

# Numbers 20:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

## Analysis

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God instructs Moses to 'speak ye unto the rock' to bring forth water. The command to speak rather than strike (as at Rephidim, Exodus 17:6) represented a new directive requiring fresh obedience. Moses' subsequent striking of the rock instead of speaking to it (verse 11) violated this command, resulting in his exclusion from Canaan. Second-time obedience must match current instructions, not merely repeat past patterns.

## Historical Context

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This incident occurred near Kadesh at the end of forty years' wandering, bookending the wilderness period. The generation that failed to enter Canaan was nearly gone; Moses himself would soon be excluded for this failure. Even great leaders must maintain precise obedience to God's specific commands.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How do you distinguish between legitimate repetition of past obedience and assumption that God's methods never change?
2. What 'second chances' has God given you that required modified obedience?

## Interlinear Text

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לֹאמֶר: מֵשֶׁה וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים וְיֹאמֶר  
spake And the LORD unto Moses saying  
H1696 H3068 H413 H4872 H559

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