

# Numbers 20:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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?

## Analysis

Moses and Aaron gather the assembly before the rock, and Moses addresses them: 'Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?' Moses' frustration erupts in harsh words and the plural 'we' (instead of crediting God alone). This momentary lapse—taking credit for God's miracle—cost Moses entry into Canaan, showing how even great leaders must guard against pride in ministry.

## Historical Context

This incident contrasts with earlier water-from-rock miracle at Rephidim (Exodus 17:6), where Moses obeyed exactly. Years of patient leadership under constant complaint apparently accumulated, resulting in this flash of frustrated pride.

## Related Passages

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

1. How can accumulated frustration in ministry lead to taking credit for God's work?

2. What practices help you maintain humility in spiritual leadership despite opposition?

## Interlinear Text

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גָּמַן וְאַל תִּקְרַב לְעֵדָה | מֵשֶׁה וְאַבְרָהָם אֶת בְּקָרְבָּן לְפָנֶיךָ אַל  
gathered And Moses and Aaron the congregation together before  
H6950 H4872 H175 H853 H6951 H413 H6440

פְּנֵי כָּמֹן הַמֶּרְאָה נָא שְׁמַעוּ לְבָם יְאָמַר  
out of this rock and he said unto them Hear now ye rebels  
H5553 H559 H0 H4994 H4784 H4480

לְבָם נֹצֵץ יָא מְנִימָּה לְבָם נֹצֵץ יָא  
out of this rock must we fetch you water  
H5553 H2088 H3318 H0 H4325

## Additional Cross-References

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**James 3:2** (Parallel theme): For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.

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