





1. Egypt → Sinai (Ex 12 – 18)
2. Sinai (Ex 19 – Num 10)
3. Sinai → Kadesh (Num 10-12)
4. Kadesh (Num 13-19)
5. Kadesh → Plains of Moab (Num 20-22)
6. Plains of Moab (Num 22-36)









**Wandering through life's wildernesses,  
we're susceptible to quit trusting God  
regarding our needs and sins.**

**The good news of the Smitten Rock  
provides wilderness-endurance through  
a renewed view of God's character.**





**Read**  
**Numbers 20:2-13**  
Page 128



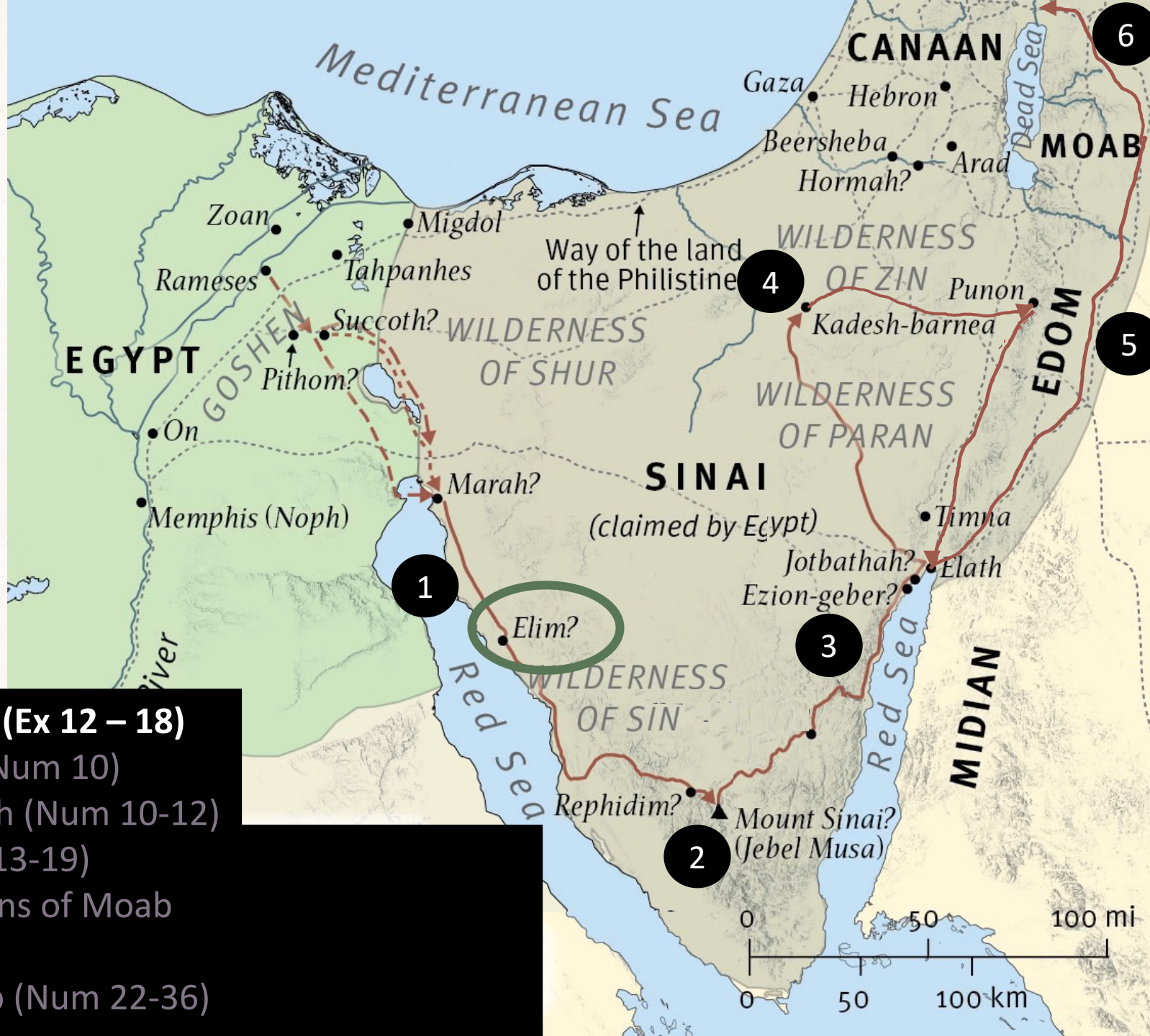




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# Exodus 17:2-3

...the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?”





# Exodus 17:5-6

“... take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.”





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# Exodus 7:20

Moses and Aaron did as the LORD commanded. In the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants he lifted up the staff and struck the water in the Nile, and all the water in the Nile turned into blood.





נִכָּחָה

*naw-khaw*

Strike (in judgment)/Smite







Instrument  
of divine  
judgment



# Exodus 17:5-6

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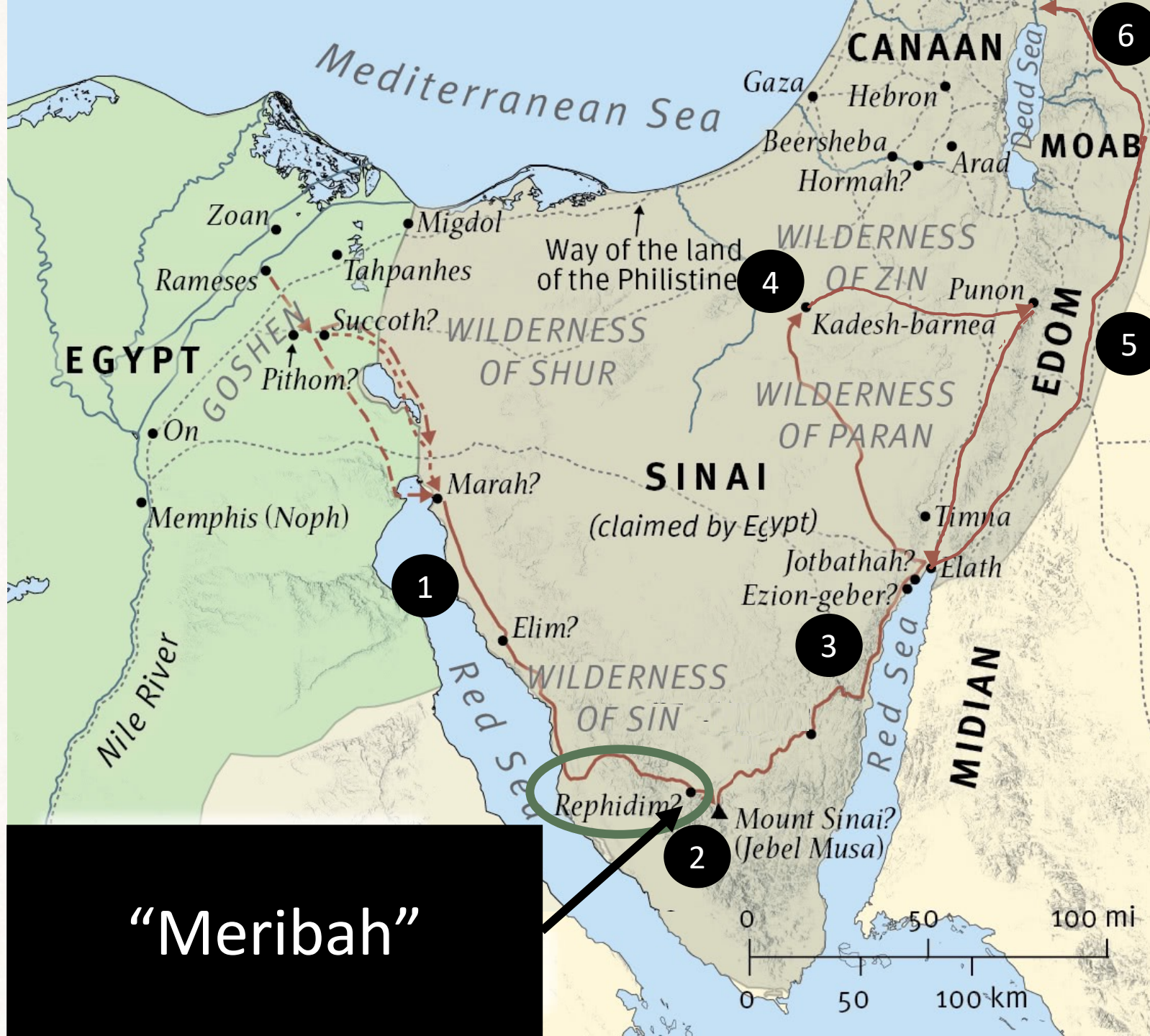




# Exodus 17:7

And he called the name of the place...Meribah,  
because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and  
because they tested the LORD by saying, “Is the LORD  
among us or not?”

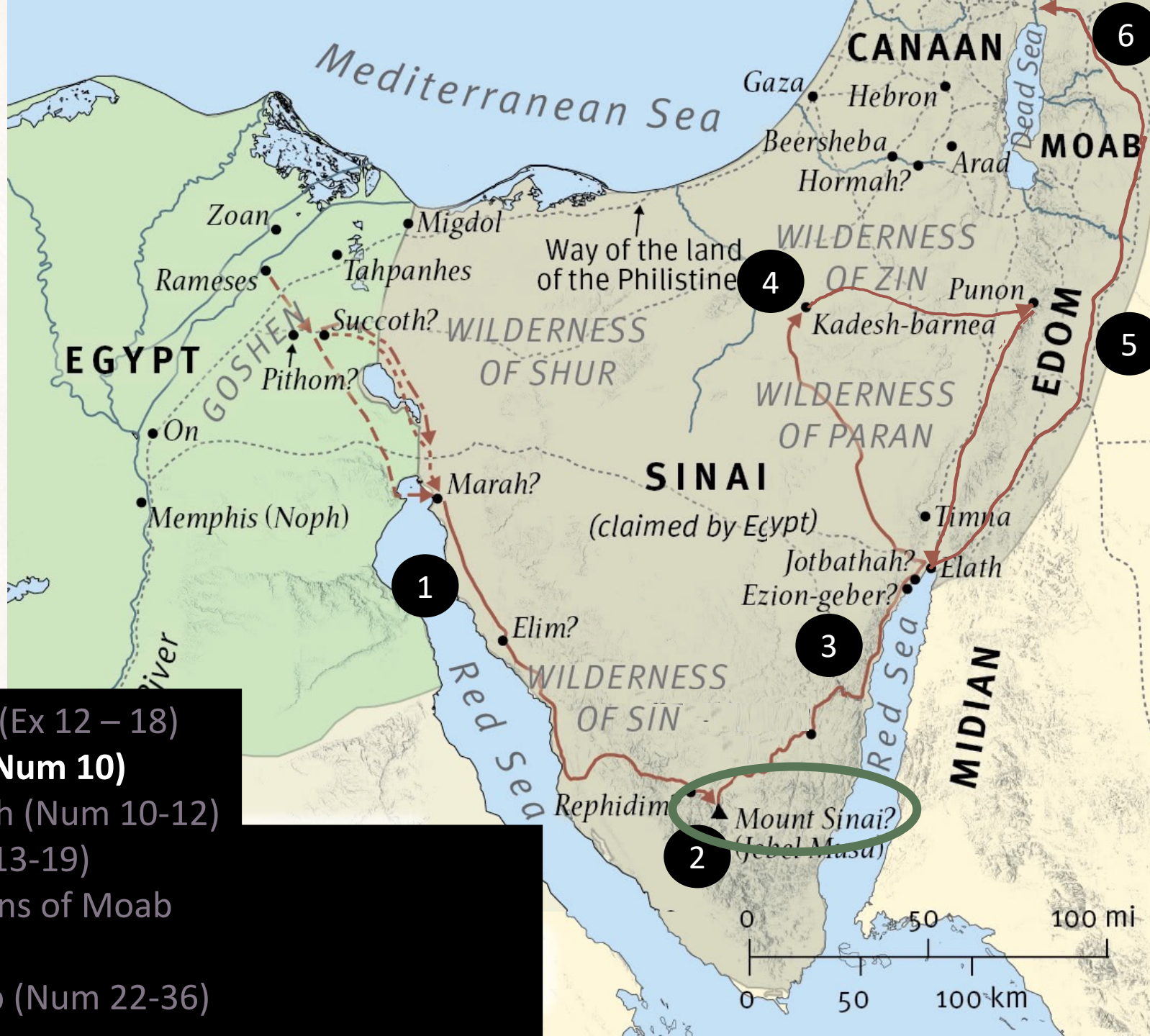




“Meribah”







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# Complaint Episodes in Numbers

Complaint @ Taberah (11:1-3): Fire!

Sustenance Complaint @ 'Craving' (11:4-35):  
Why did we leave Egypt?

Complaint against Moses (12:1-16): by siblings

Complaint/failure to enter Promiseland (13 & 14)

Complaint against Moses/Aaron (16): by Korah

Sustenance Complaint @ Meribah (20:2-35):  
Why did we leave Egypt?

Complaint in Wilderness (21:4-9): Fiery Serpents!





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# God's instruction to Moses

## Numbers 20:8

“Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you and Aaron your brother, and tell the rock before their eyes to yield its water. So you shall bring water out of the rock for them and give drink to the congregation.”



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## Exodus 17:5-6

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# Numbers 20:9-11

And Moses took the staff from before the LORD,  
as he commanded him.



# Numbers 20:9-11

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?”

And Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank...





# What was Moses' sin?

Numbers 20:12

“... you did not believe in me...”

Numbers 27:14

“...you rebelled against my word in the wilderness of Zin when the congregation quarreled, failing to uphold me as holy....”



# What was Moses' sin?

Psalm 106:32-33

They angered [Moses] at the waters of Meribah,  
and it went ill with Moses on their account,  
for they made his spirit bitter,  
and he spoke rashly with his lips.





# What was Moses' sin?

## 1. Disbelieved the LORD

- that speaking to the Rock would provide water.

## 2. Rebelled against His word

- Instead of speaking to, he stuck the rock. Twice.

## 3. Spoke rash words

- Harsh + Self-focused words: (Rebels...shall we bring water out)



# At Meribah God showed Himself holy

## Numbers 20:12-13

And the LORD said “Because you did not ...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.” These are the waters of Meribah, where the people of Israel quarreled with the LORD, and through them he showed himself holy.





# Contrasting unholy Moses with Holy Jesus



# Contrasting unholy Moses with Holy Jesus

יְהוָה יִשְׁעַי

Yahweh is  
Salvation





# Foreshadowing His punishment in our place

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;  
yet we esteemed him stricken,  
smitten by God, and afflicted.

But he was pierced for our transgressions;  
...and with his wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:4-5)



# Foreshadowing His punishment in our place

“The God who is the Rock of Israel is the Savior, the God of mercy who bears His own judgment for the sin of His people...There He stood upon the rock; not only among them, but in their place, bearing their condemnation. Before God gave His covenant at Sinai, He pledged His presence at Calvary.”



Edmund  
Clowney



# Clarifying a sufficient one-time sacrifice

For Christ has entered...into heaven itself [not to] offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. (Hebrews 9:24-26)



# Clarifying means of ongoing forgiveness

## Exodus 17:5-6

“...take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.”

## Numbers 20:8

“Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you and Aaron your brother, and tell the rock before their eyes to yield its water. So you shall bring water out of the rock for them and give drink to the congregation.”





# Picturing His abundant and timely provision

Numbers 20:11

and water came out [of the rock] abundantly,  
and the congregation drank, and their livestock.









# Takeaways

1. Bring your sin and distrust to the Rock smitten for you.



# Takeaways

1. Bring your sin and distrust to the Rock smitten for you.
2. Trust God regarding your wilderness need.





**What wilderness need or sin  
has fed your distrust of God?**

**Allow the good news of the Smitten Rock  
remind you of God's trustworthy character!**



