

Numbers 20:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Aaron shall be gathered unto his people: for he shall not enter into the land which I have given unto the children of Israel, because ye rebelled against my word at the water of Meribah.

Analysis

God commands Moses and Aaron to 'speak ye unto the rock before their eyes,' promising water will flow. This method differed from the earlier rock-striking (Exodus 17:6), requiring simple obedience to God's word rather than dramatic action. Speaking to rock demonstrates faith in God's word alone to accomplish miracles—no additional human action needed beyond obedience.

Historical Context

The change from striking to speaking tests whether Moses would obey God's specific method or rely on previously successful patterns. This highlights the necessity of present obedience over past precedent in following God's instructions.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How can past success in ministry become hindrance to present obedience if methods change?

2. What does God requiring only spoken word teach about faith in His power versus human effort?

Interlinear Text

יִאָסֵךְ	אַבְרָהָם	אֶל	עַמּוֹ	לְאֶתְּ
shall be gathered	Aaron	unto his people		
H622	H413	H5971	H3588	H3808
יְבָא	אֶל	רָצֶן	נָתַתִּי	כִּי
for he shall not enter	into the land		which I have given	
H935	H413	H776	H834	H5414
לְבָנֵי	אֲשֶׁר	עַל	מְרִיבַת	אַתָּה
unto the children	of Israel		because ye rebelled against	
H1121	H3478	H5921	H4784	H853
מִרְיבָּהָה	לְמִ	גִּ		
my word	at the water	of Meribah		
H6310	H4325	H4809		

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 25:8 (Parallel theme): Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people.

Deuteronomy 32:50 (Parallel theme): And die in the mount whither thou goest up, and be gathered unto thy people; as Aaron thy brother died in mount Hor, and was gathered unto his people:

Numbers 31:2 (References Israel): Avenge the children of Israel of the Midianites: afterward shalt thou be gathered unto thy people.

Numbers 27:13 (Parallel theme): And when thou hast seen it, thou also shalt be gathered unto thy people, as Aaron thy brother was gathered.