

BIBLE CLASS LAW STUDY 09.05.2024

THE DEATH OF MIRIAM AND AARON. NUMBERS 20.

Dear Brothers and Sisters

The scriptures record the deaths of Miriam and her brother Aaron in the in the first month of the 40th year since leaving Egypt.

A list of the places where they wandered in those years can be found in the 33rd chapter of Numbers. Their journey commenced began from Kadesh (meaning sanctuary) and now they returned to the place where their wanderings began. Here Miriam Moses's elder sister died. As an older child she looked after Moses when he was placed in an ark of bulrushes Miriam watched over him and when Pharaoh's daughter came to wash herself in the river, Miriam asked her if she would like one of the Hebrew women to nurse the child, and Moses mother cared for the child and he was then brought up as Pharaoh's daughter's son, and called him Moses, because she "drew him out of the water." Miriam seemed to have a good influence on the Israelite women, and is called a prophetess Ex.15:20. However she failed to support Moses (Num.12:14) and Yahweh inflicted her with leprosy, and was cured when Moses appealed to God to heal her. So 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. (Num. 20:1 & 29)

Though the whole congregation had gathered in Kadesh, it seems that their wilderness journey had not increased their faith in God. For it appeared that there was now no water for them, and as was there want they gathered themselves together against Moses and Aaron. Notwithstanding the terror of the Lord inflicted upon the rebels, they gathered themselves together against Moses and Aaron, moaning that it would have been better to have died with their rebellious relatives, all those years ago than wander in the wilderness. The whole hateful bitterness came pouring out again, in

their view everything had gone wrong. So Moses and Aaron unable to reason with them went and stood at the entrance to the Tabernacle and bowed down implementing the teaching in Psalm 109:4 “For my love they are my adversaries: but I *give myself unto prayer*”. (Psa 109:4)

Yahweh responded and the glory of God appeared to them, and Moses was instructed to take his rod, and stand together with Aaron and gather the congregation together and to **speak** to the rock. The rock represented Yahweh “*He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.* (Deu 32:4) In Pauls first letter to the Corinthians, he points out that Israel in the wilderness, “did all eat the same spiritual meat; and **did all drink the same spiritual drink**: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness” (1Co 10:3-5)

But Moses reveals that he understood the symbolism of the Rock representing Yahweh for instead of “speaking” to the rock, he **struck the rock**, his own anger was so great that speaking to the assembled congregation, he asked them “must **WE** fetch you water out of this rock?” Moses actually smote Yahweh in manifestation, even as did the Jews to the Lord Jesus. John 5:23 states “He that honours not the Son honours not the Father.”

Moses incensed by the undercurrent of rebellion failed to give Yahweh the honour. The water came out abundantly and the congregation drank and so did their cattle. But the consequence of Moses’s anger was that he was forbidden entrance to the Promised Land. It is an important lesson for all brothers and sisters to remember when dealing with problems.

1. Moses angrily addressed the people
2. He neglected to follow divine instruction to “speak to the rock”
3. He took the glory due to Yahweh by using the pronoun “we”.

Of himself Moses did not have that power

4. In anger he smote the rock twice.

5. He failed to act in faith.

6. He failed to sanctify Yahweh in the eyes of the people

All brothers and sisters should ensure they follow the Scriptural injunction, “be angry and sin not” and “Let not the sun go down upon your wrath.”

The failure was not only aimed at Moses, but at Aaron as well for God instructed Moses that Aaron was to die, “And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron in mount Hor, by the coast of the land of Edom, saying, “Aaron shall be gathered unto his people: for he shall not enter into the land which I have given unto the children of Israel, because you rebelled against my word at the water of Meribah.

The death of Aaron would require someone to take over his position as High Priest and this was already prepared for, and Moses was instructed to “Take Aaron and Eleazar his son, and bring them up unto mount Hor: (Eleazar was the High Priest designate) And strip Aaron of his garments, and put them upon Eleazar his son: and Aaron shall be gathered *unto his people*, and shall die there.

These garments were garments of Office and were described as **holy garments** for Aaron thy brother **for glory and for beauty**³ And thou shalt speak unto all *that are* wise hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments to consecrate him, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office. . They were unique but were really representative of aspects of character, such as we see in the Lord Jesus Christ. “And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: But this *man*, (the Lord Jesus Christ) because he continues for ever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such an high priest became us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needs not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up

himself. For the law makes men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, makes the Son, who is consecrated for evermore. (Heb 7:23-28 KJV)

Moses did as the LORD commanded: and they went up into mount Hor in the sight of all the congregation. And Moses stripped Aaron of his garments, and put them upon Eleazar his son; and Aaron died there in the top of the mount: and Moses and Eleazar came down from the mount. *And when all the congregation saw that Aaron was dead, they mourned for Aaron thirty days, even all the house of Israel.* (Num. 20:23-29)

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