**Death of Miriam and Sin of Moshe: A Modern Lens on Their Connection**

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| 3 (יד) וַיִּשְׁלַ֨ח מֹשֶׁ֧ה מַלְאָכִ֛ים מִקָּדֵ֖שׁ אֶל־מֶ֣לֶךְ אֱד֑וֹם כֹּ֤ה אָמַר֙ אָחִ֣יךָ יִשְׂרָאֵ֔ל אַתָּ֣ה יָדַ֔עְתָּ אֵ֥ת כָּל־הַתְּלָאָ֖ה אֲשֶׁ֥ר מְצָאָֽתְנוּ:(טו) וַיֵּרְד֤וּ אֲבֹתֵ֙ינוּ֙ מִצְרַ֔יְמָה וַנֵּ֥שֶׁב בְּמִצְרַ֖יִם יָמִ֣ים רַבִּ֑ים *וַיָּרֵ֥עוּ לָ֛נוּ מִצְרַ֖יִם וְלַאֲבֹתֵֽינוּ:**(טז) וַנִּצְעַ֤ק אֶל־יְקֹוָק֙ וַיִּשְׁמַ֣ע קֹלֵ֔נוּ וַיִּשְׁלַ֣ח מַלְאָ֔ךְ* ***וַיֹּצִאֵ֖נוּ מִמִּצְרָ֑יִם*** *וְהִנֵּה֙ אֲנַ֣חְנוּ* **בְקָדֵ֔שׁ** *עִ֖יר קְצֵ֥ה גְבוּלֶֽךָ:**(יז) נַעְבְּרָה־נָּ֣א בְאַרְצֶ֗ךָ לֹ֤א נַעֲבֹר֙ בְּשָׂדֶ֣ה וּבְכֶ֔רֶם וְלֹ֥א נִשְׁתֶּ֖ה מֵ֣י בְאֵ֑ר דֶּ֧רֶךְ הַמֶּ֣לֶךְ נֵלֵ֗ךְ לֹ֤א נִטֶּה֙ יָמִ֣ין וּשְׂמֹ֔אול עַ֥ד אֲשֶֽׁר־ נַעֲבֹ֖ר גְּבֻלֶֽךָ:*(יח) וַיֹּ֤אמֶר אֵלָיו֙ אֱד֔וֹם לֹ֥א תַעֲבֹ֖ר בִּ֑י פֶּן־בַּחֶ֖רֶב אֵצֵ֥א לִקְרָאתֶֽךָ: **1x**(יט) וַיֹּאמְר֨וּ אֵלָ֥יו בְּנֵֽי־יִשְׂרָאֵל֘ בַּֽמְסִלָּ֣ה נַעֲלֶה֒ וְאִם־*מֵימֶ֤יךָ* נִשְׁתֶּה֙ אֲנִ֣י וּמִקְנַ֔י וְנָתַתִּ֖י מִכְרָ֑ם רַ֥ק אֵין־דָּבָ֖ר בְּרַגְלַ֥י אֶֽעֱבֹֽרָה:(כ) וַיֹּ֖אמֶר לֹ֣א תַעֲבֹ֑ר וַיֵּצֵ֤א אֱדוֹם֙ לִקְרָאת֔וֹ בְּעַ֥ם כָּבֵ֖ד וּבְיָ֥ד חֲזָקָֽה: **2x**(כא) **וַיְמָאֵ֣ן׀ אֱד֗וֹם נְתֹן֙ אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵ֔ל עֲבֹ֖ר בִּגְבֻל֑וֹ וַיֵּ֥ט יִשְׂרָאֵ֖ל מֵעָלָֽיו**: פ | 1 במדבר פרק כ**(א) וַיָּבֹ֣אוּ בְנֵֽי־יִ֠שְׂרָאֵל כָּל־הָ֨עֵדָ֤ה מִדְבַּר־צִן֙** בַּחֹ֣דֶשׁ הָֽרִאשׁ֔וֹן וַיֵּ֥שֶׁב הָעָ֖ם **בְּקָדֵ֑שׁ** *וַתָּ֤מָת שָׁם֙* ***מִרְיָ֔ם*** *וַתִּקָּבֵ֖ר שָֽׁם*:(ב) וְלֹא־הָ֥יָה *מַ֖יִם* **לָעֵדָ֑ה** **וַיִּקָּ֣הֲל֔וּ עַל־מֹשֶׁ֖ה וְעַֽל־אַהֲרֹֽן**:(ג) וַיָּ֥רֶב **הָעָ֖ם** עִם־מֹשֶׁ֑ה וַיֹּאמְר֣וּ לֵאמֹ֔ר *וְל֥וּ גָוַ֛עְנוּ בִּגְוַ֥ע אַחֵ֖ינוּ לִפְנֵ֥י יְקֹוָֽק:**(ד) וְלָמָ֤ה הֲבֵאתֶם֙* ***אֶת־קְהַ֣ל יְקֹוָ֔ק*** *אֶל־הַמִּדְבָּ֖ר הַזֶּ֑ה לָמ֣וּת שָׁ֔ם אֲנַ֖חְנוּ וּבְעִירֵֽנוּ:**(ה)* ***וְלָמָ֤ה הֶֽעֱלִיתֻ֙נוּ֙ מִמִּצְרַ֔יִם*** *לְהָבִ֣יא אֹתָ֔נוּ אֶל־הַמָּק֥וֹם הָרָ֖ע הַזֶּ֑ה לֹ֣א׀ מְק֣וֹם זֶ֗רַע וּתְאֵנָ֤ה וְגֶ֙פֶן֙ וְרִמּ֔וֹן וּמַ֥יִם אַ֖יִן לִשְׁתּֽוֹת:*(ו) וַיָּבֹא֩ מֹשֶׁ֨ה וְאַהֲרֹ֜ן מִפְּנֵ֣י **הַקָּהָ֗ל** אֶל־פֶּ֙תַח֙ אֹ֣הֶל מוֹעֵ֔ד וַֽיִּפְּל֖וּ עַל־פְּנֵיהֶ֑ם וַיֵּרָ֥א כְבוֹד־יְקֹוָ֖ק אֲלֵיהֶֽם: פ |
| 4 **(כב) וַיִּסְע֖וּ מִקָּדֵ֑שׁ וַיָּבֹ֧אוּ בְנֵֽי־יִשְׂרָאֵ֛ל כָּל־הָעֵדָ֖ה הֹ֥ר הָהָֽר:**(כג) וַיֹּ֧אמֶר יְקֹוָ֛ק אֶל־מֹשֶׁ֥ה וְאֶֽל־אַהֲרֹ֖ן בְּהֹ֣ר הָהָ֑ר עַל־גְּב֥וּל אֶֽרֶץ־אֱד֖וֹם לֵאמֹֽר:(כד) יֵאָסֵ֤ף אַהֲרֹן֙ אֶל־עַמָּ֔יו כִּ֣י לֹ֤א יָבֹא֙ אֶל־הָאָ֔רֶץ אֲשֶׁ֥ר נָתַ֖תִּי לִבְנֵ֣י יִשְׂרָאֵ֑ל עַ֛ל ***אֲשֶׁר־מְרִיתֶ֥ם אֶת־פִּ֖י לְמֵ֥י מְרִיבָֽה***:***(כה) קַ֚ח אֶֽת־אַהֲרֹ֔ן*** וְאֶת־אֶלְעָזָ֖ר בְּנ֑וֹ וְהַ֥עַל אֹתָ֖ם הֹ֥ר הָהָֽר:(כו) וְהַפְשֵׁ֤ט אֶֽת־אַהֲרֹ֔ן אֶת־בְּגָדָ֔יו וְהִלְבַּשְׁתָּ֖ם אֶת־אֶלְעָזָ֣ר בְּנ֑וֹ וְאַהֲרֹ֥ן יֵאָסֵ֖ף וּמֵ֥ת שָֽׁם:(כז) וַיַּ֣עַשׂ מֹשֶׁ֔ה כַּאֲשֶׁ֖ר צִוָּ֣ה יְקֹוָ֑ק וַֽיַּעֲלוּ֙ אֶל־הֹ֣ר הָהָ֔ר לְעֵינֵ֖י כָּל־הָעֵדָֽה:(כח) וַיַּפְשֵׁט֩ מֹשֶׁ֨ה אֶֽת־אַהֲרֹ֜ן אֶת־בְּגָדָ֗יו וַיַּלְבֵּ֤שׁ אֹתָם֙ אֶת־אֶלְעָזָ֣ר בְּנ֔וֹ וַיָּ֧מָת אַהֲרֹ֛ן שָׁ֖ם בְּרֹ֣אשׁ הָהָ֑ר וַיֵּ֧רֶד מֹשֶׁ֛ה וְאֶלְעָזָ֖ר מִן־ הָהָֽר:(כט) *וַיִּרְאוּ֙ כָּל־הָ֣עֵדָ֔ה כִּ֥י גָוַ֖ע אַהֲרֹ֑ן וַיִּבְכּ֤וּ אֶֽת־אַהֲרֹן֙ שְׁלֹשִׁ֣ים י֔וֹם כֹּ֖ל בֵּ֥ית יִשְׂרָאֵֽל*: ס | 2 (ז) וַיְדַבֵּ֥ר יְקֹוָ֖ק אֶל־מֹשֶׁ֥ה לֵּאמֹֽר:***(ח) קַ֣ח אֶת־הַמַּטֶּ֗ה*** וְהַקְהֵ֤ל **אֶת־הָעֵדָה֙** אַתָּה֙ וְאַהֲרֹ֣ן אָחִ֔יךָ וְדִבַּרְתֶּ֧ם אֶל־**הַ**סֶּ֛לַע לְעֵינֵיהֶ֖ם וְנָתַ֣ן מֵימָ֑יו וְהוֹצֵאתָ֙ לָהֶ֥ם *מַ֙יִם֙* מִן־ הַסֶּ֔לַע וְהִשְׁקִיתָ֥ **אֶת־הָעֵדָ֖ה** וְאֶת־בְּעִירָֽם:(ט) וַיִּקַּ֥ח מֹשֶׁ֛ה אֶת־הַמַּטֶּ֖ה מִלִּפְנֵ֣י יְקֹוָ֑ק כַּאֲשֶׁ֖ר צִוָּֽהוּ:(י) **וַיַּקְהִ֜לוּ מֹשֶׁ֧ה וְאַהֲרֹ֛ן אֶת־הַקָּהָ֖ל** אֶל־פְּנֵ֣י הַסָּ֑לַע וַיֹּ֣אמֶר לָהֶ֗ם שִׁמְעוּ־נָא֙ ***הַמֹּרִ֔ים*** הֲמִן־הַסֶּ֣לַע הַזֶּ֔ה נוֹצִ֥יא לָכֶ֖ם *מָֽיִם*:(יא) וַיָּ֨רֶם מֹשֶׁ֜ה אֶת־יָד֗וֹ וַיַּ֧ךְ אֶת־הַסֶּ֛לַע בְּמַטֵּ֖הוּ **פַּעֲמָ֑יִם** וַיֵּצְאוּ֙ *מַ֣יִם* רַבִּ֔ים וַתֵּ֥שְׁתְּ הָעֵדָ֖ה וּבְעִירָֽם: ס(יב) וַיֹּ֣אמֶר יְקֹוָק֘ אֶל־מֹשֶׁ֣ה וְאֶֽל־אַהֲרֹן֒ יַ֚עַן לֹא־הֶאֱמַנְתֶּ֣ם בִּ֔י **לְהַ֨קְדִּישֵׁ֔נִי** לְעֵינֵ֖י בְּנֵ֣י יִשְׂרָאֵ֑ל לָכֵ֗ן לֹ֤א תָבִ֙יאוּ֙ אֶת־הַקָּהָ֣ל הַזֶּ֔ה אֶל־הָאָ֖רֶץ אֲשֶׁר־נָתַ֥תִּי לָהֶֽם:(יג) הֵ֚מָּה ***מֵ֣י מְרִ***יבָ֔ה אֲשֶׁר־רָב֥וּ בְנֵֽי־יִשְׂרָאֵ֖ל אֶת־יְקֹוָ֑ק **וַיִּקָּדֵ֖שׁ** בָּֽם: ס |
| BOX #1 20:1 In the first month, the entire Israelite community came to the Tzin Desert, and the people stopped in Kadesh. It was there that Miriam died and was buried. 20:2 The people did not have any water, so they began demonstrating against Moses and Aaron. 20:3 The people disputed with Moses. 'We wish that we had died together with our brothers before God!' they declared. 20:4 'Why did you bring God's congregation to this desert? So that we and our livestock should die? 20:5 Why did you take us out of Egypt and bring us to this terrible place? It is an area where there are no plants, figs, grapes or pomegranates. [Now] there is not even any water to drink!' 20:6 Moses and Aaron moved away from the demonstration to the Communion Tent entrance, and fell on their faces. God's glory was revealed to them. | BOX #3 *Encounter with Edom*20:14 Moses sent envoys from Kadesh to the King of Edom [with the following message]: 'This is what your brother Israel declares: You know about all the troubles that we have encountered. 20:15 Our fathers migrated to Egypt and we lived in Egypt for a long time. The Egyptians mistreated both our fathers and us. 20:16 When we cried out to God, He heard our voice and sent a representative to take us out of Egypt. We are now in Kadesh, a city at the edge of your territories. 20:17 Please let us pass through your land. We will not go through any fields or vineyards, and we will not drink any water from your wells. Until we pass through your territories, we will travel along the King's Highway, not turning aside to the right or to the left.' 20:18 Edom's response was, 'Do not pass through my [land], or I will greet you with the sword!' 20:19 The Israelites said, 'We will keep on the beaten path. If we or our cattle drink any of your water, we will pay the full price. It is of no concern. We only want to pass through [on foot](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=20#C3167).' 20:20 'Do not come through!' was Edom's response. Edom came forth to confront [the Israelites] with a large number of people and a show of force.20:21 Edom thus refused to allow Israel to pass through its territories, and Israel had to go around [the area]. |
| *BOX #2 Water from the Rock*20:7 God spoke to Moses, saying, 20:8 'Take the staff, and you and Aaron assemble the community. Speak to the [cliff](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=20#C3152) in their presence, and it will give forth its water. You will thus bring forth water from the cliff, and allow the community and their livestock to drink.' 20:9 Moses took the staff from before God as he had been instructed. 20:10 Moses and Aaron then assembled the congregation before the cliff. 'Listen now, you rebels!' shouted Moses. 'Shall we produce water for you from this cliff?' 20:11 With that, Moses raised his hand, and struck the cliff [twice](http://bible.ort.org/books/pentd2.asp?ACTION=displaypage&BOOK=4&CHAPTER=20#C3155) with his staff. A huge amount of water gushed out, and the community and their animals were able to drink.*Punishment of Moses and Aaron*20:12 God said to Moses and Aaron, 'You did not have enough faith in Me to sanctify Me in the presence of the Israelites! Therefore, you shall not bring this assembly to the land that I have given you.' 20:13 These are the Waters of Dispute (*Mey Meribhah*) where the Israelites disputed with God, and where He was [nevertheless] sanctified. | BOX #4 *Aaron's Death*20:22 Moving on from Kadesh, the entire Israelite community came to Hor Mountain. 20:23 At Hor Mountain, God said to Moses and Aaron, 20:24 'Aaron will [now die and] be gathered up to his people. He will not come to the land that I am giving the Israelites because you rebelled against My word at the Waters of Dispute. 20:25 '[You Moses] take Aaron and his son Eleazar, and bring them up to Hor Mountain. 20:26 Divest Aaron of his vestments and place them on his son Eleazar. Aaron will then be gathered up [to his ancestors] and die there.' 20:27 Moses did as God commanded him. [The three of them] climbed Hor Mountain in the presence of the entire community. 20:28 Moses divested Aaron of his vestments, and placed them on [Aaron's] son Eleazar. Aaron died there on the top of the mountain. When Moses and Eleazar descended from the mountain, 20:29 the people realized that Aaron had died. The entire family of Israel mourned Aaron for thirty days  |