

## Numbers 20-22

New King James Version (NKJV)

### Numbers 20

#### Moses' Error at Kadesh

<sup>1</sup> Then the children of Israel, the whole congregation, came into the Wilderness of Zin in the first month, and the people stayed in Kadesh; and Miriam died there and was buried there.

<sup>2</sup> Now there was no water for the congregation; so they gathered together against Moses and Aaron. <sup>3</sup> And the people contended with Moses and spoke, saying: "If only we had died when our brethren died before the LORD! <sup>4</sup> Why have you brought up the assembly of the LORD into this wilderness, that we and our animals should die here? <sup>5</sup> 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." <sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>8</sup> "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." <sup>9</sup> So Moses took the rod from before the LORD as He commanded him.

<sup>10</sup> 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?" <sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> 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."

<sup>13</sup> This was the water of Meribah, <sup>[a]</sup> because the children of Israel contended with the LORD, and He was hallowed among them.

#### Passage Through Edom Refused

<sup>14</sup> Now Moses sent messengers from Kadesh to the king of Edom. "Thus says your brother Israel: 'You know all the hardship that has befallen us, <sup>15</sup> how our fathers went down to Egypt, and we dwelt in Egypt a long time, and the Egyptians afflicted us and our fathers. <sup>16</sup> When we cried out to the LORD, He heard our voice and sent the Angel and brought us up out of Egypt; now here we are in Kadesh, a city on the edge of your border. <sup>17</sup> Please let us pass through your country. We will not pass through fields or vineyards, nor will we drink water from wells; we will go along the King's Highway; we will not turn aside to the right hand or to the left until we have passed through your territory.'"

<sup>18</sup> Then Edom said to him, "You shall not pass through my *land*, lest I come out against you with the

sword.”

<sup>19</sup> So the children of Israel said to him, “We will go by the Highway, and if I or my livestock drink any of your water, then I will pay for it; let me only pass through on foot, nothing *more*.”

<sup>20</sup> Then he said, “You shall not pass through.” So Edom came out against them with many men and with a strong hand. <sup>21</sup> Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through his territory; so Israel turned away from him.

### **Death of Aaron**

<sup>22</sup> Now the children of Israel, the whole congregation, journeyed from Kadesh and came to Mount Hor.

<sup>23</sup> And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron in Mount Hor by the border of the land of Edom, saying: <sup>24</sup> “Aaron shall be gathered to his people, for he shall not enter the land which I have given to the children of Israel, because you rebelled against My word at the water of Meribah. <sup>25</sup> Take Aaron and Eleazar his son, and bring them up to Mount Hor; <sup>26</sup> and strip Aaron of his garments and put them on Eleazar his son; for Aaron shall be gathered *to his people* and die there.” <sup>27</sup> So Moses did just as the LORD commanded, and they went up to Mount Hor in the sight of all the congregation. <sup>28</sup> Moses stripped Aaron of his garments and put them on Eleazar his son; and Aaron died there on the top of the mountain. Then Moses and Eleazar came down from the mountain. <sup>29</sup> Now when all the congregation saw that Aaron was dead, all the house of Israel mourned for Aaron thirty days.

## **Numbers 21**

### **Canaanites Defeated at Hormah**

<sup>1</sup> The king of Arad, the Canaanite, who dwelt in the South, heard that Israel was coming on the road to Atharim. Then he fought against Israel and took *some* of them prisoners. <sup>2</sup> 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.” <sup>3</sup> And the LORD listened to the voice of Israel and delivered up the Canaanites, and they utterly destroyed them and their cities. So the name of that place was called Hormah. <sup>[b]</sup>

### **The Bronze Serpent**

<sup>4</sup> Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way. <sup>5</sup> 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.” <sup>6</sup> So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> 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.”<sup>9</sup> 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.

### **From Mount Hor to Moab**

<sup>10</sup> Now the children of Israel moved on and camped in Oboth. <sup>11</sup> And they journeyed from Oboth and camped at Ije Abarim, in the wilderness which *is* east of Moab, toward the sunrise. <sup>12</sup> From there they moved and camped in the Valley of Zered. <sup>13</sup> From there they moved and camped on the other side of the Arnon, which *is* in the wilderness that extends from the border of the Amorites; for the Arnon *is* the border of Moab, between Moab and the Amorites. <sup>14</sup> Therefore it is said in the Book of the Wars of the LORD:

“ Waheb in Suphah,<sup>[c]</sup>  
The brooks of the Arnon,

<sup>15</sup> And the slope of the brooks  
That reaches to the dwelling of Ar,  
And lies on the border of Moab.”

<sup>16</sup> From there *they went* to Beer, which *is* the well where the LORD said to Moses, “Gather the people together, and I will give them water.”<sup>17</sup> Then Israel sang this song:

“ Spring up, O well!  
All of you sing to it—

<sup>18</sup> The well the leaders sank,  
Dug by the nation’s nobles,  
By the lawgiver, with their staves.”

And from the wilderness *they went* to Mattanah,<sup>19</sup> from Mattanah to Nahaliel, from Nahaliel to Bamoth,<sup>20</sup> and from Bamoth, *in* the valley that *is* in the country of Moab, to the top of Pisgah which looks down on the wasteland.<sup>[d]</sup>

### **King Sihon Defeated**

<sup>21</sup> Then Israel sent messengers to Sihon king of the Amorites, saying,<sup>22</sup> “Let me pass through your land. We will not turn aside into fields or vineyards; we will not drink water from wells. We will go by the King’s Highway until we have passed through your territory.”<sup>23</sup> But Sihon would not allow Israel to pass through his territory. So Sihon gathered all his people together and went out against Israel in the wilderness, and he came to Jahaz and fought against Israel. <sup>24</sup> Then Israel defeated him with the edge of the sword, and took possession of his land from the Arnon to the Jabbok, as far as the people of Ammon; for the border of the people of Ammon *was* fortified. <sup>25</sup> So Israel took all these cities, and Israel dwelt in all the cities of the Amorites, in Heshbon and in all its villages. <sup>26</sup> For Heshbon *was* the city of Sihon king of the Amorites, who had fought against the former king of Moab, and had taken all his land

from his hand as far as the Arnon. <sup>27</sup> Therefore those who speak in proverbs say:

“Come to Heshbon, let it be built;  
Let the city of Sihon be repaired.

<sup>28</sup> “For fire went out from Heshbon,  
A flame from the city of Sihon;  
It consumed Ar of Moab,  
The lords of the heights of the Arnon.

<sup>29</sup> Woe to you, Moab!  
You have perished, O people of Chemosh!  
He has given his sons as fugitives,  
And his daughters into captivity,  
To Sihon king of the Amorites.

<sup>30</sup> “But we have shot at them;  
Heshbon has perished as far as Dibon.  
Then we laid waste as far as Nophah,  
Which *reaches* to Medeba.”

<sup>31</sup> Thus Israel dwelt in the land of the Amorites. <sup>32</sup> Then Moses sent to spy out Jazer; and they took its villages and drove out the Amorites who *were* there.

### **King Og Defeated**

<sup>33</sup> And they turned and went up by the way to Bashan. So Og king of Bashan went out against them, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei. <sup>34</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, “Do not fear him, for I have delivered him into your hand, with all his people and his land; and you shall do to him as you did to Sihon king of the Amorites, who dwelt at Heshbon.” <sup>35</sup> So they defeated him, his sons, and all his people, until there was no survivor left him; and they took possession of his land.

## **Numbers 22**

### **Balak Sends for Balaam**

<sup>1</sup> Then the children of Israel moved, and camped in the plains of Moab on the side of the Jordan *across from* Jericho.

<sup>2</sup> Now Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites. <sup>3</sup> And Moab was exceedingly afraid of the people because they *were* many, and Moab was sick with dread because of the children of Israel. <sup>4</sup> So Moab said to the elders of Midian, “Now this company will lick up everything around us, as an ox licks up the grass of the field.” And Balak the son of Zippor *was* king of the Moabites at that time. <sup>5</sup> Then he sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor, which *is* near the River<sup>[e]</sup> in the land of the sons of his people,<sup>[f]</sup> to call him, saying: “Look, a people has come from Egypt. See, they cover the face of the earth, and are settling next to me! <sup>6</sup> Therefore please come at once, curse this people for me,

for they *are* too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land, for I know that he whom you bless *is* blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed.”

<sup>7</sup> So the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the diviner’s fee in their hand, and they came to Balaam and spoke to him the words of Balak. <sup>8</sup> And he said to them, “Lodge here tonight, and I will bring back word to you, as the LORD speaks to me.” So the princes of Moab stayed with Balaam.

<sup>9</sup> Then God came to Balaam and said, “Who *are* these men with you?”

<sup>10</sup> So Balaam said to God, “Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, has sent to me, *saying*, <sup>11</sup> ‘Look, a people has come out of Egypt, and they cover the face of the earth. Come now, curse them for me; perhaps I shall be able to overpower them and drive them out.’”

<sup>12</sup> And God said to Balaam, “You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they *are* blessed.”

<sup>13</sup> So Balaam rose in the morning and said to the princes of Balak, “Go back to your land, for the LORD has refused to give me permission to go with you.”

<sup>14</sup> And the princes of Moab rose and went to Balak, and said, “Balaam refuses to come with us.”

<sup>15</sup> Then Balak again sent princes, more numerous and more honorable than they. <sup>16</sup> And they came to Balaam and said to him, “Thus says Balak the son of Zippor: ‘Please let nothing hinder you from coming to me; <sup>17</sup> for I will certainly honor you greatly, and I will do whatever you say to me. Therefore please come, curse this people for me.’”

<sup>18</sup> Then Balaam answered and said to the servants of Balak, “Though Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more. <sup>19</sup> Now therefore, please, you also stay here tonight, that I may know what more the LORD will say to me.”

<sup>20</sup> And God came to Balaam at night and said to him, “If the men come to call you, rise *and* go with them; but only the word which I speak to you—that you shall do.” <sup>21</sup> So Balaam rose in the morning, saddled his donkey, and went with the princes of Moab.

### **Balaam, the Donkey, and the Angel**

<sup>22</sup> Then God’s anger was aroused because he went, and the Angel of the LORD took His stand in the way as an adversary against him. And he was riding on his donkey, and his two servants *were* with him. <sup>23</sup> Now the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand, and the donkey turned aside out of the way and went into the field. So Balaam struck the donkey to turn her back onto the road. <sup>24</sup> Then the Angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, *with* a wall on this side and a wall on that side. <sup>25</sup> And when the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD, she pushed herself against the wall and crushed Balaam’s foot against the wall; so he struck her again. <sup>26</sup> Then the Angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place where there *was* no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. <sup>27</sup> And when the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam’s anger was aroused, and he struck the donkey with his staff.

<sup>28</sup> Then the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, “What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?”

<sup>29</sup> And Balaam said to the donkey, “Because you have abused me. I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you!”

<sup>30</sup> So the donkey said to Balaam, “Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden, ever since I became yours, to this day? Was I ever disposed to do this to you?”

And he said, “No.”

<sup>31</sup> Then the LORD opened Balaam’s eyes, and he saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face. <sup>32</sup> And the Angel of the LORD said to him, “Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to stand against you, because *your* way is perverse before Me. <sup>33</sup> The donkey saw Me and turned aside from Me these three times. If she had not turned aside from Me, surely I would also have killed you by now, and let her live.”

<sup>34</sup> And Balaam said to the Angel of the LORD, “I have sinned, for I did not know You stood in the way against me. Now therefore, if it displeases You, I will turn back.”

<sup>35</sup> Then the Angel of the LORD said to Balaam, “Go with the men, but only the word that I speak to you, that you shall speak.” So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

<sup>36</sup> Now when Balak heard that Balaam was coming, he went out to meet him at the city of Moab, which is on the border at the Arnon, the boundary of the territory. <sup>37</sup> Then Balak said to Balaam, “Did I not earnestly send to you, calling for you? Why did you not come to me? Am I not able to honor you?”

<sup>38</sup> And Balaam said to Balak, “Look, I have come to you! Now, have I any power at all to say anything? The word that God puts in my mouth, that I must speak.” <sup>39</sup> So Balaam went with Balak, and they came to Kirjath Huzoth. <sup>40</sup> Then Balak offered oxen and sheep, and he sent *some* to Balaam and to the princes who *were* with him.

### **Balaam’s First Prophecy**

<sup>41</sup> So it was, the next day, that Balak took Balaam and brought him up to the high places of Baal, that from there he might observe the extent of the people.

## **Mark 7:1-13**

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### **Mark 7**

#### **Defilement Comes from Within**

<sup>1</sup> Then the Pharisees and some of the scribes came together to Him, having come from Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> Now when <sup>[a]</sup> they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, with unwashed hands, they found fault. <sup>3</sup> For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash *their* hands in a special way,

holding the tradition of the elders. <sup>4</sup> *When they come* from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things which they have received and hold, *like* the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches.

<sup>5</sup> Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, “Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?”

<sup>6</sup> He answered and said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written:

*‘ This people honors Me with their lips,*

*But their heart is far from Me.*

*<sup>7</sup> And in vain they worship Me,*

*Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.*<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>8</sup> For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men<sup>[c]</sup>—the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do.”

<sup>9</sup> He said to them, “*All too well* you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. <sup>10</sup> For Moses said, ‘*Honor your father and your mother*’;<sup>[d]</sup> and, ‘*He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.*’<sup>[e]</sup> <sup>11</sup> But you say, ‘If a man says to his father or mother, “Whatever profit you might have received from me *is* Corban”—’ (that is, a gift *to God*), <sup>12</sup> then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, <sup>13</sup> making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do.”