

חֻקֹּת

Chuqqat

(Statute)

B'midbar [Numbers] 19:1-22:1

The Prophetic Sin of Moshe

B'midbar [Numbers] 20:9-11

9 And Moshe took the rod from before YHWH, as He commanded him.

10 And Moshe and Aharon gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said unto them, "Hear now, you rebels; shall we bring forth water for you out of this rock?"

11 And Moshe lifted up his hand, and smote the rock with his rod twice: and water came forth abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their cattle.

Moshe did right, that is, he obeyed YHWH when he went in and took Aharon's rod that had budded.

Moshe did right, that is, he obeyed YHWH when he carried the rod before the people to the rock.

It is understandable why he said what he said to the people, calling them "rebels."

The problem was that speaking to the people in this instance was not commanded!

Moshe was commanded to speak to the rock, not to the people. Here was the beginning of his sin.

Then Moshe lifted up Aharon's rod that had budded, that leafy green bough full of almonds in the sight of all the people, and struck the rock, not once, but twice.

I am sure that most of us can identify with Moshe's feelings of anger. But the anger of man cannot accomplish the will of YHWH.

Ya'aqov (James) 1:20

for the wrath of man works not the righteousness of Elohim.

This passage actually is a clear indication of YHWH's love and compassion for His people. Even though the leader sinned, He was faithful to His people and gave them water in spite of Moshe's sin.

B'midbar [Numbers] 20:12-13

12 And YHWH said to Moshe and Aharon, "Because you believed not in Me, to sanctify Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them."

13 These are the waters of Meribah; because the children of Israel strove with YHWH, and He was sanctified in them.

This may seem like a rather harsh judgment to us, but we must consider the facts of this incident carefully.

Fact #1 – Moshe did not follow His instructions as He gave them.

Fact #2 – Moshe added to His commandment as He gave it by speaking to the people.

Fact #3 – Moshe took away from His commandment as He gave it by not speaking to the rock.

Fact #4 – Moshe took a set-apart object (Aharon's rod) and treated it in a way that was not set-apart before the people by striking the rock.

Fact #5 – Moshe did not treat YHWH as Set-apart before the people, by saying to the people that it was him and his doing which was about to bring forth the water, rather than giving YHWH all the honor and glory for this miracle.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 4:2

"You shall not add to the word which I command you, neither shall you diminish from it, that you may keep the commandments of YHWH your Elohim which I command you."

Moshe learned firsthand the importance of this commandment when he struck the rock. He was guilty of violating this commandment in both aspects. He both added to the direct verbal commandment that YHWH had given to him as well as taking away from the direct verbal commandment that YHWH had given Him.

This incident of Moshe striking the rock when he was commanded only to speak to the rock is a sobering lesson to us today. Moshe's violation of this commandment before the people of YHWH was enough for YHWH to prohibit Moshe from entering the land that He had promised to Avraham, Yitzchak and Ya'aqov.

It is important for us to realize a couple of things in this discussion concerning Moshe and his exclusion from crossing over the river Yarden.

Devarim (Deuteronomy) 3:25-27

25 " 'Let me go over, I pray, and see the good land that is beyond the Yarden, that goodly mountain, and Lebanon.'

26 But YHWH was angry with me for your sakes, and hearkened not to me; and YHWH said to me, 'Let it be sufficient for you; speak no more to Me of this matter.

27 You go up to the top of Pisgah, and lift up your eyes westward, and northward, and southward, and eastward, and behold with your eyes; for you shall not go over this Yarden.’ ”

What Moshe desired was to cross the Yarden River. However, YHWH showed to him that he was already in the land of Israel. In fact, they had been in the land for the last forty years, but just had not crossed over to the west side of the Yarden River.

While YHWH did not allow Moshe to cross over the Yarden River at that time, He did take him into the land on the west side of the Yarden much later.

Matithyah (Matthew) 17:1-3

1 And after six days Yeshua took with him Kepha, and Ya’aqov, and Yochanan his brother, and brought them up into a high mountain apart;

2 and He was transfigured before them; and His face did shine as the sun, and His garments became white as the light.

3 And behold, there appeared to them Moshe and Eliyah talking with Him.

What this shows to us is that Moshe sought for and received forgiveness of this sin before he died. While YHWH pardoned the sin of Moshe, the consequences of that sin were not erased along with the sin. Oftentimes it is the same in our own lives when we commit a sin. YHWH can and does forgive us of those sins when we come to Him and humbly ask His forgiveness through Mashiach Yeshua, but many times the result and consequences of those sins remain in our lives to help further purify us and as a reminder not to repeat those sins.

The true deep meaning of this incident in the life of Moshe is found in the life of Mashiach Yeshua.

Ivrim (Hebrews) 6:6

And then fell away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of Elohim afresh, and put him to an open shame.

The two instances of the water coming forth from the rock is prophetic of the two comings of the Living Water, Mashiach Yeshua. We know that in His first coming He was struck, just like Moshe was commanded to strike the rock in the first instance and did so in obedience. Then Moshe was commanded to speak to the rock the second time, but He struck it in direct violation of the commandment of YHWH to him.

We know that the rock was not just any rock, but rather the rock was in fact Mashiach Himself.

Qorintyah Aleph (1st Corinthians) 10:4

And did all drink the same spiritual drink; for they drank of a spiritual rock that followed them; and the rock was Mashiach.

Likewise, when Mashiach Yeshua returns the second time He will not be struck! However, there will be those who gather to strike Him and they will be excluded from the land, just like Moshe was prophetically excluded from crossing over the Yarden into the land for his sin.

Gilyana (Revelation) 19:19

And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him that sat upon the horse, and against His army.

This particular sin in the life of Moshe then has very significant prophetic meaning when we look to understand it in the light of the whole counsel of Scripture. May YHWH continue to increase our understanding of His word in our day that we might live uprightly before Him always.

ABBA YHWH, teach us to guard our ways and our walk that we may be included in Your kingdom; in the name of Yeshua our Mashiach. Amein.

Shabbat Shalom

Zerubbabel ben Emunah

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