

The Meribah Experience

1. 2000 BC – Genesis 15:13-16 – Abrahamic Covenant
2. 1446 BC – Exodus 3:7-8 – God recalls Abrahamic Covenant to Moses
3. 1446 BC – Exodus 6:6-9 – Moses speaks to Hebrews about Abrahamic Covenant
 - a. Hebrews cannot hear or understand...they are broken
4. Exodus 7-13 Moses appears before Pharaoh
5. 1445 BC – Exodus 13:3-5 – Passover and departure
6. 1445 BC – Exodus 14 – The Red Sea
7. 1445 BC - Exodus 17:1-7 – No water
 - a. “quarrel” – *rib* – means “to strive”, “to contend”
 - i. Describes an ordinary argument
 - ii. Used to refer to a legal lawsuit being filed such as in Dt. 25:1
 - iii. This would have been the record of a pretrial motion against Moses which is a practice documented in the Ancient Near East at this time
 - iv. Moses is being accused of not meeting his end of a contract, of breaching his agreement with the people to deliver them through the wilderness to the Promised Land. This is heard in:
 1. “Give us water to drink.”
 2. “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt? To kill us?” – 17:3
 - b. “test” – *nash* – means “to test”, “to try”
 - i. Moses counters their legal suit by pointing out they were “testing” (*nash*) the Lord
 - ii. The Lord had made the Covenant in 2000 BC with Abraham.
 - iii. Moses was NOT the one to blame or argue with.
 - c. The Lord provided water in frommt of the accusing elders as he stood on the rock that Moses struck
 - d. Massah – from *nash* meaning “to test”, “to try. Here they tested the Lord
 - e. Meribah – from *rib* means “place of strife”. Here was the use of the technical legal term where the people began legal procedings against Moses
8. 1445-1405 – Moses taught the people and God provided the needs of the Hebrews
 - a. Teaching of Moses – Ex 20:9; Lev. 1:1; 4:1; 11:1; etc. Numbers 5:1-11; 6:1; etc.
 - b. Teaching the second Generation in song Dt. 31:19-32:47 (31:19-20)
9. 1405 – Numbers 20:1-13 – No water forty years later...fail
10. 1000 BC – Psalm 95:10-11 – David warns his generation
 - a. Ps. 95:8 – “Meribah” – from *rib* meaning “argument” or “lawsuit”
 - b. Ps. 95:8 – “testing” from *massah* meaning “trial” , “test”
 - c. Ps 95:9 – “test” from *nasah* meaning “to test”, “to try”
11. 63 AD – Hebrews 3:7-4:13

