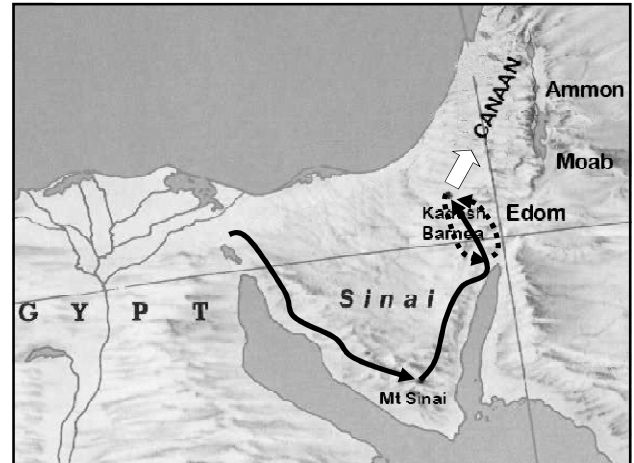


## Gleanings from the Pentateuch

### *The Waters of Meribah* Numbers 20:1-13



## Waters of Meribah

### Setting: *Back at Kadesh*

- 38 years later – the 40<sup>th</sup> year since leaving Egypt
- Much of the first generation has died – the movement toward Canaan is beginning again

## Waters of Meribah

### Numbers 20:2-13

#### ➤ *Two surprising features!*

1. The Lord's non-judgment on His people for their grumbling, and instead, His gracious provision
2. The Lord's strict judgment on His servants Moses and Aaron for a "minor" offense

## Waters of Meribah

### 1. The Lord's Provision

#### ➤ *This event was a test/trial to...*

- make them deeply conscious of their complete dependence on God and remove self-reliance
- teach them that following God's word is the source of life and satisfaction

Deuteronomy 8:2-17

## Waters of Meribah

### 2. The Rebellion of Moses (& Aaron)

#### ➤ *His acts of disobedience*

- He spoke harshly to the people apart from God's command
- He struck the rock twice instead of speaking to the rock

## Waters of Meribah

### 2. The Rebellion of Moses (& Aaron)

- *The nature of his "unbelief"*
  - He did not believe God's gracious response was appropriate – he sought to take vengeance himself
  - He pointed too much to himself as the source of the water and thus detracted from God and the lesson God purposed to teach

## Waters of Meribah

### Lessons

1. Those in spiritual leadership incur a stricter judgment
2. The consequences of sin in this age may be severe and lifelong
3. Self-promotion that detracts from God's glory is a great offense to God
4. Words spoken rashly in anger may cause irreparable harm

## Waters of Meribah

### Lessons

5. The anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God
6. Begrudging God's mercy to sinners is a form of unbelief
7. Vigilance over the heart is needed until the very end

## Waters of Meribah

### Lessons

8. The best of saints are yet great sinners in need of a great Savior!