

Shalom!

When the Israelites left Egypt and journeyed toward the Promised Land, they came to a place called Kadesh-Barnea. It was a harsh, arid region, surrounded by towering mountains and deep valleys. Crossing that desert was extremely difficult. Looking back, they saw how far they had come; looking ahead, they saw how far they still had to go—and they began to complain against God and Moses.

God then told Moses, “Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly. Speak to that rock before their eyes, and it will pour out its water” (Exodus 17:6, ESV).

Moses obeyed, struck the rock, and water flowed. The Israelites drank and were satisfied, and their journey continued.

Many years later, after wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, God brought the Israelites back to the same area. The conditions were just as harsh, and this time, looking at the familiar rock, it appeared dry. Their children and livestock were dying of thirst.

And once again, the people were in danger of repeating the same mistake: complaining against God and Moses.

Moses sought God's guidance, and God said, "Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will pour out its water" (Numbers 20:8, ESV).

But instead of following God's instructions carefully, Moses relied on habit. He struck the rock again rather than speaking to it. Water did flow, and the people drank—but God was displeased.

Numbers 20:12 (ESV): "Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them."

God often repeats circumstances in our lives, but that does not mean the message is always the same. Consider the Bible itself: it contains 66 books, and one could read them all in a week. Some people have read the Bible hundreds of times in their

lifetime. If we read it only to gain new information, it may feel repetitive, and we may gain nothing.

But when we read to hear God's voice, each verse can feel fresh, as if we've never read it before. Why? Because we are listening with a heart focused on God, rather than relying on our past experiences or knowledge of the text.

Take another example from Scripture: in Revelation, chapters 2 and 3, Jesus instructs John to send letters to the seven churches in Asia Minor. Each church received a message specific to them. Yet the letters were not just for that time—they also represent the seven eras of the Church throughout history. From the time of the apostles until today, we have seen these seven eras, and we now live in the seventh, the Church of Laodicea, which began in the early 20th century and will continue until the rapture.

We must be careful not to treat God's Word casually just because the circumstances or verses seem familiar. If Moses had truly listened, perhaps the rock could have provided continuous water, just as Christ, the Rock, provides the eternal springs of living water, not a temporary supply (*1 Corinthians 10:4, NIV*).

God desires to teach us daily. He wants to speak to us continually. But if we think, "I've already heard this," we remain spiritually immature.

1 Corinthians 8:2 (NIV): "Those who think they are something do not yet realize they are nothing."

My prayer is that we all seek God's voice sincerely, no matter how many times we have read or heard the same Word.

Psalms 12:6 (NIV): "The words of the Lord are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times."

God bless you abundantly.

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