

Numbers 20:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in mount Hor, by the coast of the land of Edom, saying,

Analysis

At Kadesh, God speaks to Moses and Aaron about the waters called Meribah ('strife' or 'contention'). The name memorialized Israel's contentious rebellion against God's provision and leaders. This second Meribah (cf. Exodus 17:7) demonstrates persistent patterns of unbelief. God's naming of places preserves warning to future generations.

Historical Context

The waters of Meribah became proverbial in Israel's history (Psalm 81:7, 95:8, 106:32), referenced as warning against hardening hearts in unbelief. Hebrews 3:7-19 applies this warning to church, showing Old Testament examples instruct New Testament believers.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What place-names in your spiritual journey mark times of testing or failure?

2. How do you use past failures as instruction rather than dwelling in condemnation?

Interlinear Text

לֵאמֹר:	יְהוָה	אֶל	מֹשֶׁה	וְאֶל	אַהֲרֹן	בְּהָרִ	קֶדְרִ
saying	And the LORD	H413	unto Moses	H413	and Aaron	Hor	in mount
H559	H3068		H4872		H175	H2023	H2022
עַל	גֹּב וּלְ	אֶרֶץ	אֶדְוֹם	לֵאמֹר:			
H5921	by the coast	of the land	of Edom	saying			
	H1366	H776	H123	H559			

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