

Numbers 20:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Moses 'smote the rock twice' with his rod, and 'water came out abundantly.' God graciously provided despite Moses' disobedience—He struck instead of speaking as commanded (v.8). The double striking suggests either frustrated emphasis or lack of faith in God's method. Yet abundance of water demonstrated God's mercy to undeserving people through imperfect leaders.

Historical Context

Paul identifies this rock as Christ (1 Corinthians 10:4), making Moses' striking a typological picture of Christ's suffering. The second striking violated God's instruction but powerfully illustrates Christ being 'once offered' (Hebrews 9:28)—additional striking unnecessary.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God show grace by accomplishing His purposes despite our disobedience?
2. What does the rock struck twice teach about Christ's once-for-all sacrifice?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּלָּחַץ מֹשֶׁה אֶת יָדוֹ וַיִּכּוּ אֶת הַסֵּלֶעַ וּבְמִטּוֹ הוּא
lifted up **And Moses** **H853** **his hand** **he smote** **H853** **the rock** **and with his rod**
H7311 H4872 H3027 H5221 H5553 H4294

פַּעַם יְצֵאוֹ מִן הַיָּם רַב יִשְׁתְּ וְהָעֵדָה הִיא
twice **came out** **and the water** **abundantly** **drank** **and the congregation**
H6471 H3318 H4325 H7227 H8354 H5712

וּבְעִיָּרָם:
and their beasts
H1165

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 10:4 (Parallel theme): And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

Exodus 17:6 (References Moses): 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.

Deuteronomy 8:15 (Parallel theme): Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint;

Numbers 20:8 (Parallel theme): 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.

Psalms 78:16 (Parallel theme): He brought streams also out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers.

1 Chronicles 15:13 (Parallel theme): For because ye did it not at the first, the LORD our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order.

Matthew 28:20 (Parallel theme): Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

James 1:20 (Parallel theme): For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

Hosea 13:5 (Parallel theme): I did know thee in the wilderness, in the land of great drought.

1 Samuel 15:24 (Parallel theme): And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.