

Why Moses Was Not Allowed To Enter The Promised Land

'The Lord spoke to Moses that same day saying, "Go up into this mountain of Abarim to Mount Nebo, which is in the land of Moab over against Jericho and see the land of Canaan, which I give to the Children of Israel for a possession, and die on the mountain where you go up and be gathered to your people as Aaron your brother died on Mount Hor and was gathered to his people. Because you trespassed against Me in the midst of the Children of Israel at the waters of Meribah of Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin, because you did not sanctify Me in the midst of the Children of Israel, you will see the land before you but you will not go there into the land which I give the Children of Israel' (Deuteronomy 32:48 to 52).

This 'trespass' was a very serious thing. Moses would not have been aware of the significance of it but lost his chance to enter the Promised Land that would become Israel. We will look at the circumstances around this trespass. 'There was no water for the congregation. The people assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron ... Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the door of the Tent of Meeting and fell on their faces. The glory of the Lord appeared to them. God spoke to Moses saying, "Take the rod and assemble the congregation. You and Aaron your brother, and you speak to the Rock before their eyes. It will give forth its water and you will bring forth to them water out of the Rock so you will give the congregation and their livestock drink" (Numbers 20:2 then 6 to 8).

Notice here, the Lord told Moses to speak to the Rock. What Moses did next was an awful mistake. Instead of speaking to the Rock, he struck the Rock twice. See what God did next. 'Moses took the rod from before the Lord as He commanded him. Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the Rock and said to them, "Hear now you rebels, will we bring you water out of this Rock?" Moses lifted up his hand and struck the Rock with his rod twice and water came forth abundantly. The congregation and their livestock drank the water. God said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe in Me to sanctify Me in the eyes of the Children of Israel, therefore you will not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them. These are the waters of Meribah, because the Children of Israel strove with God and He was sanctified in them' (Numbers 20:9 to 13).

What was the significance of that Rock? 'He brought streams out of the Rock and caused waters to run down like rivers ... Behold, he struck the Rock so that waters gushed out and streams overflowed ... He opened the Rock and waters gushed out. They ran as a river in the dry places ... Tremble you earth at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob Who turned the Rock into a pool of water, the flint into a spring of waters' (Psalm 78:16 & 20; 105:41; 114:7 & 8). 'They did not thirst when He led them through the deserts. He caused the waters to flow out of the Rock for them. He split the Rock and the waters gushed out' (Isaiah 48:21). That special Rock giving forth Spiritual water was an earthly incarnate of Jesus our Lord before He came to the world as our Saviour. By striking the Rock, Moses was striking the Son of God with a rod. Moses had spoken to Jesus as the Angel of the Lord many times before this (Exodus 33:9; Numbers 11:25; Psalm 99:7) so striking Him with the rod was an affront. When Jesus was about to be crucified, He was beaten many times.

This special Rock that accompanied the Children of Israel was the Chief Cornerstone and the Foundation of the salvation of millions of people. 'I would not have you ignorant, brothers. Our forefathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea and were all baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same Spiritual food (manna) and all drank the same Spiritual drink (from the Rock). They drank of a Spiritual Rock that followed them and the Rock was our Saviour Jesus the Messiah' (1 Corinthians 10:1 to 4). 'Oh come let us sing to the Lord. Let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation' (Psalm 95:1). 'Behold, I lay in Zion a Foundation, a Stone, a tried Stone, a precious Cornerstone of a sure Foundation' (Isaiah 28:16). 'Through Jesus we both (Jews and Gentiles) have our access in one Spirit to the Father. You are no longer strangers and foreigners but you are fellow citizens with the saints (all genuine believers) and of the household of God, being built on the Foundation of the apostles and prophets, Messiah Jesus Himself being the Chief Cornerstone in Whom the whole building, fitted together, grows into a holy Temple in the Lord, in Whom you also are built together for a habitation of God in the Spirit' (Ephesians 2:18 to 22).

Amen and God bless you.

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