

The Command to Speak (Exodus 17: 1-6; Numbers 20)

The power of words when mingled with faith will be visible to all: rock will render water; mountain will be moved to the sea; mulberry tree will be transferred.

At the cry of Moses to the Lord, when the people thirsted in their journey through the desert at the place called Rephidim, where there was no water, the Lord told Moses to pass on before the people, and take with him some elders, and the rod with which he smote the river and to go to Horeb where He would stand before him on the rock; and He said, You shall strike the rock and water shall come out of it, that the people may drink; and Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel (Exodus 17:3-6). However, in the experience registered in Numbers, the command was to speak to the rock, when once again the congregation of Israel, Just as in every crisis, behaved with anger and unbelief before Moses, contending with him with words as, Would that we had died when our brethren died before the Lord! Why have you brought up the congregation of the Lord into this wilderness, that we should die here, we and our livestock? Why have you made us come up out of Egypt to bring us into this evil place? It is no place of grain or of figs or of vines or of pomegranates and there is no water to drink. Moses went to the presence of the Lord together with his brother Aaron. There in His presence, they experienced the glory of the Lord and there He instructed Moses to speak to the rock saying, Give forth its water, and you shall bring forth to them water out of the rock (Numbers 20: 1-8).

YAHWEH'S command was to speak to the rock; however, Moses guided by frustration, used force through the rod and hit the rock instead and there his destiny was changed. Moses had sinned against YAHWEH'S command and after the long journey of forty years wandering through the desert; he was denied the entrance to the Promised Land. Why was it so important that Moses would speak to the rock as YAHWEH commanded? Wasn't that rock just a rock? Let's see its significance as we turn to the spiritual meaning of it. In the spiritual sense oil and water symbolize the Holy Spirit, and we also know that rock symbolizes YAHWEH and His strength. He is the Rock of ages, the rock of Israel (Genesis 49: 24); He is the Rock, His work is perfect (Deut. 32:4); Rock of His salvation (Deut.32:15); YAHWEH is the everlasting Rock (Isaiah 26:4). What was in this action of Moses so significantly expressed when he struck the rock? He stroke the body of YAHSHUA, Who many years later, would be struck through flogging and blows at the hands of the Romans; Moses struck the rock twice with the rod; YAHSHUA was struck on the head with the staff (Matt. 27:30); He was flogged with many blows until His body was completely disfigured according to Isaiah 52:14 which reads, His face and His whole appearance were marred more than any man's and His form beyond that of the sons of men; He was despised and rejected and forsaken by men, a Man of sorrows and pains, and acquainted with grief and sickness; and like One from Whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we did not appreciate His worth or have any esteem for Him; He was wounded; He was bruised; He was oppressed; He was afflicted and opened not His mouth; He was unjustly taken away (Isaiah 53). When He was flogged (hit) blood gushed from His body and flowed to the world to purify it and satisfied the thirst of those who would drink of it, as He told the Samaritan woman at the well: Whoever takes a drink of the water that I give him shall

never, no never be thirsty anymore; for the water I give shall become a spring of water welling up with him unto eternal life (John 4:14). “Become a spring of water continually unto eternal life” is the presence of His HOLY SPIRIT in the life of those who drink of the blood of YAHSHUA and who will eat of the Living Bread – His body. YAHSHUA is the eternal ROCK; the ROCK OF AGES.

“SPEAK TO THE ROCK and it will yield its water”! To speak to the Rock is to call on the Lord in times of need. In unbelief and complaints, we are hitting Him again and again! He said, Make your needs known to Me by petition and supplications and your needs will be supplied; stop worrying about your life; look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father keeps feeding them. Are you not worth much more than they? But seek first of all His kingdom and His righteousness and then all these things taken together will be given you besides (Matt. 6). When we do exactly what He commands us to do – to speak to the Rock about the needs, He will supply to whatever need we have; water will come from Him, the Rock in the form of blessings. Speak, He said to Moses, and you will bring forth water out of the rock.

Moses, when he hit the rock twice, was typifying also Pilate when he ordered the flogging be inflicted on YAHSHUA – the Rock; and Aaron, typified the Jewish religious authorities who handled YAHSHUA to the Romans to be crucified. This action was of such great significance to YAHWEH that neither Moses nor Aaron entered the Promised Land. In our wandering through the desert, many times we will come to the “Meribah- Kadesh, or Rephidim”, the places of no water. But remember that is not our destination; those places are only paths to the Promised Land. They are places where we must call unto YAHSHUA to have our needs met. He is most willing to answer us with the abundance of the presence of His Spirit to satisfy our spiritual thirst and hunger. We must not hit the Rock every time we go through trials by complaining. His promises stand firm in heaven that He will be with us until the end. Call unto Him today and let Him comfort you with the eternal water that comes from His presence; He is the living ROCK!

THINK ABOUT IT!