

36: June 6, 2026

Shabbat Message

Beha'alotcha / When You Set Up / בְּהֵעֲלִיתָךְ

Numbers 8:1-12:16

Seeds of Life Series: Torah the Seeds for Life

Sibling Rivalry

Introduction

We finally get to the point where we see the Israelites settling down with life in the wilderness.

They are moving towards the promised land along the way they have many different experiences happening to them such as complaining about manna and dying from eating quail all because they are disobedient and are the most complaining and kvetching people Moses had ever met.

When are His people (us) going to learn to be content with what we have? We take things for granted and are always looking for the exit back to Egypt or the flesh because it feels good.

Sibling Complaints

Numbers 12:1

1. The supposed reason for the complaint of Miriam and Aaron against Moses was his marriage to an Ethiopian woman. Explanations for the Ethiopian identity include:
 - 1.) She was Moses' second wife of Cushite origin (Nubian =modern Ethiopian or Sudanese) whom Moses perhaps had married while Zipporah was back in Midair visiting her father Jethro.
 - 2.) Perhaps Zipporah (a Midianite) had died and Moses had recently remarried 3.) Zipporah and the Ethiopian woman were one and the same.

Siblings Challenge

Numbers 12:2-3

1. Aaron and Miriam were challenging Moses' prophetic position as the primary recipient of revelation from Elohim.
2. The ethnic issue was a smokescreen for the real dispute Miriam and Aaron are both spoken of in a prophetic sense in the Tanakh. (Exod 4:14-15; 15:20-21; Mic 6:4).
3. Though Moses wrote the book of Numbers the Ruach HaKodesh may have inspired a later copyist to add this comment.

Siblings Correction

Numbers 12:4-8

1. The pillar of cloud descended to prove the personal encounter for divine disclosure.
2. Being called My servant by Yehovan and a faithful prophet placed Moses in the category of Abraham (Gen 26:24) and the servant in the servants Songs of Isaiah (Isa 42-53).
3. Elohim declared Moses With him will I speak mouth to mouth. Some translations have "face to face" (Hb peh el' peh) but Moses could not look upon Elohim's face (Exod 33:11, 20-23). Only Yeshua HaMashiach could truly look upon the face of the Father. (John 6:44-51). The expression denotes the direct method by which the will of Elohim was communicated through the words of Moses since what comes out of the mouth of a person echoes his character. (Matt 12:34).

Siblings Disease

Numbers 12:10-13

1. The description of Miriam's disease as white as snow like a stillborn baby suggests a variety of ailments ranging from skin cancer to psoriasis to leprosy (Hansen's disease).
2. All of these would render her unclean according to Torah (Lev 13-14).
3. Both Aaron and Moses expressed their love and concern for their sister in their desperate

please on her behalf.

Siblings Separation

Numbers 12:14-16

1. The seven days of separation after healing follows the Levitical law consistently and the purification process described in Lev 14:1-32 is assumed here.
2. The location of Hazerot in the wilderness of Paran is viewed in the context of the summary statement in 10:12 that the people journeyed from Sinai to the Paran Wilderness in the first phase of the journey to the promised land.
3. The Paran Wilderness is a broad area of northeastern Sinai bordered on the northeast but the Zin wilderness within which Kadesh Barnea is located (33:15-37).

Take Away

1. Aaron and Miriam ultimately was speaking against their brother's authority disguised by the complaint against his wife.
2. Aaron and Miriam both got punished because of their lack of respect of their brother and the whole entire encampment got in trouble.
3. Yehovah ultimately restored Miriam but not without them both seeing Moses as the Prophet Elohim chose to lead Israel.

Application

1. I will be careful to practice Hebrews 13:17.
2. I will be careful to walk in humility and not pride or risk the consequences.
3. I will be careful to listen to Torah and to be diligent in hearing His voice and not my own.

Beth Ohr Messianic Congregation

Torah Cycle 2025-2026