

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

בְּרֵבֶר בְּהֵר אָבָרִן לְאָמָר:
saying And the LORD H413 unto Moses H4872 and Aaron H175 Hor H2023 in mount H2022

עַל גְּבַע לְאָמָר אֶדְוּם אֶרְצָה אֶדְוּם לְאָמָר:
H5921 by the coast of the land of Edom saying H1366 H776 H123 H559

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