



Lesson 40 – The Smitten Rock

based on Numbers 20:1-13.

- 1) How did the Children of Israel get water when they first entered the desert?

Exodus 17:6 Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the _____, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

From the smitten rock in Horeb first flowed the living stream that refreshed Israel in the desert. During all their wanderings, wherever the need existed, they were supplied with water by a miracle of God's mercy. The water did not, however, continue to flow from Horeb. Wherever in their journeyings they wanted water, there from the clefts of the rock it gushed out beside their encampment.

- 2) How does the Bible describe it?

1 Corinthians 10:4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was _____.

Isaiah 48:21 And they thirsted not when he led them through the deserts: he caused the waters to flow out of the rock for them: he clave the rock also, and the waters _____ out.

Psalms 105:41 He opened the rock, and the waters gushed out; they ran in the dry places like a _____.

God was the source of all temporal as well as spiritual blessings. Christ, the true Rock, was with them in all their wanderings.

- 3) From where do our life-giving waters flow?

Isaiah 53:4-5 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and _____ our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are _____.

Hebrews 9:28 So Christ was _____ offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

Our Saviour was not to be sacrificed a second time; and it is only necessary for those who seek the blessings of His grace to ask in the name of Jesus, pouring forth the heart's desire in penitential prayer. Such prayer will bring before the Lord of hosts the wounds of Jesus, and then will flow forth afresh the life-giving blood, symbolized by the flowing of the living water for Israel.

- 4) What did Jesus say at the Feast of Tabernacles?

John 7:37-38 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man _____, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow _____ of living water.

On each of the seven days of the feast the priests went out with music and the choir of Levites to draw water in a golden vessel from the spring of Siloam.

- 5) What did the worshippers sing at the ceremony?

Isaiah 12:3 Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of _____.

Psalms 122:2 Our feet shall stand within thy _____, O Jerusalem.



The water was poured out upon the altar of burnt offering into a basin on the side, while songs of praise rang out, the multitudes joining in triumphant chorus with musical instruments and deep-toned trumpets.

6) What does Jesus do for us?

Isaiah 35:1 The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and _____ as the rose.

He in whom Christ is abiding has within him a never-failing fountain of grace and strength. Jesus cheers the life and brightens the path of all who truly seek Him. His love, received into the heart, will spring up in good works unto eternal life. And not only does it bless the soul in which it springs, but the living stream will flow out in words and deeds of righteousness, to refresh the thirsting around him.

7) What did Jesus tell the woman at the well?

John 4:14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall _____ thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into _____ life.

8) What was another reference to Christ in the Bible?

Isaiah 32:1-2 Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment. And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a _____ from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the _____ of a great rock in a weary land.

Isaiah 35:6 Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and _____ in the desert.

9) What invitation was left for you in the Book of Revelation?

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of _____ freely.

10) What happened in the Wilderness of Zin just before the Promised Land?

Numbers 20:1-2 Then came the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, into the desert of Zin in the first month: and the people abode in Kadesh; and Miriam died there, and was buried there. And there was no _____ for the congregation: and they gathered themselves together _____ Moses and against Aaron.

Just before the Hebrew host reached Kadesh, the living stream ceased that for so many years had gushed out beside their encampment. It was the Lord's purpose again to test His people. He would prove whether they would trust His providence or imitate the unbelief of their fathers.

They were now in sight of the hills of Canaan. A few days' march would bring them to the borders of the Promised Land. They were but a little distance from Edom, which belonged to the descendants of Esau, and through which lay the appointed route to Canaan.

11) What was God's plan here?

Deuteronomy 2:3-4 Ye have compassed this mountain _____: turn you northward. And command thou the people, saying, Ye are to _____ through the coast of your brethren the children of Esau, which dwell in Seir; and they shall be afraid of you: take ye good heed unto yourselves therefore:

Deuteronomy 2:6 Ye shall _____ meat of them for money, that ye may eat; and ye shall also buy water of them for money, that ye may drink.



These directions should have been sufficient to explain why their supply of water had been cut off; they were about to pass through a well-watered, fertile country, in a direct course to the land of Canaan. God had promised them an unmolested passage through Edom, and an opportunity to purchase food, and also water sufficient to supply the host. The cessation of the miraculous flow of water should therefore have been a cause of rejoicing, a token that the wilderness wandering was ended.

12) Were they ready to trust God now?

Numbers 20:3 And the people chode with Moses, and spake, saying, Would God that we had _____ when our brethren died before the LORD!

No sooner was the cry for water heard in the encampment than they forgot the hand that had for so many years supplied their wants, and instead of turning to God for help, they murmured against Him. They wished they had been of the number who were destroyed in the rebellion of Korah.

13) Did God show mercy?

Numbers 20:8 Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and _____ 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.

14) What did Moses and Aaron do?

Numbers 20:10-11 And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye _____; must we fetch you water out of this rock? And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he _____ the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.

They were now aged men. Long had they borne with the rebellion and obstinacy of Israel; but now, at last, even the patience of Moses gave way.

The water gushed forth in abundance to satisfy the host. But a great wrong had been done. Moses had spoken from irritated feeling; his words were an expression of human passion rather than of holy indignation because God had been dishonored.

When God had bidden Moses to charge upon Israel their rebellion, the words had been painful to him, and hard for them to bear, yet God had sustained him in delivering the message. But when he took it upon himself to accuse them, he grieved the Spirit of God and wrought only harm to the people. His lack of patience and self-control was evident. Thus, the people were given occasion to question whether his past course had been under the direction of God, and to excuse their own sins.

15) What other mistake did Moses make?

Numbers 20:10 ... must _____ fetch you water out of this rock?

16) What did God tell the two brothers?

Numbers 20:12 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye _____ me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation _____ the _____ which I have given them.



At the time when the water failed, their own faith in the fulfillment of God's promise had been shaken by the murmuring and rebellion of the people. The first generation had been condemned to perish in the wilderness because of their unbelief, yet the same spirit appeared in their children. Would these also fail of receiving the promise? Worn and disheartened, Moses and Aaron had made no effort to stem the current of popular feeling.

Had the murmuring at Kadesh been promptly checked, what a train of evil might have been prevented!

By his rash act Moses took away the force of the lesson that God purposed to teach. The rock, being a symbol of Christ, had been once smitten, as Christ was to be once offered. The second time it was needful only to speak to the rock, as we have only to ask for blessings in the name of Jesus. By the second smiting of the rock the significance of this beautiful figure of Christ was destroyed.

17) Did Moses and Aaron plead for forgiveness?

Deuteronomy 3:26 But the LORD was wroth with me for your sakes, and would not hear me: and the LORD said unto me, Let it _____ thee; speak no more unto me of this matter.

They were not chargeable with willful or deliberate sin; they had been overcome by a sudden temptation, and their contrition was immediate and heartfelt. The Lord accepted their repentance, though because of the harm their sin might do among the people, He could not remit its punishment.

18) What did Moses try to refresh in their memories when they murmured?

Exodus 16:8 ... for that the LORD heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against _____.

19) What mistake did Moses make?

Numbers 20:10 ... must _____ fetch you water out of this rock?

These words were a virtual admission of the unbelievers charge and would thus confirm them in their unbelief and justify their murmurings. The Lord would remove this impression forever from their minds, by forbidding Moses to enter the Promised Land. Here was unmistakable evidence that their leader was not Moses, but the mighty Angel of the LORD

20) Who was leading?

Exodus 23:20-21 Behold, I send an _____ before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared. _____ of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him.

When it was declared that because of that one sin Moses and Aaron were not to enter Canaan, the people knew that God is no respecter of persons, and that He will surely punish the transgressor.

The fact that Moses had enjoyed so great light and knowledge made his sin more grievous.

Can you see that we must guard our heart?

Would you like to live in the Promised Land in Peace?

When is it time to humbly seek our God?