



## Portion:

### SCRIPTURES

- Number 19:1-22:1
- Hebrews 3:1-4:16
- Matthew 4:1-11; 13:52
- Exodus 17:1-7
- John 6:1-35, 5:39-47
- I Corinthians 10:1-6
- I Peter 2:4-8
- John 3:1-16, 19:34-37
- Luke 10:19; 24:27-44

## Title:

### JUICY ROCKS AND FIERY

### SERPENTS!

- Obedience and Faith
- Obedience and Rest
- Serious Offenses
- The Bread, Water, and Rock
- Persistent Complaining
- Fiery Serpents
- Trample on Serpents
- Seeing Prophetic Moments

*Your testimony is certain; your track record with Yahweh is well established. Y'shua has shown up time and again in your life. He is clearly the Rock of your Salvation, your bread from heaven and your living water. Yet, here you are again up against the impossible. What do you do at these pivotal times in your life? How do you react? "You are always with me Yahweh, so I got this. With You, anything is possible." Or, "Why did you bring me all the way here Father, only to abandon me and let me crash?" "Besides all that*

*past provision was worthless anyway!" Which road do you take when times get tough? "Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it." (Matthew 7:14)*

**THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE**

"Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. **Speak to the rock before their eyes**, and it will yield its water; thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals." So Moses took the rod from before the LORD as He commanded him. **And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock**; and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?" Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank. Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, **"Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land** which I have given them.'" Numbers 20:7-12 NKJV

**"And the people spoke against God and against Moses:** "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt **[40 years ago]** to die in the

wilderness? **For there is no food and no water [like after Y'shua's 40 days in the wilderness],** and our soul loathes **this worthless bread.**" So the LORD sent **fiery serpents** among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died. Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and **set it on a pole;** and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live." So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, **when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.**" Numbers 21:5-9 NKJV

### **OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE**

"For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to **those who did not obey?** So we see that they could not enter in **because of unbelief.**" Hebrews 3:16-19 NKJV

"Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were

baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, **and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.**" I Corinthians 10:1-4 NKJV

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the **Son of Man be lifted up**, that **whoever believes** in Him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:14-15

"And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me **shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.**" John 6:35 NKJV

"Behold, I give you the **authority to trample on serpents and scorpions**, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you." Luke 10:19 NKJV

## Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. This portion presents the mysterious laws of the red-heifer ceremony for purification after contact with human death. This reading also contains the tragic account of Moses striking the rock twice to bring forth water, 40 years after the first time he

did such, although this time it was considered a disobedient and act that disregarded Yahweh's holiness. It records the deaths of Aaron and Miriam and the wars with the Amorites. It also includes the prophetic message of the deadly fiery serpents and dramatic intercession. The portion concludes with the Israel encamped on the edge of the Promised Land.

2. **Laws of Purification:** Numbers 19 covers the purification procedures for the sacrifice and offering of the red heifer. All the procedures for the High Priest as well as the one who burns it, and for those who clean up the ashes are described.
3. The ashes of the heifer are stored outside the camp in a clean place and kept for the congregation for the water of purification; it is for purifying from sin.
4. The rules for purifying one who comes into contact with a dead body are presented. The ashes of the heifer and running water shall be put on the person, all their vessels, and sprinkled on their tent.
5. Moses and the famous, or should I say infamous, incident when he strikes the rock twice instead of speaking to the rock is next in Numbers 20.
6. Again, just like almost 40 years earlier as told in Exodus 17:1-7, the people are desperate for water, and they are a complaining and making accusations. However, this time Yahweh tells **Moses**

**to go WITH Aaron and to “speak to the rock”** before the eyes of all of Israel (as a testimony) and it will yield water (Numbers 20:7-8). **Aaron was with Moses when he got the instructions and is therefore complicit in Moses’ disobedience, which is why he also does not get to enter the Promised Land.**

- (a) THE FIRST TIME 40 YEARS EARLIER: *“And the LORD said to Moses, “Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand **your rod** with which you struck the river, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; **and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it**, that the people may drink.” And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.”* (Exodus 17:5-6)
- (b) THIS TIME 40 YEARS LATER: *“Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “**Take the rod**; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. **Speak to the rock** before their eyes, **and it will yield its water**; thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals.””* (Numbers 20:7-8)
7. Moses gathers the people before the rock and declares, *“Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?”* (Numbers 20:10)

8. But instead of speaking to the rock as commanded, and for all the congregation to witness (his disobedience), Moses “struck the rock twice.” Water did come out but something terrible has just occurred. (Numbers 20:11)
9. Moses is guilty of unbelief because he struck the rock, as he did effectively 40 years earlier, instead of speaking to the rock as commanded. He actually had to strike the rock twice this time, which seems to indicate the first strike was “ineffective” and produced no water.
10. Can you imagine? He is told to speak to the Rock; he strikes it once and nothing happens. Then, instead of acknowledging that nothing came out because he was not obeying Yahweh, he strikes it again. Water does come forth upon the second strike, not for Moses’ sake, but rather to meet the people’s need. Yet, something terrible has just occurred.
11. For this blatant lack of faith (disobedience) before the people, Moses and Aaron, who is by his side when he was commanded to “speak to the rock”, will not enter the promised land. They will both die in the wilderness. (Numbers 20:12)
12. **Passage Through Edom Refused:** the King of Edom refuses to let Israel pass through his land and even comes out in battle to deter them from passing. Israel avoids the conflict by turning away.

- (a) It is no small thing to note here that there are times we will be directed to walk away from conflict and at other times to enter conflict to be victorious as we see in point 14!
- (b) **Side Note:** This is a teaching for another time, but it is worth mentioning here as precedent. When Yahweh has NOT INSTRUCTED you to take on the battle, it is futile to enter it. Worse yet, you will be defeated in dramatic fashion, even if your enemy is an enemy of God!
- (1) **Warfare:** Read 1 Samuel 3-4 and witness the horrific “double-defeat” of Israel at the hands of the Philistines, and the abominable use of the Ark of the Covenant by Israel and capture of the Ark by the Philistines. The tragedy includes the death of Eli and his two rebel sons, Hophni and Phinehas, who were responsible for moving the Ark.
- (2) **Spiritual Warfare:** Look at another dramatic account, this time one that warns about getting yourself into a spiritual battle where you have not been given authority. In Acts 19:11-20 men, wishing to tap into Holy Spirit power to engage in spiritual warfare, get smacked around and beaten to a pulp by demons for challenging an enemy they have no authority over. **The outcome:** *“And the evil spirit answered and said, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?” Then the man in whom the evil spirit was*



*leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house **naked and wounded.***" (Acts 19:15-16)

(3) **Bottom line:** don't take on battles when you are not instructed to do so.

13. **The Death of Aaron:** Aaron is stripped of his priestly garments; they are placed on his son Eleazar, and Aaron dies in the wilderness.
14. Numbers 21 catalogues the Canaanites defeat at Hormah, the movement of Israel from Mount Hor to Moab, and the defeat of the kings of Sihon and Og. You see! These times Israel is directed to engage in the conflict and Yahweh makes them victorious!
15. Soon after the second "water from a rock" miracle of provision, we have the famous fiery serpent incident. Even after just witnessing water coming from a rock AGAIN, and hearing of the horrible penalty imposed on Moses for dishonoring Yahweh by his disobedience, and Aaron for his complicity (Aaron just died!), the people were still discouraged and uninhibited in their complaining. Their faithlessness, rudeness and lack of appreciation are unimaginable; *"And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For **there is no food and no***

*water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread.*”” (Numbers 21:5) So Yahweh sent fiery serpents among the people who were still complaining after all they just witnessed with Moses and Aaron. Many of those ungrateful complainers died that day from venomous snake bites.

16. While thousands were dropping dead, the people rush to repent for speaking against Yahweh and Moses and they beg Yahweh to take away the serpents.
17. The LORD tells Moses to, *“Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.”* (Numbers 21:8) *“So Moses did as instructed and if a serpent bit anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.”* (Numbers 21:9)
18. **PROPHETIC MOMENT!** John 3:16 might be the most memorized and quoted verse of all 31,102 verses in the Bible. But, can you quickly account for the verses that immediately precede it? Surprise! They are Y’shua’s reference to the “fiery serpent” incident in Numbers 21. John 3:14-15 reveals how that entire incident was actually a prophetic picture pointing toward Y’shua’s death on the cross and YOUR life that would come from it.

- (a) “And as Moses **lifted up the serpent in the wilderness**, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish **but have eternal life.**” (John 3:14-15)
- (b) **Referring to:** “Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, **when he looks at it, shall live.**” “So Moses did as instructed and if a serpent bit anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, **he lived.**” (Numbers 21:8-9)
- (c) THEN WHAT FOLLOWS, IN CONTEXT, IS THE MOST FAMOUS VERSE IN THE BIBLE: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)
- (d) Think about who Y’shua was teaching in John 3. “There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, **a ruler of the Jews.**” (John 3:1) He is teaching Jewish scholar who would easily connect what He was saying to this incident with Moses and the serpents!
- (e) Y’shua is teaching him how to be born again (verse 3) and knows Nicodemus will also instantly connect the serpent incident to the WATER COMING FROM A ROCK and Moses’ terrible misstep in the same narrative!: To Nicodemus’ question: “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be

born?" (John 3:4) *"Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is **born of water and the Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."* (John 3:5)

(f) Making the connection would be natural for anyone who was familiar with the Scriptures; as Y'shua was always connecting His life with the words Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms.

(1) **Look at his words to the men on the road to Emmaus (and remember that the only Scriptures at that time is what we know today as the Old Testament):** *"And beginning at **Moses and all the Prophets**, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself."* (Luke 24:27) *"Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were **written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.**""* (Luke 24:44)

(2) **And see how He rebuked religious Jews for missing the very fact that ALL the Scriptures pointed to Him:** *"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they **which testify of Me.**"* (John 5:39) *"Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. **For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he***

*wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?'"* (John 5:45-47)

- (3) **And Y'shua's parable comparing the rich man and the poor beggar Lazarus. Read Luke 16:19-31 makes yet another reference to the importance of understanding Moses and the Prophets.** *"Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.'* And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' But he said to him, **'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'** ""

Luke 16:27-31 NKJV

- (g) This is why you must be trained to have prophetic eyes if you wish to capture the depth of Yahweh's Holy Word. Look now at Y'shua's words in John 6:35 with prophetic eyes and you will recognize exactly to what He is referring! *"I am the **bread of life**. He who comes to Me shall **never hunger**, and he who believes in Me shall **never thirst**."* He is speaking to a rebellious, complaining, and accusatory people who speak out against Yahweh and His prophet! *For **there is no food and***

*no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread.*“ (Numbers 21:5)

- (h) **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?** “*Then He said to them, “Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things **new and old.**”” (Matthew 13:52) You must be trained to have a treasure trove of knowledge to connect the new with the old!*

19. The portion ends with the children of Israel camped on the West side of the Jordan across from Jericho.

## JUICY ROCKS

### 1. Obedience and Faith

#### A. Now we can take a journey through a few chapters in Hebrews to practice your new prophetic eyes.

- (1) Moses was speaking about things which would come afterward!
- (a) “Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, **as Moses also was faithful in all His house.** For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house

has more honor than the house. For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God. **And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward,** but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.” Hebrews 3:1-6 NKJV

(2) Guard against an evil heart of unbelief!

(a) “Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: **“Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness,** Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, And saw My works forty years. Therefore I was angry with that generation, And said, ‘They always go astray in their heart, And they have not known My ways.’ So I swore in My wrath, **‘They shall not enter My rest.’** ” Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an **evil heart of unbelief** in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, while it is said:

“Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.” Hebrews 3:7-15 NKJV

(3) Disobedience EQUALS Unbelief (remember this when we elaborate on Moses striking the rock!)

(a) **“For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.”** Hebrews 3:16-19 NKJV

(4) You will miss the good news if you don't mix it with faith. (Water coming from a rock is good news but it still may not profit you!)

(a) “Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. **For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them;** but the word which they heard **did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.**” Hebrews 4:1-2 NKJV

(5) NO obedience EQUALS NO rest



- (a) “For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: “So I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest,’ ” although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: “And God rested on the seventh day from all His works”; and again in this place: “They shall not enter My rest.” Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and **those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience**, again He designates a certain day, saying in David, “Today,” after such a long time, as it has been said: “Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts.”” Hebrews 4:3-7 NKJV
- (b) “For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.” Hebrews 4:8-10 NKJV
- (c) **“Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.”** Hebrews 4:11 NKJV
- (6) Your reaction to Yahweh’s commands is proof of what is happening in your heart!

- (a) “For the **word of God** is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a **discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart**. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.” Hebrews 4:12-13 NKJV
- (7) It’s all a test; (to be thirsty and not to panic, and to speak to the rock and not strike it!)
  - (a) “Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, **but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin**. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:14-16 NKJV

**B. Y’shua was tested and He passed with flying colors!**

- (1) **40 days in the wilderness (like 40 years)**
  - (a) “Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be **tempted** by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.” Matthew 4:1-2 NKJV

- (2) **Every type of temptation:** To make His own provision; to demand a miracle from Yahweh; and to obtain the riches of this world.
- (a) “Now when the **tempter** came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, **command that these stones become bread.**” But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ ” Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “**If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down.** For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’ and, ‘In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’ ” Jesus said to him, “It is written again, ‘You shall not tempt the LORD your God.’ ” Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and **showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You** if You will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ” Then the devil left Him, and

behold, angels came and ministered to Him.” Matthew  
4:3-11 NKJV

### C. Why was Moses’ Offense so Serious?

(1) Yahweh tells **Moses to go WITH Aaron and to “speak to the rock”** before the eyes of all of Israel (as a testimony) and it will yield water (Numbers 20:7-8). **Aaron is therefore complicit.**

(a) THE FIRST TIME 40 YEARS EARLIER (Exodus 17:1-7):  
*“Then all the congregation of the children of Israel set out on their journey from the Wilderness of Sin, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped in Rephidim; **but there was no water for the people to drink. Therefore the people contended with Moses, and said, “Give us water, that we may drink.” So Moses said to them, “Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt the LORD?”** And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, **“Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?”** So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, *“What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me!”* And the LORD said to Moses, *“Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders**

of Israel. Also take in your hand your **rod** with which you struck the river, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; **and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink.**” And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. So he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, **because of the contention** of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”” Exodus 17:1-7 NKJV

(b) THIS TIME 40 YEARS LATER: “Now there was no water for the congregation; so they gathered together **against Moses and Aaron. And the people contended with Moses** and spoke, saying: “If only we had died when our brethren died before the LORD! **Why have you brought up the assembly of the LORD into this wilderness, that we and our animals should die here?** And why have you made us come up out of Egypt, to bring us to this evil place? It is not a place of grain or figs or vines or pomegranates; nor is there any water to drink.” So Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and they fell on their faces. And the glory of the LORD appeared to them. Then the LORD spoke to Moses,

saying, ***“Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water; thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals.”*** So Moses took the rod from before the LORD as He commanded him.” Numbers 20:2-9 NKJV

- (c) Moses gathers the people before the rock and declares, *“Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?”* Numbers 20:10 NKJV
- (d) But instead of speaking to the rock as commanded, and for all the congregation to witness (his disobedience), Moses “struck the rock twice.” Water did come out but something terrible has just occurred. Numbers 20:11 NKJV
- (e) Moses is guilty of unbelief because he struck the rock. He actually had to strike the rock twice this time, which seems to indicate the first strike was “ineffective” and produced no water.
- (f) Can you imagine? instead of acknowledging that nothing came out because he was not obeying Yahweh, he strikes it again. Yet, something terrible has just occurred.

(g) For this blatant lack of faith (disobedience) before the people, Moses and Aaron, who is by his side when he was commanded to “speak to the rock”, will not enter the promised land. “Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, “**Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land** which I have given them.”” Numbers 20:12 NKJV

1. SEE NOW THE DEPTH OF THESE WORDS IN  
HEBREWS: “*And to whom did He swear that they would not **enter His rest [the Promised Land]**, but to those **who did not obey?** So we see that they could not enter in **because of unbelief.**” Hebrews 3:18-19  
NKJV*

**D. Why such a severe consequence? Because it was a prophetic picture of rejecting Y’shua as the bread, water and rock!**

(1) Both the leaders and the people are guilty.

(a) **The Leaders:** “And **Moses and Aaron** gathered the assembly together before the rock; and he said to them, “Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?” **Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod;** and water came out

abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank." Numbers 20:10-11 NKJV

1. PENALTY: "**Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land** which I have given them.'" Numbers 20:12

(b) **The People:** "And the **people** spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? **For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread.**"  
Numbers 21:5 NKJV

1. [SEE THE PENALTY FOR THIS IN SECTION 2]

(2) Bread from heaven

(a) **The Bread of Life (After He feeds the 5000 in John 6:1-14):** "Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him." Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God,



that you believe in Him whom He sent.” Therefore they said to Him, “What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do?

**Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’ ”**

Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, **Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.**” Then they said to Him, “**Lord, give us this bread always.**” And Jesus said to them, “**I am the bread of life.** He who comes to Me **shall never hunger [manna from heaven],** and he who believes in Me **shall never thirst [water from a rock].”** John

6:26-35 NKJV

(3) The spiritual water and spiritual rock:

(a) “Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all **ate the same spiritual food [manna],** and **all drank the same spiritual drink [water from the rock].** For they drank of that spiritual Rock

**[Y'shua was that Rock] that followed them**, and that Rock was Christ." I Corinthians 10:1-4 NKJV

(b) "But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. **Now these things became our examples (The Bread, Water, and Rock)**, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted." I Corinthians 10:5-6 NKJV

(c) **Living water:** "On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of **living water.**" **But this He spoke concerning the Spirit**, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified." John 7:37-39 NKJV

(d) **The Rock:** "Truly my soul silently waits for God; From Him comes my salvation. **He only is my rock** and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved." Psalms 62:1-2 NKJV

(4) **A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense**

(a) "Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as **living stones**, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy

priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame." (7-8)

**Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone," and "A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed."** I Peter 2:4-8 NKJV

(b) "So this is what the Sovereign Lord says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a **precious cornerstone** for a sure foundation; the one who relies on it **will never be stricken with panic.**" Isaiah 28:16 NIV

(c) **The one who relies on the Rock will not contend with Yahweh or His prophets when they think there is no food or water and complain about how lousy the provision is! The Rock of Salvation (eternal food and water) will not become a stone of stumbling!**

## FIERY SERPENTS

**2. Speaking against Yahweh and His prophet is never a good idea!**

## **A. Complaints, accusations, and dissatisfaction**

(1) No food, no water, and your bread is worthless!

(a) “And the people spoke against God and against Moses: “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? **For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread.**”” Numbers 21:5

NKJV

## **B. Even after all the people just witnessed:**

(1) “So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.”

Numbers 21:6 NKJV

(a) Soon after the second “water from a rock” miracle of provision, we have the famous fiery serpent incident. Even after just witnessing water coming from a rock AGAIN, and hearing of the horrible penalty imposed on Moses for dishonoring Yahweh by his disobedience, and Aaron for his complicity (Aaron just died!), the people were still discouraged and filled with complaints. Their faithlessness, rudeness and lack of appreciation are unimaginable. So Yahweh sent fiery serpents among the people who were still complaining after all they just witnessed with Moses and Aaron. Many of those

ungrateful complainers died that day from venomous snake bites.

(2) “Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.” Numbers 21:7 NKJV

(a) While thousands were dropping dead, the people rush to repent for speaking against Yahweh and Moses and they beg Yahweh to take away the serpents.

(3) Intercession

(a) The LORD tells Moses to, *“Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.”* (Numbers 21:8) *“So Moses did as instructed and if a serpent bit anyone, when **he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.**”* (Numbers 21:9)

WHY JUICY ROCKS AND FIERY SERPENTS GO TOGETHER?

**3. “Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.” Luke 10:19 NKJV**

**A. PROPHETIC MOMENT! Drinking from the Spiritual Rock and looking upon the One lifted up so you can live!**

(1) John 3:16 might be the most memorized and quoted verse of all 31,102 verses in the Bible. But, can you quickly account for the verses that immediately precede it?

Surprise! They are Y'shua's reference to the "fiery serpent" incident in Numbers 21. John 3:14-15 reveals how that entire incident was actually a prophetic picture pointing toward HIS death on the cross and YOUR life that would come from it.

(a) *"And as Moses **lifted up the serpent in the wilderness**, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish **but have eternal life.**"*  
(John 3:14-15)

(b) **Referring to:** *"Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, **when he looks at it, shall live.**" "So Moses did as instructed and if a serpent bit anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, **he lived.**"* (Numbers 21:8-9)

(c) THEN THE MOST FAMOUS VERSE IN THE BIBLE: *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* (John 3:16)

- (d) Think about who Y'shua was teaching in John 3. *"There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, **a ruler of the Jews.**"* (John 3:1) He is teaching Jewish scholar who would easily connect what He was saying to this incident with Moses!
  - (e) Y'shua is teaching him how to be born again (verse 3) and knows Nicodemus will also instantly connect the serpent incident to the WATER COMING FROM A ROCK and Moses' terrible misstep in the same narrative!: To Nicodemus' question: *"How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"* (John 3:4) *"Jesus answered, **"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."*** (John 3:5)
  - (f) Making the connection would be natural for anyone who was familiar with the Scriptures; as Y'shua was always connecting His life with the words Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms.
- (2) Y'shua's Testimony WAS TRUE! (Just like looking at the serpent lifted up in the wilderness so they can live!)
- (a) **"But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.** And he

who has seen has testified, and **his testimony is true**; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, “Not one of His bones shall be broken.” And again another Scripture says, **“They shall look on Him whom they pierced.”**” John 19:34-37 NKJV

- (b) FROM THE SCRIPTURE THAT SAYS: ““And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they **will look on Me whom they pierced.** Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.” Zechariah 12:10 NKJV
- (3) **Look at his words to the men on the road to Emmaus (and remember that the only Scriptures at that time is what we know today as the Old Testament):** *“And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”* (Luke 24:27) *“Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were **written in the Law of Moses and***



***the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.***”” (Luke 24:44)

- (4) **And see how He rebuked religious Jews for missing the very fact that ALL the Scriptures pointed to Him:** *“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they **which testify of Me.**”* (John 5:39) *“Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. For **if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.** But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”*” (John 5:45-47)
- (5) **And Y’shua’s parable comparing the rich man and the poor beggar Lazarus. Read Luke 16:19-31 makes yet another reference to the importance of understanding Moses and the Prophets.** *““Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’ Abraham said to him, ‘**They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.**’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ But he said to him, ‘**If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither***

***will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.' ""***

Luke 16:27-31 NKJV

- (a) This is why you must be trained to have prophetic eyes if you wish to capture the depth of Yahweh's Holy Word. Look now at Y'shua's words in John 6:35 with prophetic eyes and you will recognize exactly to what He is referring! *"I am the **bread of life**. He who comes to Me shall **never hunger**, and he who believes in Me shall **never thirst**."* He is speaking to a rebellious, complaining, and accusatory people who speak out against Yahweh and His prophet! *For **there is no food and no water**, and **our soul loathes this worthless bread**."* (Numbers 21:5)
- (b) **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?** *"Then He said to them, "Therefore **every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom** of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things **new and old**."* (Matthew 13:52) You must be trained to have a treasure trove of knowledge to connect the new with the old!
- (c) "Behold, He is coming with clouds, and **every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him**. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen." Revelation 1:7 NKJV

## QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

### 1. Discuss the relationship between obedience and faith:

- A. How does this play out in the life of Moses when he strikes the rock instead of speaking to the rock?
- B. Why was Moses' mistake so serious?
- C. How does this relate to Yahweh saying this of Moses: "You did not hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel?"
- D. Relate obedience, faith and rest as taught in Hebrews chapters 3 and 4.

### 2. Discuss the three categories of temptation Y'shua faced in the wilderness in Matthew 4 (provision, miracles, and riches).

### 3. Bread, Water, and the Rock

- A. Relate Y'shua as as the bread, water and rock that was being rejected by Israel in the wilderness.
- B. How does this relate to Y'shua as the "stone of stumbling"?
- C. Relate these to Y'shua's words: *"Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"*

- 4. Relate Y'shua's conversation with Nicodemus in John 3 to the water coming from a rock in Numbers 20 and Moses making a serpent and putting on a pole in 20.**