

INTRODUCTION: NUMBERS 20

- Today I want to look at a pivotal point in the history of Israel
- It is the moment that Moses disqualifies himself by misrepresenting God to the nation of Israel
- This happens at a place by the name of Meribah
- We first read of Meribah in Exodus 17 when the congregation of Israel are on their way to Mount Sinai
- They are traveling in the Wilderness of Sin and they come to a place called Rephidim and Exodus 17 says there was no water for the people to drink
- So the people made a legal case against Moses as an unfit leader
- Give us water to drink or we're going to remove you from office
- Now I'm paraphrasing, but the language supports this
- Moses responds to them by saying... why do you threaten to remove me from office? Your issue is with God, not with me... why would you want to blame God or find fault with God
- And the people continued to complain... why did you bring us out of Egypt to kill us, our children and our livestock with thirst?
- So Moses cried out to the LORD
- What am I going to do with this people? They're going to stone me!
- The LORD said to Moses... stand in front of the people, take some of the leaders, take the rod of God in your hand... the rod that represents my power and strike the rock in Horeb
- When you strike the rock... water will come out
- Moses did exactly that and water came out of the rock and the people were able to drink
- But the place was called Masshay and Merivay which means judgement and contention
- They judged God and they took issue with God

Now 40 years later...

- They come to the same place and they have the same problem

Numbers 20:2–13 (NKJV)

² Now there was no water for the congregation; so they gathered together against Moses and Aaron. ³ And the people contended with Moses and spoke, saying: "If only we had died when our brethren died before the

LORD! ⁴ Why have you brought up the assembly of the LORD into this wilderness, that we and our animals should die here? ⁵ And why have you made us come up out of Egypt, to bring us to this evil place? It *is* not a place of grain or figs or vines or pomegranates; nor *is* there any water to drink.” ⁶ So Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and they fell on their faces. And the glory of the LORD appeared to them.

⁷ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ⁸ “Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water; thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals.” ⁹ So Moses took the rod from before the LORD as He commanded him.

¹⁰ And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock; and he said to them, “Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?” ¹¹ Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank.

¹² Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not believe Me, to hallow 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 This was the water of Meribah, because the children of Israel contended with the LORD, and He was hallowed among them.

I don't know if you've ever experienced this before

- Where you come to the same place, with the same people and you experience the same problems you did before
- And then you think to yourself... why did I do this... I should have known
- In fact, that is the definition of insanity... when you do the same thing over and over and expect different results
- But here they are 40 years later
- And the last of the unbelieving generation “contend” against Moses... which means they are making a case to remove Moses from office
- Why have you brought out the Assembly of the LORD into this wilderness to die?
- Oh wow... that's just great... now you blame for destroying God's Chosen People
- Then they said... why did you make us leave Egypt and bring us to this evil place?
- Moses didn't make them leave Egypt... they forgot a lot in 40 years

- But the bitterness in their hearts clouded their memory
- Then they said... you haven't delivered on your promises...
- This is not a place of grain or figs or vines or pomegranates...
- Now... they saw the grapes from the promised land and because of their unbelief they were sent on a 40 year detour
- Here they were on the border again but they had forgotten the goodness of God because of their unbelief
- And then the kicker... and there is no water to drink
- Here's what I notice about the times we are in
- It's almost as if everyone has forgotten the faithfulness of God

Psalm 121:1–8 (NKJV)

¹ I will lift up my eyes to the hills—From whence comes my help? ² My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. ³ He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. ⁴ Behold, He who keeps Israel Shall neither slumber nor sleep.

- God is not asleep

Exodus 14:13–14 (NKJV)

¹³ And Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.”

- There are pastors telling people they need to take a stand and fight
- I say yes... take a stand... STAND STILL... STAND STILL and see the salvation of the LORD because the LORD will fight for you

2 Chronicles 20:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ And he said, “Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the LORD to you: ‘Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God’s.

- When people forget that the battle belongs to the LORD they get anxious, filled with fear and anxiety and fear turns to anger and frustration

- It leads to contention... people wanting to bring legal suit against another
- In these times what we need to do is DECIDE
- Who do I belong to and who am I going to listen to?
- Am I going to listen to the voice of the Spirit or the voice of man
- And I guarantee you, every person who has put their trust in man is deeply troubled right now
- But all who trust in the LORD will not be dismayed

So what did Moses and Aaron do?

- They left the meeting and went to the door of the Tabernacle of Meeting
- They went to the place of prayer and worship
- And they fell on their faces
- And the glory of the LORD appeared
- As I look at the deception that the media is spreading
- As I watch the images on the television that appear to tell a story when in reality there's a underlying story that is being suppressed
- As I read the posts on Facebook and watch the hateful responses of people, especially those in the cancel culture who use every opportunity to erase people from existence
- One thing I notice that is missing
- That is people who are on their face before God
- It's only when God's people fall on their faces before God that the glory appears and I would say to every pastor, every person who names the names of Jesus this is not the time to take a stand
- This is the time to fall on our faces and cry out God
- Because when the people fall down... the glory comes down
- The problem with preachers that are calling for action, sending out desperate pleas... you gotta go to my website and sign up for my newsletter before they ban me from Facebook
- They give the impression that God is about to loose a battle
- When has that ever happened? NEVER
- The only time battles were lost in the scripture was because of sin and if there is a battle lost today... it's not because God is weak, but the arm of the flesh is weak

So what happens when Moses and Aaron fall on their faces

- God instructs them in what to do
- I've heard so many people say... the time for prayer is over, we need to take action... and I say the greatest action you can take IS TO PRAY
- Nothing is accomplished in the Kingdom of God except through prayer
- It is not a position of inactivity... it's a position of waiting for God's activity, for God's instruction and then acting on what He says to do
- God says to Moses, take the rod of God and your brother Aaron and gather the congregation together
- Now the word changes and it's significant
- The people refer themselves as the assembly... literally the called out ones or the gathered ones
- But God calls them the congregation or the witnesses
- They witnessed the power of God to save, to deliver them from Egypt and God calls the witnesses to gather before the rock
- God instructs Moses to speak to the rock and the water will flow out
- So Moses does what God instructs him to do
- But when he gets in front of the people, he makes two mistakes
- He lets his emotions get the best of him and he wrongly assumes that God feels the same way he does
- He stands up and says... hear you rebels... you traitors... you want water?
- He strikes the rock twice and water comes out and the congregation (the witnesses) witnessed what Moses did and assumed God said to do it
- I heard a pastor say God is judging America because Biden is President
- That man is speaking out of his own soul, misrepresenting God
- God isn't judging America because Biden is President
- God didn't put Biden into office... people did... maybe not the majority

1 Samuel 8:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the LORD will not hear you in that day."

God says it's not my problem, it's your problem... you picked him

- And in 1 Samuel the people persisted and rejected God as King
- I have a fear that the church has gotten to that dangerous place where we have picked a man and rejected God as King

- And now the church is using the tactics of man to fight a battle that is clearly spiritual and if we fight in our own power we will loose

2 Corinthians 10:4–5 (NKJV)

⁴For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV)

¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

- The only way we are going to defeat the enemy is rise up and be the church and do what Jesus did
- He defeated an empire by healing the sick, casting out demons, raising the dead, cleansing the lepers and proclaiming the Good News of God's Favor... the gospel of grace
- He never marched, never led a political rally and yet the Kings of his day feared him because he had something they didn't have
- He had the real power of God and by ministering to the needs of the people His Kingdom was established in the hearts of the people
- Nothing has changed today... He is still doing the same thing
- Those of us who are born again... you are not of this world, you are a citizen of heaven and the glory of God dwells within you and that means your very presence dispels darkness
- It's time for the church to rise up and walk in the authority we've been given and do what Jesus commissioned us to do... to go out into all the world and make disciples of all nations
- To remember who we are... we are loved, accepted, forgiven, the people of God, the Bride of Christ
- And we need to minister as Jesus did and I believe if we do we can see our nation revived and awakened by the Power of God
- Greater is He that is in YOU than he that is in the world.
- Do you want to know what God is doing in this season?
- God is positioning the world for revelation of Jesus Christ
- God is positioning us for the Rapture of the Church... don't get distracted



TESTED FAITH

THE PASTORS AND MINISTRY LEADERS ARE UP FRONT TO PRAY
FOR YOU... IF YOU NEED ANYTHING PLEASE COME UP FOR PRAYER

BLESSING...