

Questions / Answers

1. What did God tell Moses to do when the people grumbled that there was no water?
He told Moses to speak to the rock at Kadesh.
2. What did Moses do? *He hit the rock twice.*
3. How did God punish Moses for not obeying Him exactly?
Moses was not allowed to go into the Promised Land.
4. What lesson about Jesus was God teaching us?
Jesus is strong like a rock. He was struck (crucified) to give us life.
5. How did Moses spoil the lesson?
He hit the rock twice. Jesus would only be crucified once.
6. Will Moses ever be allowed to go into the Promised Land? If so, when?
Yes. When Jesus comes back and raises Moses from the dead.
7. Why did God send fiery snakes into the camp?
To punish the Israelites for grumbling again.
8. Who prayed for the Israelites? *Moses*
9. How could the Israelites be saved from their snake bites?
By looking at the bronze snake on a pole which God told Moses to make.
10. How did the bronze snake teach us a lessons about Jesus?
Jesus was lifted up on the cross. If we believe in him we can be saved.

Memory verses

John 3:14—16 John 6:48—50

Discussion

God used some things that happened in the Old Testament to teach lessons about how Jesus would come to save people from their sins. Discuss the lessons we can learn about Jesus from: 1) Moses striking the rock
2) the bronze snake on the pole.

Writing

Pretend you were an Israelite in the wilderness. Write about how you felt when the way was hard and there was no water and only manna to eat. Describe what happened to your family when fiery snakes came in the camp.

CBM Senior Lessons



Lesson 15 The wilderness journey—2

READING Numbers 20:1—13 and Numbers 21:4—9; John 3:14—16

LESSON

God said that the Israelites would have to wander in the wilderness for forty years because they did not trust him. Moses led the people away from the border of the Promised Land and they went back into the wilderness.

The Israelites did not like living in the wilderness. They lived in tents and it was dry and dusty. They came to Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin. They could not find any water to drink and they were very thirsty. The Israelites did not remember that God had provided water for them in the wilderness on other occasions. They did not trust in God and pray to Him.

Instead they came to Moses and grumbled at him. They said, “Why have you made us come up out of Egypt and brought us to this terrible place? We had plenty to eat in Egypt but we shall all die of thirst in this evil place.” Moses went to the door of the Tabernacle and fell on his face and prayed to God. The glory of God appeared to Moses and God told him to speak to the rock at Kadesh and water would come out for the people to drink.

Some time earlier in their journey, when they were at Horeb, the Israelites had grumbled because there was no water. On that occasion God told Moses to take his rod and **hit** the rock that was at Horeb and water came out for the Israelites to drink. Now they were at Kadesh and this time God told Moses take his rod and to **speak** to the rock at Kadesh and He would make water come out of the rock for the people to drink.

Moses was angry with the people. He took his rod and shouted to all the Israelites, "Listen, you rebels, must we bring water out of this rock for you?" Then Moses hit the rock twice. Water flowed out of the rock for the people. But God was not pleased with Moses. It was God who brought water from the rock, not Moses and Aaron. Moses had been angry and had not obeyed exactly what God said. God told Moses to speak to the rock, but Moses hit the rock twice.

As a punishment for not obeying God in faith Moses was not allowed to go into the Promised Land. This was a very hard punishment. Moses had led the Israelites through the desert for 40 years, but he was not allowed to go into the land himself.

This shows us how important it is to obey God's commands exactly. In the Old Testament God showed many lessons about the time when Jesus would come. God was showing a lesson about Jesus and Moses spoilt the lesson by striking the rock again. Moses had already struck a rock at Horeb to provide water for the people to drink. This time God told him just to speak to the rock. But Moses hit the rock twice.

Water from the rock	Jesus
A rock is strong and does not change .	Jesus is like a rock. The power of Jesus is very strong . His love for us never changes .
Water keeps us alive. Without water we would die. Moses struck the rock to give the people water to drink, so that they would not die.	Jesus, our rock, was crucified to give us the hope of eternal life.

God was showing a lesson about Jesus when He told Moses to get water from the rock. Jesus only had to die once. Moses spoilt the lesson by striking the rock twice.

Much later, at the end of the 40 years, God told Moses to climb a very high mountain by the land of Canaan. From the top of the mountain Moses was able to see the Promised Land. But he could not go into it. When Jesus comes back to be our King, he will raise Moses from the dead. Then Moses will live for ever in the land in God's Kingdom.

The Israelites travelled on through the wilderness. They soon started grumbling again. They said that they were tired and the way was too hard for them. They said to Moses, "Why have you brought us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we hate this vile food!" The people were grumbling against God. He gave them manna to eat every day. He gave them water to drink. But they still grumbled.

God was angry with the Israelites. They did not thank Him for caring for them. They only grumbled. God sent fiery serpents, or snakes, into the camp. The fiery snakes suddenly appeared. The Israelites ran, screaming, into their tents. But the snakes wriggled into the tents. The snakes bit the people. The snake bites were very poisonous and many people died. Many people lay in their tents very ill because of the snake bites. They were in great pain from the bites. Everyone was afraid.

The Israelites went to Moses. They said, "We have sinned. We were wrong to grumble. Please pray to God and ask Him to forgive us and take away these fiery snakes." So Moses prayed for the people.


God told Moses to make a model of a snake out of bronze and to put it high up on a pole. God said that whoever looked at the bronze snake on the pole would be healed of their snake bites.

Moses made the bronze serpent, or snake and put it on a pole. Moses told the people that anyone who had been bitten must look at the bronze serpent on the pole. If they looked at the bronze serpent then they would be healed. Many of the Israelites who had been bitten by the fiery snakes believed that God would heal them. When they looked at the bronze serpent they were healed.

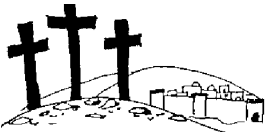
God was teaching a lesson by the bronze serpent. He was teaching a lesson about Jesus. The bronze serpent was lifted up on a pole. Everyone who believed and looked at it did not die. They were healed and lived. Jesus was lifted up on the cross. Everyone who believes in Jesus and obeys God will not die for ever. They will have everlasting life.

The bronze serpent

was lifted up on a pole
The people had to believe
and obey God
Then they were healed and
their life was saved



Jesus



was lifted up on the cross
We have to believe in Jesus
and obey God
We can be saved and
have eternal life