

Miriam and Aaron Die

Just a few thoughts upon today's Bible class. Miriam and Aaron both die in this chapter. Their deaths are different yet the same. Different in the environment that surrounds their deaths. Miriam we read dies and is buried as the nation of Israel enters the city of Kadesh. Her death is on one level unassuming, an ordinary typical event, death comes or happens to us all. There is little fanfare and no national lamentation which were done for Aaron.

Death is one of life's constants, a famous saying states 'death and taxes happen to all' yet this saying omits other things which occur in life: conflict and strife. What do the deaths of these two people have as lessons? Well death in general reminds us we all have a finite amount of time available to us. God pronounced this as three score years and ten. During this period our works will be numbered and our resultant fate determined accordingly. Daniel chapter 5, the writing on the wall, is an illustration of this as is the Revelation pronouncement 'I know thy works'. It therefore prompts us to reassess the example each set. Miriam started well, she looked out for the safety of Moses when he was just a baby, a sense of care she didn't let slip. However in later life this caused her to over step the mark; an unfortunate common human trait. She was also a prophetess and a guide to the women of Israel. Aaron again started well, he was the designated mouthpiece for God's word which Moses was to deliver to the people, both Jews and Egyptians. In addition he was appointed as High priest, unfortunately he like Miriam failed in these roles. Again lessons of human weakness.

What is interesting is that between their deaths Moses himself was overtaken in calamity when he struck the rock to bring forth water rather than speak to it as God had instructed him. Gentle, soft, but powerful a still small voice which Moses translated to a violent blow

and for that he in turn was told he would not bring the people of Israel into the Promised land.

This account shows us that it is with the combined efforts of all parts of the body which help to edify or strengthen it, also that weakness or inability lies at the door of everyone. However it is the sum of our lives which decide our ultimate fate and that at the judgement of Jesus Christ.