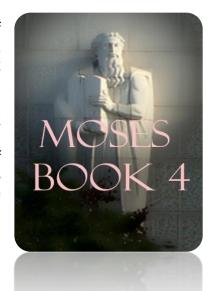
NUMBERS 20 vs 1

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In the preface to this Book of Moses we read: The titles of the five books of Moses, which we use in our Bibles, are all borrowed from the Greek translation of the Seventy, the most ancient version of the Old Testament what we know of. But the title of this book we only turn into English; in all the rest we retain the Greek word, for which difference I know no reason, but that the Latin translators have done the same. Otherwise this book might as well have been called: Arithmoi. Where we get our word: arithmetic. The Greek title = the numbering; as it shows the promise of God to Abraham that his children would be as the stars of heaven. In this book are two numberings: one at Mount Sinai in Arabia – chapter 1; and the other on the plains of Moab 39 years later. -- Matthew Henry.



The deaths of Miriam and Aaron

¹ Then came the children of Israel, even the whole gathering, came to the wilderness of Zin in the first month: and the people stayed at Kadesh. / most scholars agree this is 40 years after the exodus from Egypt.

Now Miriam died there, and was buried there.

- ² And there was no water for the assembly: and they gathered themselves against Moses and against Aaron.
- ³ And the people contended with Moses, and spoke, saying, If only we had died when our brothers died before the LORD!
- ⁴ Why have you brought the assembly of the LORD into this wilderness, that we and our cattle should die here?
- ⁵ And why have you made us to come up from Egypt, to bring us to this wretched place? It is not a place of seed, or figs, or vines, or pomegranates; nor is there water to drink.
- ⁶ Then Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the doorway of the tent of meeting, and fell on their faces. Then the glory of the LORD appeared to them.
- ⁷ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,
- ⁸ Take the rod, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly, and speak to the rock / in Hebrew: the sela so this is a different rock than we read about in Exodus 17... before their eyes; and it will yield its water. You will thus bring forth water for them from the rock / from the sela: and let their assembly and their animals drink.
- ⁹ And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as He commanded him.

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- ¹⁰ And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, Listen now, you rebels; must we fetch you water from this rock? / was he angry?
- ¹¹ And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice / but he was only supposed to speak to the rock: and water came out abundantly, and the assembly and their animals also drank.
- ¹² But the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, Because you did not believe Me, to treat Me as holy in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you will not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.
- ¹³ This is the water of Meribah; because the children of Israel contended with the LORD, and He was dedicated to them.
- ¹⁴ And from Kadesh, Moses sent messengers to the king of Edom, Thus says your brother Israel, You know all the struggle that has happened to us:
- ¹⁵ how our fathers went down to Egypt, and we stayed in Egypt a long time; and the Egyptians harassed us, and our fathers:
- ¹⁶ and when we cried to the LORD, He heard our voice, and sent an angel, and brought us out from Egypt: and, you see we are in Kadesh, a city on the edge of your border.
- ¹⁷ Let us pass, I pray you, through your country: we will not pass through your fields or vineyards, nor will we drink water from a well. We will go along the king's highway, not turning to the right or to the left, until we have passed your borders.
- 18 And Edom said to him, You will not pass through us, lest I come out with the sword against you.
- ¹⁹ Again the children of Israel said to him, We will go by the highway: and if I and my cattle drink any of your water, then I will pay its price. Let me only pass through on my feet, nothing more.
- ²⁰ But he said, You will not pass through.

And Edom came out against him with many people and a strong hand.

- ²¹ Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through his border: so Israel turned away from him.
- 22 Now when the children of Israel moved from Kadesh, the whole gathering came to Mount Hor.

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²³ And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron in Mount Hor, by the coast of the land of Edom, saving,

²⁴ Aaron will be gathered to his people: for he will not enter the land which I have given to the children of Israel, because you rebelled against My command at the waters of Meribah.

²⁵ Take Aaron and his son Eleazar, and bring them up to Mount Hor:

²⁶ and strip Aaron of his garments, and put them on his son Eleazar: so Aaron will be gathered to his people, and will die there.

²⁷ And Moses did as the LORD commanded: and they went up to Mount Hor in the sight of all the assembly.

²⁸ And after Moses stripped Aaron of his garments, and put them on his son Eleazar; and Aaron died there on the mountain top: then Moses and Eleazar came down from the mountain.

²⁹ And when all the gathering saw that Aaron was dead, all the house of Israel mourned for Aaron thirty days.

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His Sheep Hear His Voice And Follow Him

The Mountain of Moses - Sinai in Arabia

We are grateful to God that the Saudi govt has preserved the Mountain of Moses.