

WILDERNESS LESSONS # 20

Feb 29, 2016

Camp # 33 at Mount Hor

Num 33:37-41 They journeyed from Kadesh and camped at Mount Hor, at the edge of the land of Edom. 38 Then Aaron the priest went up to Mount Hor at the command of the LORD, and died there in the fortieth year after the sons of Israel had come from the land of Egypt, on the first day in the fifth month. 39 Aaron was one hundred twenty-three years old when he died on Mount Hor. 40 Now the Canaanite, the king of Arad who lived in the Negev in the land of Canaan, heard of the coming of the sons of Israel. 41 Then they journeyed from Mount Hor

Definition:

Mount Hor = In the Hebrew these (2 words) are exactly the same word; it would be like saying mount mountain.

Mount Hor = White (a mountain); Progenitor (from DBN)

Progenitor = an ancestor or parent; the originator of some kind of movement; (from OED)

Speaks of our response in times of change and transitions in life.

Where it is found:

It is mentioned 12 times in the Old Testament

8 times as the place where Aaron dies (Num 20:22-27; 33:37-41).

Once as the place where the Canaanites take some Israelites captives (Num 31:1-3).

Twice as the western border of Canaan, Israel's promised land (Num 34:7-8).

Once as the place where Moses is to die (Dt 32:48-52).

Type and Shadows of mountain:

mountain is a = symbol of strength; majesty; kingdom. (from IST)

Use in Scripture

mount = 134 X

mountain = 194 X

mountains = 173 X

Key References:

Isa 2:2 Now it will come about that in the last days, the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it.

Dan 2:34-35 Vision of Nebuchadnezzar (Picture of Jesus and the Kingdom of God)

"You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. 35 "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Zec 4:6-7 Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel saying, 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts. 7'What are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become a plain; and he will bring forth the top stone with shouts of "Grace, grace to it!'"

What happens here: **Transitions** (Num 20:1, 23-29; 27:12-23)

A. Deaths

1. **Miriam**, Moses' sister **dies** and is buried in the wilderness of Zin, near Kadesh (Num. 20:1).
2. **Aaron**, Moses' brother **dies** and is buried on Mount Hor. (Num 20:23-29; 33:37-41)
The people then mourn for 30 days (30 days of mourning indicates the honor given to him.)
3. **Preparation for Moses' death;**
Joshua succeeds Moses (Num 27:12-23)

B. Change of leadership

1. **Eleazar** becomes high priest (Num 20:23-25)
Moses is commanded to take Aaron and Eleazar (Aaron's son) up on Mount Hor and there transfer the clothing (and office) of Israel's high priest from father to son.
2. **Joshua** is appointed as Israel's new leader (Num 27:12-23)
Moses is to view the Promised Land, for he must soon die (27:12-14)
Joshua is appointed as Israel's new leader. (Num 27:15-23)
In a public ceremony Moses lays hands on Joshua and passes the torch of leadership.

C. Wilderness Triumphs - Four victories on the way to Canaan (Num 21:1-4, 21-35; 31:1-54)

1. Over the king of Arad (Num 21:1-4):
Nu 21:1-3 When the Canaanite, the king of Arad, who lived in the Negev, heard that Israel was coming by the way of Atharim, then he fought against Israel and took some of them captive. 2 So Israel made a vow to the LORD and said, "If You will indeed deliver this people into my hand, then I will utterly destroy their cities." 3 The LORD heard the voice of Israel and delivered up the Canaanites; then they utterly destroyed them and their cities. Thus the name of the place was called Hormah.

The first of Israel's military victories against the Canaanites came as the result of an attack by the king of Arad. The text emphasizes that the attackers were Canaanites and that the attack was unprovoked. The Israelites fought valiantly and God fought for them. The Israelites triumphed over the army of Arad and destroyed its cities. This victory was the beginning of Israel's triumphant march into the Promised Land.
2. Over King Sihon (Num 21:21-32):
King Sihon of the Amorites refuses the Israelites' peaceful request for passage and attacks them, but he suffers total destruction.
3. Over King Og (Num 21:33-35):
This giant warrior king of Bashan (Deut. 3:11) is killed by the Israelites, along with his sons and his entire army.
4. Over five Midianite kings (Num 31:1-54)
Twelve thousand soldiers are chosen (1,000 from each tribe) to battle the Midianites. They defeat all five kings of Midian along with the prophet Balaam.

D. Orders concerning Edom.

1. **Pass through the territory of your brother's** (the land of Edom)
Dt 2:3-6 'You have circled this mountain long enough. Now turn north, 4 and command the people, saying, "You will pass through the territory of your brothers the sons of Esau who live in Seir; and they will be afraid of you. So be very careful; 5 do not provoke them, for I will not give you any of their land, even as little as a footstep because I have given Mount Seir to Esau as a possession. 6 "You shall buy food from them with money so that you may eat, and you shall also purchase water from them with money so that you may drink. (Num 20:14-17)

2. The king of Edom refuses passage.

Nu 20:14-21 From Kadesh Moses then sent messengers to the king of Edom: "Thus your brother Israel has said, 'You know all the hardship that has befallen us; 15 that our fathers went down to Egypt, and we stayed in Egypt a long time, and the Egyptians treated us and our fathers badly. 16 'But when we cried out to the LORD, He heard our voice and sent an angel and brought us out from Egypt; now behold, we are at Kadesh, a town on the edge of your territory. 17 'Please let us pass through your land. We will not pass through field or through vineyard; we will not even drink water from a well. We will go along the king's highway, not turning to the right or left, until we pass through your territory.'" 18 Edom, however, said to him, "You shall not pass through us, or I will come out with the sword against you." 19 Again, the sons of Israel said to him, "We will go up by the highway, and if I and my livestock do drink any of your water, then I will pay its price. Let me only pass through on my feet, nothing else." 20 But he said, "You shall not pass through." And Edom came out against him with a heavy force and with a strong hand. 21 Thus Edom refused to allow Israel to pass through his territory; so Israel turned away from him. (Num 20:18-21; Jdg 11:12-18)

3. Definition of Edom

Num 33:37 ... Mount Hor, at the edge of the land of Edom

Edom = Red earth; root - to show blood in the face; embarrassed

E. Lessons on Leadership from Num 20

1. Leaders need much prayer from their people; for it's not easy to be a leader.
2. Leaders will go through trials; they can become discouraged and disappointed.
 - Miriam dies; Moses and Aaron mourn their only sister (Num 20:1).
 - The complaints of the people (Num 20:2-7).
 - Things don't turn out as planned [as you hear and do what God say's] (Num 20:14-21).
 - Edom would not permit Israel to pass through, despite the promises Moses gave.
 - The Edomites were the descendants of Esau, Jacob's brother, and were therefore blood relatives to Israel; but they did not act like brethren.
3. Leaders are people too, sometimes they disobey God.
 - Moses strikes the rock [He was told to speak to it] (Num 20:8-13; Ps. 106:32-33)
 - Aaron and Miriam spoke against [rebelled] Moses (Num 12:1-15).
 - Aaron makes the golden calf (Ex 32:1-10, 19-26)
4. Leaders will incur a stricter judgment; (Jas 3:1) for with privilege goes responsibility. Neither Moses nor Aaron was permitted to enter the Promised Land, although Moses was allowed to see the land from afar (Dt 3:21-29).

Camp # 34 Zalmonah

Nu 33:41-42 Then they journeyed from Mount Hor and camped at Zalmonah. 42 They journeyed from Zalmonah and camped at Punon.

Definition:

The name Zalmonah is the feminine form of "Shadow". (Strong's)

Zalmonah; "shadow" comes from 2 words

zal = shade, as twilight

monah = death

Zalmonah = shade (shadow) of death

What happens on the way to Zalmonah?

Murmuring of the people. Nu 21:4, 5.

Fiery serpents sent. Nu 21:6.

Brazen serpent raised up. Nu 21:7-9.

Application:

"Shadow of death" is found 18 X in OT; and 2X in NT:

Job 3:5 May darkness and the shadow of death claim it; may a cloud settle on it

Job 10:21 Before I go to the place from which I shall not return, to the land of darkness and the shadow of death

Job 10:22 a land as dark as darkness itself, as the shadow of death, without any order, where even the light is like darkness

Job 12:22 He uncovers deep things out of darkness, and brings the shadow of death to light

Job 16:16 My face is flushed from weeping, and on my eyelids is the shadow of death

Job 24:17 For the morning is the same to them as the shadow of death; if someone recognizes them, they are in the terrors of the shadow of death

Job 28:3 Man puts an end to darkness, and searches every recess for ore in the darkness and the shadow of death

Job 34:22 There is no darkness nor shadow of death where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves

Job 38:17 Or have you seen the doors of the shadow of death

Ps 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil

Ps 44:19 But You have severely broken us in the place of jackals, and covered us with the shadow of death

Ps 107:10 Those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, bound in affliction and irons

Ps 107:14 He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and broke their chains in pieces

Is 9:2 those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined

Jer 2:6 Neither did they say, 'Where is the Lord, Who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, Who led us through the wilderness, through a land of deserts and pits, through a land of drought and the shadow of death, through a land that no one crossed and where no one dwelt

Jer 13:16 Give glory to the Lord your God before He causes darkness, and before your feet stumble on the dark mountains, and while you are looking for light, He turns it into the shadow of death and makes it dense darkness

Amos 5:8 he turns the shadow of death into morning and makes the day dark as night

Mt 4:16 the people who sat in darkness saw a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned

Lk 1:79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace

Shadow is used as a **symbol** (or description) of the **brevity** (shortness) **of life**.
(1Ch 29:15; Job 8:9; 14:2; Ps 102:11; 109:23; 144:4; Ecc 6:12; 8:13)

Shadow as a **symbol** (or description) of life's experience of **grief**, sadness and despair.
(Job 3:3-5; 7:2-3; 16:16; 17:7; Isa 59:9)

Death described like a shadow
(Job 10:21-22; Ps 23:4; 44:19; Jer 2:6; Mt 4:16; Lk 1:79)

Notes:

shadow of death

The word translated "shadow of death" is of frequent occurrence in the Old Testament to express the deepest darkness. The Psalmist has not merely the experience of literal death in mind, but all experiences when the darkness is thick and profound. (from, R. A. Torrey; How to work for Christ)

The expression "the shadow of death," occurs in Bunyan's **Pilgrim's Progress** (Part 2):
"The Valley it self ... is as dark as pitch: we also saw there Hobgoblins, Satyrs, and Dragons of the Pit: We heard also in that Valley a continual howling and yelling, as of a People under unutterable misery; who there sat bound in affliction and Irons: and over that Valley hangs the discouraging cloud of confusion, death also doth always spread his wings over it: in a word, it is every wit dreadful, being utterly without Order." (from; I Never Knew That Was in the Bible)

References used in this study:

The Outline Bible
Nelson Study Bible
With the Word Bible Commentary, by Warren W. Wiersbe
Adam Clarke's Commentary
Dictionary of Bible Names; by Justin Cornwell (DBN)
Dictionary of Bible Themes:
Oxford English Dictionary (OED)
Interpreting Symbols and Types; by Kevin J. Conner (IST)