



Key References:

Numbers 20:10–13 (ESV)

¹⁰ Then Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, “Hear now, you rebels: shall we bring water for you out of this rock?” ¹¹ And Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their livestock. ¹² And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them.” ¹³ These are the waters of Meribah, where the people of Israel quarreled with the LORD, and through them he showed himself holy.

Deuteronomy 32:48–52 (ESV)

⁴⁸ That very day the LORD spoke to Moses, ⁴⁹ “Go up this mountain of the Abarim, Mount Nebo, which is in the land of Moab, opposite Jericho, and view the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people of Israel for a possession. ⁵⁰ And die on the mountain which you go up, and be gathered to your people, as Aaron your brother died in Mount Hor and was gathered to his people, ⁵¹ because you broke faith with me in the midst of the people of Israel at the waters of Meribah-kadesh, in the wilderness of Zin, and because you did not treat me as holy in the midst of the people of Israel. ⁵² For you shall see the land before you, but you shall not go there, into the land that I am giving to the people of Israel.”

Isaiah 55:8–9 (ESV)

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Discussion Questions:

God provided water from a rock for the nation of Israel two times in their wilderness wanderings (Exodus 15:1-7 and 40 years later in Numbers 20:2-13). **In what ways were these two events similar? What was different about the second time?**

In the Numbers passage (20:2-13) why do you think the penalty for Moses’ disobedience was so severe?

At the end of Moses’ life, God reminds Moses why he was not allowed to enter into the promised land (Deuteronomy 32:48-52 and Numbers 27:12-14). **What additional information does God reveal here about the true nature of Moses’ disobedience?**

Does God’s judgement on Moses’ seem “fair” to you?

Does God’s discipline of Moses reveal anything new to you regarding the character and nature of God?

What does it mean to “create God in your own image?” How can this be a dangerous plan?

Read Isaiah 55:8-9. **Do you find this comforting or scary? Why?**

Have you ever felt you needed to “help out” God and add a little “extra” to His instructions? How did this turn out?

How would you define the holiness of God?

Can you think of some examples in the bible of holy things or holy places? What made these things/places holy?

What does it mean to treat God as holy?

Are there particular times or circumstances where you are prone to overlook or minimize the holiness of God?

Can you give an example in your life when you have done this?

Are there any practical steps you can take this week to remind you to be more aware of holiness of God?