

Why Moses was Forbidden to Enter the Promised Land!



When God called Moses to lead His people from Egypt, Moses had a rod in his hand. God told him to throw it on the ground and it became a serpent. When he picked it up by the tail, by God's command, it became a rod again. **God told him that by means of that rod He would show signs to the people of Israel that they might know that the Lord was God.** He called it, "The Rod of God".

Aaron was to be the spokesman for Moses and he, too, could use the Rod of God. The rod was to show their authority to lead Israel. **The Rod of God is called Moses' Rod and also called Aaron's Rod.** See the Scriptures to validate what we have just written about these men both using the Rod of God for signs of their authority.

The Lord to Moses

Exodus 4:2-5,15-17, 21
Exodus 10:12-13, 21-22
Exodus 17:4-6, 9-12

The Lord to Moses and Aaron

Exodus 7:8-12, 19-20
Exodus 8:5-6,16-17

In the contest of the rod with Aaron's name on it with the other princes of the twelve tribes, (**Numbers 17:6-10.**) Moses was told to lay up Aaron's rod that budded as a testimony against the rebels and it was placed in the Ark of the Covenant.

Hebrews 9:4, "Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and **Aaron's rod that budded**, and the tables of the covenant;"

So the Rod of God was important.

They both used the Rod of God for signs to convince that God was ready to redeem Israel. When convinced, the people bowed on their faces and worshipped. **Exodus 4:15-17**, "15 And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do. 16 And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people: and he shall be, *even* he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God. 17 And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs."

Exodus 4:31, "And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, **then they bowed their heads and worshipped.**"

The Rod of God typifies Jesus and when His signs begin to come to be seen, they should lift up their faces because their redemption was drawing nigh.

Luke 21:28, "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

The Rod of God was used to bring judgment on Egypt by means of the plagues at the hand of Moses and Aaron against Pharaoh.

Exodus 7:19-21 So likewise, Jesus, our Rod, contends with Satan in delivering people from the bondage of sin. He is our Passover Lamb under whose blood men must trust to be redeemed from the bondage of sin.

The Rod of God was also used at the immersion of the people unto Moses in the cloud and in the Sea as Moses lifted the Rod of God over the Red Sea. He said "Stand back and see the salvation of the Lord."

Exodus 14:13-16, 28 Likewise, when we are baptized into Christ, our sins are gone and there remains not so much as one of them.

Compare to:

1 Corinthians 10:1-2, "1 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; 2 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;"

Acts 22:16, “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

The Rod of God was used to provide water for those going through the Wilderness of Sin. Though they sinned when they murmured, Moses was told that life-giving waters would be given if he would use the Rod of God to strike the rock.

So, likewise, we are told in **1 Corinthians 10:4** That Spiritually, that Rock was Christ. Because Jesus was smitten for us, the waters of life flow out to give Spiritual life to those who continue to drink of His supply. He bids us come and drink when we are thirsty.

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

The Rod of God, or Aaron’s Rod, was used to contest the false intercessors. Their rods remained only sticks. But Aaron’s Rod came to life again and bore not only buds (life), blossoms (beauty), but almonds (fruit). It was dead, but bore the evidence of all the seasons where it lived again.

Numbers 17:8-10, “8 And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, **the rod of Aaron** for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds. 9 And Moses brought out all the rods from before the LORD unto all the children of Israel: and they looked, and took every man his rod. 10 And the LORD said unto Moses, **Bring Aaron’s rod again before the testimony**, to be kept for a token against the rebels; and thou shalt quite take away their murmurings from me, that they die not.”

It sealed the fact that Aaron and his sons were to be the intercessors just as he had Aaron as intercessor by the testing of the censers of Korah and his cohorts. **Numbers 16**

Likewise, Jesus was dead but is alive again, and therefore He has a superior Priesthood to the priests of Aaron, for Christ ever lives and is of the order of Melchizek. He continueth ever and has no need of a transferable priesthood, for He everliveth to make intercession for us.

Hebrews 7:8, 16, 24, “8 And here men that die receive tithes; but there he *receiveth them*, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth. 16 Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life. 24 But this *man*, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.”

This background on the uses of the Rod of God and its types prepares us to look seriously at the sin of Moses and Aaron: and why their sin was so severely punished.

We know God, and are confident that Moses’ sin was a great sin. God withheld their entrance to Canaan. The punishment they received is a great stumbling block to many people. To them, it seems such an exaggerated punishment.

Moses spoke to the Lord about it but the Lord told him to not mention it again. **Deuteronomy 3:23-28**. Moses repeatedly blamed His people for causing him to become angry over it that he could not enter. **Deuteronomy 1:37, 3:26**

God had told Moses earlier on a different occasion to strike the rock to bring forth water for the people. **Exodus 17:5-6**, “5 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and **thy rod**, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go. 6 Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, 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.”

But this latter murmuring was close to forty years later, just before they were to enter the Promised Land. **Numbers 20:8-9**

What did God tell Moses and Aaron to do this time as they stood at the door of the tabernacle when the people murmured for water? Numbers 20:8, “**Take the rod**, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and **speak 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.”

What did Moses do?

Number 20:9-11, “9 And Moses took **the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him**. 10 And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, **Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock? 11 And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice**: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts *also*.”

What did God do about what Moses and Aaron did?

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

Was what Moses did so bad? I think I can show you five sins committed here by the prophet.

1. He did not believe God.

2. He did not sanctify God in the eyes of the children of Israel as the provider of the water.
3. He did not just speak to the rock, but smote it in anger.
4. He did not speak to the rock, but instead he spoke to the people and called them "rebels".
5. He took the credit to himself. "How long must WE fetch you water out of this rock?"

Let's look closely at these five things.

1. **It was very presumptuous. Prophets were not to add to God's Word. Deuteronomy 18:20**, "But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die."
2. **It was presumptuous in taking credit for a miracle God told them to do.**
3. **It was disobedience to what God said.** Speak, not strike.
4. **He spoke unadvisedly with his lips due to his temper. Psalms 106:32-33**
5. **He called the people of God, "rebels".**
6. **He destroyed one of God's teaching types. That Rock represented, or was typical, of Christ. 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 Christ."

The Rock was smitten almost forty years earlier and need not be smitten again but merely needs to be spoken to by the immersed believer.

The Rock needs not be smitten again to bear fresh flowing rivers of water.

Jesus, our Rock, was smitten once for all. He need not be crucified again.

Hebrews 6:6, "If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing **they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh**, and put *him* to an open shame."

Hebrews 7:27, "Who needeth 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."

Hebrews 9:26-28, "26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world (*kosmos*): but now **once in the end of the world** (*alnos* or *age*) hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: 28 So Christ was **once offered** to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

Do you see why Moses' sin was so serious? It was not just a loss of temper from dealing with a murmuring and stiff-necked people. It was destructive of the message we learn about the Rod of God. **He abused the Rod of God to his own glory.**

Do you see the danger of not believing God? Proverbs 30:5, "Every word of God *is* pure: he *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him."

Do you see the danger of going beyond what God says? Proverb 30:6, "Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar."

Do you see the danger of crucifying Christ afresh?

Do you see the danger of calling God's people names?

Do you see the danger of taking God's glory to yourself?

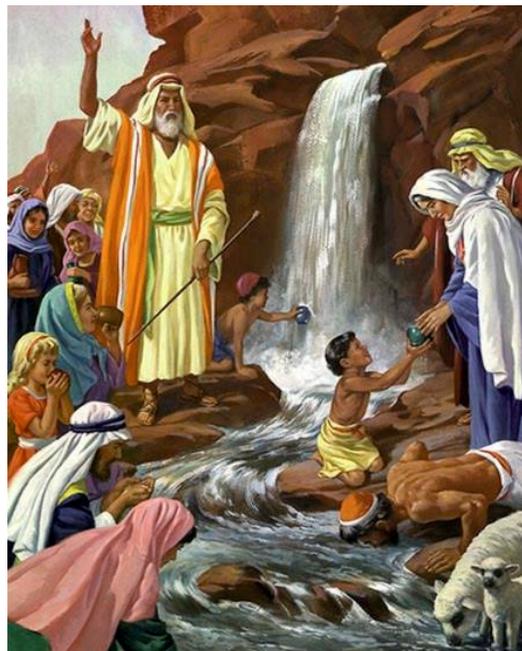
Do you see the necessity of keeping control of your temper and tongue? Psalms 106:32-33, "32 They angered *him* also at the waters of strife, so that it went ill with Moses for their sakes: 33 Because they provoked his spirit, so that he spake unadvisedly with his lips."

Do you see that God is not a respecter of persons? For God did not show favoritism to even Moses.

Some try to soften all this by reminding us that later Moses was seen with Elijah and Jesus in the Promised Land, **but that was only a vision. Matthew 17:9**

Of course we are not saying Moses was lost because of this sin, he was forgiven. **Hebrews 11** he is called "faithful over his house". His sin is not mentioned again.

Once Jesus died, Moses' sin was covered by Christ's blood. However,



the lesson remains. Neither Moses, who stands for the Law, nor Miriam, who stands for the prophets, nor Aaron, who stands for the Levitical Priesthood, led men to God's Promised Rest.

Moses, (the Law) could only point to Joshua (Jesus) and give him honor. He would lead Israel across the Jordan to the Promised Land of Rest. **Numbers 27:20, "And thou shalt put *some* of thine honour upon him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient."**

What Moses and the Law could not do, Joshua (Jesus), the captain of our salvation could do. You will notice that Joshua did not use the Rod of God to cross Jordan but required only for the priests to step into the water and take over the Ark with its contents, which included God's rod.

The people following Joshua (Jesus) are promised what was in that Ark. Manna (a God who provides) Law (the Words of a God-ordained Lawgiver) and the Rod of God (An intercessory High Priest that everliveth).

So with us.

Moses' sin was great, but God's grace was greater. He only was permitted to look over into the land of rest. But if we remain faithful we shall see Him bye and bye.

Moses suffered loss for his presumption but repentance restored him. If you, a child of God, have committed the same sins as Moses, just speak to the Rock.

If you're an immersed believer... there's water in the rock.