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# Pearl Seeking

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## TREASURING HIS WORD

Let's do a quick overview of the entire Torah portion:

Monday:	Num. 19	The Red Heifer
Tuesday:	Num. 20:1-13	Death of Miryam; Mosheh strikes the rock at the waters of Meribah
Wednesday:	Num. 20:14-29	Passage through Edom denied; Death of Aharon; El'azar promoted to High Priest
Thursday:	Num. 21:1-9	The plague of snake-bites; Gazing on the Bronze Serpent
Friday:	Num. 21:10-22:1	The journey to Mo'ab; King Sihon and King Og defeated

In this week's Parsha Pearls lesson, we will look at the testing of the children of Yisra'el because of a severe lack of water to drink, and how Yahweh miraculously provided the waters of Meribah. We will consider the actions of Mosheh and Aharon at the rock and their consequences. In this parsha we will also witness the death of Miryam and Aharon, and how the mantle of the High Priest is transferred to Aharon's son El'azar. Now, let's read Num. 20:1-13, 22-29.

## PARSHA POINTS

- The children of Yisra'el travel to the Wilderness of Tsin at Qadesh, where Miryam dies and is buried - 20:1
- The congregation assembles against Mosheh and Aharon because there is no water (**mayim**) there for them to drink - 20:2
- The people contend with Mosheh, saying (20:3-5):
  - If only we had died before Yahweh along with the others!
  - Why did you bring us into this wilderness, so that we and our livestock should die here?
  - Why did you bring us out of Mitsrayim to this evil place?
  - There is no grain or figs or vines or pomegranates
  - There is no water to drink
- Mosheh and Aharon approach the door of the Tent of Appointment and fall on their faces, and Yahweh's esteem appears before them - 20:6



- Yahweh addresses Mosheh, saying (20:7-8):

- Take the rod, and you and Aharon assemble the congregation
- Speak (**davar**) to the rock (**sehlah**) before their eyes, and it shall give out water
- You shall bring water out of the rock, to provide drink for the congregation and their livestock



- Mosheh takes the rod, as Yahweh had commanded, and assembles the congregation before the rock - 20:9-10
- Mosheh labels the people rebels, and demands to know if he should bring water out of the rock for them - 20:10
- Mosheh then lifts his hand and strikes the rock twice with his rod - 20:11
- Water gushes out of the rock for the people and their livestock to drink - 20:11
- Although the miracle has happened, Yahweh reprimands Mosheh and Aharon for showing that they did not believe Him, and for failing to set Yahweh apart in the eyes of the children of Yisra'el - 20:12
- Yahweh pronounces His judgment; Mosheh and Aharon will NOT be the ones to lead the assembly into the land of promise - 20:12
- Because the children of Yisra'el contended with Yahweh over their lack of water, the place where the waters were given is called **Meribah** (place of strife/quarreling) - 20:13



- The children of Yisra'el depart from Qadesh and arrive at Mount Hor - 20:22
- Yahweh reveals to Mosheh that Aharon's life and ministry are now at an end; he will NOT enter the land, because they both had rebelled against Yahweh's mouth at the water of Meribah - 20:24

- Yahweh instructs Mosheh to bring Aharon and his son El'azar up to Mount Hor - 20:25



- Yahweh has Mosheh remove Aharon's priestly garments and put them on El'azar, for it is time for Aharon to be gathered to his people and die there on the mountain - 20:26

- Mosheh transfers the priestly garments from Aharon to El'azar, then Aharon dies on top of the mountain. Mosheh and El'azar come down from the mountain without him - 20:28



- When all the congregation sees that Aharon is gone, they mourn his death for 30 (**shloshim**) days - 20:29

# DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- In this parsha, the children of Yisra'el grumbled yet again about lack of water, and demanded that Mosheh provide it. Discuss Mosheh's actions when he failed to obey Yahweh's instruction to speak to the rock, but instead struck the rock-not just once, but twice.
- Consider that Mosheh had spent 40 years hearing the congregation complain to him about everything and accuse him every time something went wrong. How would you react?
- Notice how Mosheh responded to their complaint this time: "Shall WE bring water for you out of this rock?" Do you think perhaps Mosheh had gotten a little too 'full of himself'? Or do you think his actions were just a momentary reaction after many years of 'wear and tear' in dealing with a stiff-necked people?
- Knowing that Yahweh sees into the hearts of men, do you think His decision not to allow Mosheh and Aharon to lead the people into Kena'an was fair?

