

MOSES & THE ROCK

INTRODUCTION

A. **Romans 15:4**

The Old Testament is valuable to us for our learning

B. **Numbers 20:1-13**

Much can be learned from the story of Moses and the rock of Meribah.

I. GOD'S LAW MAY CHANGE.

A. **Exodus 17:1-7**

On one occasion, God instructed Moses to **strike** the rock to produce water.

B. **Numbers 20:7-8**

Later, He told Moses to **speak** to the rock to produce water. God's law for receiving water from rocks changed.

C. **Hebrews 7:12**

A change has occurred from the Old Testament to the New. What God required of Moses at one time was unacceptable later. Similarly, what God required of Moses is not what He requires of us.

II. SUBSTITUTION OF GOD'S WILL IS REBELLIOUS.

Moses substituted striking for speaking, which may seem insignificant in the grand scheme of things, but it brought severe consequences.

A. **Numbers 20:24; 27:12-14**

Moses was guilty of rebellion.

B. **Isaiah 55:8-9; Proverbs 14:12**

God's ways must be respected.

III. THE END DOES NOT JUSTIFY THE MEANS.

A. **Numbers 20:10-11**

Moses' action brought results.

- B. God may let us temporarily prosper from our mistakes, but will ultimately hold us accountable for them.

IV. FAILURE TO GLORIFY GOD IS SINFUL.

- A. **Numbers 20:10, 12**

Moses took credit where God deserved the glory. God called this failing to hallow Him.

- B. **1st Peter 5:5-6**

We should let God do all the exalting.

V. GOD'S LAW IS STRICT.

- A. **Deuteronomy 32:48-52**

Moses died for his transgression.

- B. **Romans 6:23**

Death is what sin earns.

VI. SPEECH MATTERS.

- A. **Psalms 106:32-33**

Moses *"spoke rashly with his lips."*

- B. **Colossians 4:6; 1st Peter 3:10; James 1:26; 3:2-8**

Our speech must be controlled.

VII. DISOBEDIENCE PREVENTS ENTRANCE TO THE PROMISED LAND.

- A. **Deuteronomy 32:48-52**

Moses' insubordination kept him from the land of promise.

- B. **Hebrews 11:8-10**

The promised land of Canaan foreshadowed the ultimate destination of heaven.

C. **Hebrews 5:8-9**

Without obedience, we cannot be saved.

VIII. LEADERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE CAN GO ASTRAY.

A. **Exodus 3:10-11; John 1:17**

Moses was the leader of God's people. Yet, Moses sinned. Leaders are not infallible.

B. **Galatians 2:11-14; 1st Timothy 5:17-20**

Even leaders within the church can be subject to rebuke.

CONCLUSION

A. **1st Corinthians 10:1-11**

The mistakes of our ancient brethren should be the source of our knowledge (6, 11).

B. **John 4:13-14; 6:35; 7:37-38**

The Rock we need today is Christ (1st Corinthians 10:4), for He can provide the water of Life. Come drink of that water!