in obeying and honoring the Lord and following the laws that had been given through Moses? What had Moses experienced that no other man had that would have removed all excuses?*

11. What were the waters called? Compare Exodus 17:7

**Applying the Word:** Do you have more trouble trusting the Lord in areas where you are successful or in areas where you struggle? Why?

## Day 2

### Passage through Land; Aaron's Death; Joshua Appointed as Leader.

Read Numbers 20:14-29; 21:1-3; 27:12-23

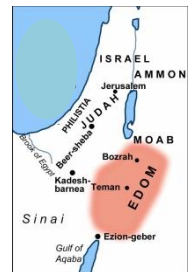
12. When asking for passage through Edom, what assurances did Moses give? 20:17

- How did Edom respond? 20:18

13. What did Moses say next? 20:19 (How would you describe his response?)

- How did Edom respond? 20:20

14. What was Israel forced to do? 20:21



See Numbers 33:1-49 for a listing of the places Israel traveled to in their 40-year journey from Egypt to Jordan.

**FYI:** "The ancient enmity (see Gen. 27:41-45) between Israel and Edom (descendants of Esau) reasserted itself, and that this is why the Israelites did not go through Edom but walked around it...God had given Esau the land of Edom just as he would give Israel the land of Canaan. (See Deuteronomy 2:4-6) God's insisted on the need to express their respect for their brothers' land by paying for everything they needed." - Africa Bible Commentary (214)

15. What further difficulty did Israel face in Numbers 21:1-3? (The rest of the chapter covers more people that Israel fought on their way to Canaan. See Numbers 21:21-24; 32-35.)

- What was Israel learning about their enemies and about the Lord? How would this help them when they got to the promised land?

### Aaron's death

16. Why did Aaron die before the entering the promised land? 20:24

- What instructions did the Lord give Moses regarding Aaron's death? 20:25,26 How would this have been a blessing for Aaron to see?

17. How did the people respond to Aaron's death? 20:29 What does that say about the new generations' regard for him?

**Joshua's Appointment as Leader**

18. What gift was Moses given before he died? Numbers 27:12-13 (Contrast Numbers 14:23)

19. What final concerns did Moses have? Numbers 27:15-17 What does this say about his heart? Compare Mark 6:34

20. Whom did the Lord provide and why? Numbers 27:18

- How was the transfer of leadership to be given? 27:18b-20 Why would a public ceremony be important?
- What leadership responsibilities would this give Joshua? 27:21

21. How did Moses respond? Numbers 27:22-23 (Do you think this gave Moses joy? Explain)

*Applying the Word: When have you seen a good transition in leadership/a passing of the torch. What elements made that transition smooth and constructive?*

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## Day 3

### The 40 Year Journey; Moses' Instruction. Passages in Deuteronomy

22. What do you learn about how Israel survived during the wilderness wanderings?

- Deuteronomy 2:7
- Deut. 8:4; 29:5
- Deut. 8:15,16



23. Before entering the land, what did Moses instruct Israel to do and why? Deut. 4:1,2

- What would God's laws be for them? 4:6a
- What kind of witness would following them give? 4:6b-8

**FYI:** "Listening involves hearing with the intent to obey. Obedience to the law brought the blessings of the Lord and provided a witness to the pagan nations. The wisdom of the Law...would illustrate the uniqueness of Israel and her God."  
- The Woman's Study Bible (288)

24. What important reminders did Moses stress in one of his final addresses to the nation?

- 4:9a,10a *Remember what the Lord had done for them*
- 4:9b,10b
- 4:15-19

25. What consequences would they face for disobedience? 4:23-27

- Even if disobedient and sent into captivity, what assurance did Moses give about their future generations? 4:29-31

**FYI:** "Neither see...nor smells declares the impotence of idols (see Psalm 115:6; Isaiah 40:19,20...). These 'gods' were not merely lesser gods. They did not exist at all; they were dead. Hence turning from the living God to false, nonexistent 'gods' was in effect moving from life to death (I Thess. 1:9,10). But seeking the living God and Him alone brought life."  
- The Nelson Study Bible (301)

### **A Chosen Nation**

26. What made the nation of Israel unique? 4:34-38

- What should this have conveyed to them? 4:35,39

27. What benefits would they reap from following God? 4:40 (Cf. 6:1-3)

See some of the blessings of obedience for the nation listed in Deut. 7:12-15.

28. From Deuteronomy 6:1-9, how did Moses stress the importance of living according to God's Word?

**FYI:** "**Heart** (4:9,29;6:5,6) refers to the center of one's being, the source of direction for one's thoughts, actions, and speech."  
- The Nelson Study Bible (299)

"The spiritual education of the children was the responsibility of the parents...This was more than teaching the facts of the Law; it was to be the demonstration of a lifestyle woven into the tapestry of everyday life. Creativity was needed to teach the precepts of God while involved in mundane chores."  
- The Woman's Study Bible (292)

29. Why might the people forget God? 6:10-12 (See also 8:12-14)

- What kind of choice did Moses say the nation was facing? Deut. 30:15-20 (Compare Matthew 7:13,14)

***Applying the Word:** How important do you think it is for each generation to pass on to their children an understanding of God's love and His role in our lives? How quickly do you think that can be forgotten?*

## Day 4

Moses Exhorts and Encourages the People. Deuteronomy 31, 32, 34

30. How old was Moses when he died? 31:1,2

- How did he assure the people? 31:3-5,6b (List the things that God would do for them.)

31. Write out the challenge that Moses gave to the people. 31:6a

- What challenge did he publically give Joshua? 31:7,8 (See God's instruction to Moses earlier Deut. 1:38)

32. Interestingly, what charge did Moses give to the priests and why? 31:9-13

**FYI:** "The public reading of the Law reminded Israel that they were a covenant community with covenant obligations. This event was not the only time they heard the Law. If parents were obeying God's command, the Law was being repeated and taught daily (Deut. 6:6,7)"  
- The Woman's Study Bible (328)

33. What did the Lord reveal to Moses and Joshua about the future? 31:16 (Cf. 2 Chronicles 36:14-16)

- Because of this, what did the Lord ask Moses to do any why? 31:19

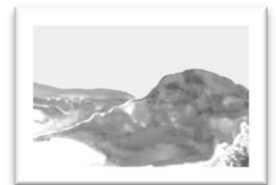
34. What name and attributes did Moses give to the Lord in his song? 32:3,4,10,11

**FYI:** "Like a firm **Rock** that stands against the raging waters of a stormy sea, God and His works stand firm against the chaos produced by sinful lives. He is the sure foundation for all **truth** in a world of deception."  
- The Nelson Study Bible (343)

"Moses had frequently both reminded the people and warned the people, but he knew (and God told him) that they would forget. They would listen more attentively and remember longer if it was part of a song that could be sung generation after generation."  
- Henry Morris

### Moses' death

35. What did the Lord show Moses before his death? 34:1-4



36. What special care did the Lord give to Moses' burial? 34:6 (Why do you think He concealed Moses' burial place?)

- What amazing care had Moses' had throughout his life? 34:7

37. What epitaph was Moses given? 34:10-12

**FYI:** "Moses was the greatest of all the prophets and the signs and wonders performed through him were unequalled through Israel's history. However, nothing Moses experienced can surpass the greatness of being known intimately by God (I Corinthians 8:3)."  
- The Woman's Study Bible (336)

**Applying the Word:** Consider what Moses saw of God's awesome power in delivering Israel from Egypt and the close personal, loving relationship he experienced with his Lord. What about Moses' relationship with God or with his people would you like to have? If you had one question you could ask Moses, what would it be?