

10. Death of Miriam and Aaron (20)

- i. 20:1 says, "In the first month."
 - a. Notice it doesn't say in what year.
 - b. What year is it?
 - 1) It is the 40th year.
 - 2) Numbers 33:38
 - i) The event that you have right here happens just a few months after the first month spoken of here in chapter 40(?).
 - ii) The verse says, "At the Lord's command, Aaron the priest went up to Mount Hor where he died on the 1st day of the 5th month of the 40th year."
- ii. The Lord had told the people of Israel that because of what had happened at Kadesh-Barnea to turn back and go along the desert to the Red Sea.
- iii. They are going to have about 37 plus years of wilderness wanderings.
 - a. They have been out of Egypt about 2 years when you come to Kadesh-Barnea.
 - b. You still have about a year to go before they are going to get to the Promised land.
 - c. So this would mean about 37 years of wandering and then they come back again making a circle.
 - d. They were at Kadesh in chapter 13 and 14 and then they leave and start their wilderness wandering.
 - e. For 37 years they circle and come back to Kadesh.
- iv. When they come back, they find there is a problem: no water.
 - a. They start to grumble again.
 - b. They say to Moses, "Why did you bring us out here to die?"
 - c. The Lord told Moses, "There is a rock here in Kadesh. I want you to assemble the people before the rock. I want you to speak to the rock (at Rephidim Moses was commanded by the Lord to strike the rock) and water will come out of that rock and you will have all the water you need and so will your livestock."
 - d. Moses became angry and struck the rock instead of speaking to it.
 - e. The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not honor me as holy in front of the people, neither you nor Aaron are going to go into the promised land."
 - 1) In other words, Moses was God's representative.
 - 2) And it was his responsibility to represent God as holy in front of the people.