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MINISTRIES

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Parashah Points: Chukat - Trust God and Keep Going

Welcome to another episode of Parashah Points—short thoughts from the weekly Torah Portion.

This week’s Parashah Point comes from Chukat, which is Hebrew for “statute,” and it goes from Numbers 19:1 to Numbers 22:1.

This Torah portion gives instructions concerning the Red Heifer ritual, tells the story of Moses striking a rock, and records the deaths of Aaron and Miriam. It also tells the account of Moses holding up the Bronze Serpent, which saved the Israelites who were bitten by snakes when they looked at it. And it records the conquest of Arad, the Amorites, and Bashan.

There’s a lot we can talk about in this Torah Portion. Today we’re going to talk about trusting in God.

Numbers 20:25-29

“Take Aaron and Eleazar his son and bring them up to Mount Hor. And strip Aaron of his garments and put them on Eleazar his son. And Aaron shall be gathered to his people and shall die there.” Moses did as the Lord [YHWH] commanded. And they went up Mount Hor in the sight of all the congregation. And 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. And when all the congregation saw that Aaron had perished, all the house of Israel wept for Aaron thirty days.

In this Torah Portion, we see that Aaron, the first High Priest of Israel—an important spiritual leader within the nation—had passed on and was replaced by his son, Eleazar. No doubt about it, this was deeply discouraging for many of the Israelites who looked to Aaron for spiritual direction. The Scriptures say that the Israelites wept for Aaron thirty days.

Perhaps you can imagine how painful and confusing of a time this must have been for the Israelites. One of their spiritual leaders had died. Now they had to get used to someone taking his place. It was a big adjustment!

But what's important to note is that the Israelites *did* eventually move on. After a season of mourning, they moved forward in their journey, even though Aaron was no longer with them. Ultimately, YHWH was still the one leading them.

Sometimes things happen that seem to turn our lives upside down. Sometimes people we love and are close to, who we think will be in our lives forever, leave. Sometimes we get let go from a job that we've held for years. But we must keep in mind that, despite feeling like we've lost everything, God is still with us. He is leading us. We must continue to move forward.

God's desire is that we trust in him above everything and everyone else. He is the one who provides for us, teaches us, guides us. Circumstances change. People move in and out of our lives. We go through tragedies. People we love leave, die, or even betray us. But the one constant we have is God himself—he will never leave us nor forsake us. He is always there.

Thank you for joining us for another Parashah Point!

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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