



THE ROCK OF STUMBLING

Sermon Notes from 11/9/08

Numbers 20:1-13

Rev. Douglas D. Warren

Thursday, 11/13

Read: Numbers 20:23-29; Hebrews 7:23-8:13

Ask yourself or one another: How did the Aaronic priesthood point forward to Jesus as our high priest? How did it show our need for more than Aaron? How are you encouraged by Christ's priesthood?

Memorize/Meditate on *Hebrews 4:14* "Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession."

Pray: Praise Christ for what He has accomplished as our Priest.

Friday, 11/14

Read: Numbers 21:1-3; Hebrews 8:11-14

Ask yourself or one another: How is God both kind and stern? How do we think rightly about Him when He is so different from us?

Review memorizing Heb. 4:14 and meditate on our *eternal redemption*.

Pray: Ask God to teach us what it means to have Christ as our eternal High Priest. Praise Him for the gift of eternal redemption and ask Him to make it evident in our lives.

Saturday, 11/15

Read: Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:1-21 *in preparation for gathered worship*

Sing: *Be Merciful to Me*

Pray: "LORD, O LORD, we have sinned like our fathers. We have committed iniquity, we have behaved wickedly. We, like they, quickly forget Your works and proceeded foolishly without awaiting Your counsel. We have craved what we do not need, indeed things disastrous for us, but we have longed after them while neglecting what You have graciously provided for us.

"Lord, we have sinned like our fathers. We have despised Your blessings, even Christ Himself as we have failed to believe You at Your word and not listened to Your voice.

"Save us, O LORD! That we might give You thanks and praise Your holy name. Blessed be the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. And let all the people say, 'Amen.' Praise the Lord!" (Ps 106)

I Will Glory in My Redeemer

I will glory in my Redeemer whose priceless blood has ransomed me.
Mine was the sin that drove the bitter nails, and hung Him on that judgment tree.
I will glory in my Redeemer who crushed the power of sin and death;
My only Savior before the holy Judge, the Lamb Who is my righteousness,
The Lamb Who is my righteousness.

I will glory in my Redeemer my life He bought, my love He owns.
I have no longings for another, I'm satisfied in Him alone.
I will glory in my Redeemer His faithfulness, my standing place;
Though foes are mighty and rush upon me, my feet are firm, held by His grace,
My feet are firm, held by His grace.

I will glory in my Redeemer who carries me on eagle's wings.
He crowns my life with loving kindness, His triumph song I'll ever sing.
I will glory in my Redeemer who waits for me at gates of gold,
And when He calls me it will be paradise, His face forever to behold,
His face forever to behold.

Book Overview

Numbers/Into the Wilderness: God has prepared the Promised Land for Israel as an inheritance where they are to dwell together with Him in their midst enjoying unprecedented intimacy and delight. While the first generation brought up out of Egypt failed to trust Him and so died in the wilderness, they are to press on in faith and obey His Word in every regard so they will live in His blessing.

Section Outline

1-10 Proper Ordering of the Camp. *"Just as the Lord commanded Moses, so they did."*

11-25 The Impossibility of Walking Together with the Holy One of Israel.

11-12	Failure foreshadowed
13-14	Failure secured
15-19	Turning away God's wrath – the Aaronic Priesthood
20	Transition of Generations
20:1-13	The Failure of Moses and Aaron
20:14-21	Turned away by a brother (Edom denies Israel passage)
20:22-29	Death of Aaron, priestly garments given to Eleazar

Text

¹In the first month the whole Israelite community arrived at the Desert of Zin, and they stayed at Kadesh. There Miriam died and was buried. ²Now there was no water for the community, and the people gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron. ³They quarreled with Moses and said, "If only we had died when our brothers fell dead before the LORD! ⁴Why did you bring the LORD's community into this desert, that we and our livestock should die here? ⁵Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to this terrible place? It has no grain or figs, grapevines or pomegranates. And there is no water to drink!"

⁶Moses and Aaron went from the assembly to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and fell facedown, and the glory of the LORD appeared to them. ⁷The LORD said to Moses, ⁸"Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. **Speak to that rock** before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink." ⁹So Moses took the staff from the LORD's presence, just as he commanded him. ¹⁰He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, "Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?" ¹¹Then Moses raised his arm and **struck the rock twice with his staff**. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank. ¹²But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "**Because** you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them." ¹³These were the waters of Meribah, where the Israelites quarreled with the LORD and where he showed himself holy among them.

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Sermon Notes

Message

I.

II.

III.

Application

Please seek the Holy Spirit's guidance as you answer the following:

- How does this passage help us see spiritual reality? Why?
- What aspects of Moses' leadership point us to Christ? How?
- How does Christ's priesthood define (y)our spiritual reality?

Check out our new website www.ctrPortland.org

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Will you join me in reading and studying *Numbers* together?

Each week we will have a set of passages to read to help us work together in reading through this whole book and digging into what it means and how we are to apply it in our lives individually, as families, and as a congregation. Let's wade into the *Wilderness* together.

Read: Numbers 20:1-13; John 4:1-26 (Samaritan woman)

Ask yourself or one another: What were the main points of the sermon? How do they apply to us as a congregation? How do they apply to me? What am I going to do about it? How does the gospel of Christ empower me (us) to do so? Review Application.

Sing: *I Will Glory in My Redeemer* (words on back)

Pray: "Lord God, You alone give the living water that springs up within us. Forgive us for the ways that we do not honor You as holy. Thank you for providing us a Shepherd greater than Moses who was faithful in all things. Teach us to trust You and so obey."

Read: Numbers 20:1-5; Psalm 106:1-33

Meditate on the patience of God

Ask yourself or one another: The people continually rebel and grumble and they continue to face death. How do you (we) face the same struggles? How does belief in the gospel answer these doubts? How does it help us to see our present reality accurately?

Pray: Ask God to reveal the truthfulness of His promises to our hearts and minds. Ask Him to protect us from sin's deceitfulness.

Read: Numbers 20:6-13; Psalm 106:19-33

Ask yourself or one another: How do you (we) tend to quarrel with the Lord? Can ignoring Him be another way of quarreling? How does such quarreling demonstrate lack of trust?

Sing: *I Will Glory in My Redeemer*

Pray: "Holy One of Israel, we praise You for You alone are God. Teach us to believe Your Word as faithful and true."

Read: Numbers 20:14-22; Obadiah 1:1-10 (God's judgment on Edom)

Ask yourself or one another: How does God view Edom's treatment of Israel? How important is hospitality?

Pray: "Forgive us, Lord, for our lack of hospitality and disbelief in Your promises. Teach us to trust that You are truly enough for us."

Sunday, 11/9

Monday, 11/10

Tuesday, 11/11

Wednesday, 11/12