

# Why Did Moses Have to Die in the Wilderness?

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## A MUCH BIGGER Reason than you have been taught!

And what did Moses' Death have to do with Universal Restoration?

Every Christian has been taught that God forbid Moses to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land because Moses had disobeyed God, by striking the rock rather than speaking to the rock. **But the lessons to be learned are far deeper!**

This was the second time Moses had been told by God to get water from a rock because of the Israelites' constant complaining. The first time, God told Moses to **strike the rock once.**

Yet the Israelites had no faith, even after God had miraculously delivered them from Egyptian slavery, saved their firstborn during the Passover, opened the Red Sea for them to cross over on dry land, fed them with manna that came down from heaven, previously had Moses obtain water from a rock, protected them from immense heat in the summer of the desert by day with a cloud cover, protected them from intense cold during the desert winter nights with the pillar of fire, and protected them from their enemies.

The Israelites were once again complaining that they had no water, as though God had never shown them even ONE miracle, and was incapable of supplying water for them yet again!

Here is the Biblical account of that episode:

“Then came the children of Israel, even the whole congregation (multitude), into the desert of Zin in the first month: and the people abode in Kadesh: and Miriam died there, and was buried there.

“**And there was no water for the congregation (multitude):** and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron.

“And the people contended with Moses and spoke, saying, Would God that we had died when our brethren died before the Lord!

“And why have you brought up the congregation (multitude) of the Lord into this wilderness, that we and our cattle should die there?

“And wherefore have you made us to come up out of Egypt, to bring us in unto this evil place? It is no place of seed, or of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates: neither is there any water to drink.

“And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation (multitude), and they prostrated themselves before the Lord: and the glory of the Lord appeared unto them.

“And the Lord spoke unto Moses, saying,

“Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, **and SPEAK unto the rock before their eyes**; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock; so thou shalt give the congregation (multitude) and their beasts drink.

“And Moses took the rod from before the Lord, as He commanded him.

“And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation (multitude) together before the rock, and he said unto them, **Hear now, you rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?**

“**And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he SMOTE the rock TWICE**: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation (multitude) drank, and their beasts also.

“And the Lord spoke unto Moses and Aaron, **Because you did not believe Me, to sanctify Me in the eyes of the children of Israel**, therefore you shall not bring this congregation (multitude) into the land which I have given them.” Numbers 20:1-12

Clearly, Moses disobeyed God by striking the rock rather than speaking to the rock. Furthermore, Moses took some of the credit for himself (and Aaron) for obtaining the water from the rock, when it was solely a miracle from God.

But there were much deeper sins involved with this episode that are rarely, if ever, mentioned (or probably understood) by pastors, theologians and Bible teachers.

- A. God instructed the Israelites to build a sanctuary in the wilderness, so God could dwell among them, in the Most Holy Place. All day, every day, animals were sacrificed for the sins of the multitude in general, and for individual sins, as well as for thank offerings. Over a year's time, there were literally thousands of animals sacrificed. These sacrifices looked forward to the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, who through His death on the cross – ONCE – would be sufficient to take away the sins of the whole world (John 1:29).

The “striking of the rock” represented the crucifixion of Christ (the Rock) – the command that God gave to Moses when he was told to get water from the rock the first time.

But, this second time, Moses was told to “speak” to the rock, not to strike it. During this second episode of getting water for the people, Moses struck the rock, not just once – but twice. Moses was symbolically saying:

- a) Christ's death – ONCE – on the Cross, was insufficient to atone for sin, and,
  - b) Christ's death – ONCE – on the Cross, was certainly insufficient to “take away the sin of the WHOLE world!” Thus, just like Moses, by his actions, telegraphed to the Israelites of old that the death of Jesus Christ was insufficient to “take away the sin of the whole world,” Christians today, ALSO, do not believe that Jesus' death on the cross was SUFFICIENT to “take away the sin of the whole world” – a belief that is termed: **Universal Restoration**. Christians today literally scoff at the idea that Jesus death and resurrection were sufficient to save everyone who has ever been born on this earth! Christians abhor the doctrine of Universal Restoration.
- B) When Moses struck the rock twice, he said, “Must WE get water for you?” By his words, Moses was stating that God is unable to accomplish His Purpose, by Himself. God “needs” human help! Therefore, God is unable to save ANY sinner – UNLESS – the sinner (the human being) HELPS God save him, by “making the right choice.” In other words, God cannot save us UNLESS – “we let Him.” That, of course, means that “man” tells God what God can – and cannot – do! And thus, “man” has become his own “god.”

Christians today believe that Jesus' death on the cross ONLY “**made it possible**” for every sinner to be saved, but without the sinner “making the right choice” through HIS OWN “freewill” – that individual will NOT be saved.

## **Moses' Terrible Sin is Being Repeated by Christians of Today**

Moses had been a faithful servant for God for all those forty years in the wilderness, contending with 2 million rebellious, obstreperous, disobedient, defiant, mutinous Israelites. But this ONE sin, the sin of Moses' conveying to the Israelite multitude that Christ's death – **once** on the cross – was INSUFFICIENT to save the WHOLE world WITHOUT ANY help from human beings, was enough to keep Moses out of the first entrance to the Promised Land. Moses was only allowed to "see" the Promised Land from a great distance away before he died.

### **Eventually, Moses entered a Different "Promised Land."**

However, AFTER Moses confessed to his egregious sin, and asked for forgiveness, Moses entered a more splendid "Promised Land" when, sometime after Moses' death, Jesus Christ resurrected Moses from the grave.

Here is the Biblical account:

"Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:

"Loving kindness unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.

"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the **common** (literal translation = "**shared by ALL**" #2839 in Strong's Concordance) salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that you should earnestly contend for the faith which was **once for ALL** delivered unto the saints. (Notice the "**shared by ALL**" **salvation!**)

"For there are certain men crept in unnoticed, who were long ago marked out for condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into licentiousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

I will therefore put you in remembrance, though you once know this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that did not believe.

"And the angels that kept not their proper domain, but left their own habitation, He hath reserved in *eonian* chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

"Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to sexual immorality, and going after

strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the chastisement of *eonian* fire.

“Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of the glorious ones.

**“Yet Michael, the archangel (Jesus – in angel form), when contending with the devil, he discussed about the body of Moses** (apparently whether Christ had the authority to resurrect Moses, since he had sinned against God), **dared not bring against him (the Devil) a reviling accusation**, but said, “The Lord rebuke thee. (Even the Devil is God’s “child” – and eventually Jesus Christ will “turn him back to “right-doing” = righteousness.)

“But these speak evil of things of which they do not know: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.”  
Jude 1:1-10

Here is the account of Moses’ resurrection, an event we know happened because Moses appeared, with Elijah, at the Transfiguration of Jesus:

“After six days, Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into a high mountain by themselves.

“And was transfigured before them: and His face did shine as the sun, and His clothing was white as the light.

“And behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elijah talking with Him.” Matt 17:1-3

**Humanity will enter the “Promised Land in two different groups ” (heaven – for the First group, and the New Earth – for the Second group)**

Moses, because of his great sin of misrepresenting the Character of Jesus Christ by transmitting to the Israelites, by his words and actions, that God will NOT be able to save all those He has created, and certainly He won’t be able to do It without “human help” – was not allowed to enter the Promised Land with the “first” group. However, Moses WAS allowed to enter an even better “Promised Land” (by being resurrected to immortality) at a later time.

Moses represents the group that will enter into the “Promised Land” AFTER the Great White Throne Judgment, when ALL have reaped what they have sown.

The example of Moses strongly suggests that only those who understand and believe in Universal Restoration – the belief that God eventually WILL save ALL - will be raised in the First Resurrection. Those who don't believe that God CAN – and WILL – save ALL those He has created, will have to wait for the Second Resurrection, when they will finally understand the true character of Jesus Christ.