

THE STORY OF MOSES

Aunt Hattie's Bible Stories

by

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There is a free paraphrase of Scripture passages in use quite frequently throughout this book in the interest of youthful minds.
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CHAPTER NINETEEN

THE SMITTEN ROCK

This great nation moved again.

This time the Israelites made their camp in Rephidim, toward Sinai.

Again there was no water to drink! Surely this time they went at once to God to tell Him they were thirsty. No, they didn't. They became very angry with Moses and came near to stoning him to death. Moses cried to God, "**What shall I do to this people?**"

The Lord told him to take some of the elders of Israel, also his rod and go over and stand by the rock in Horeb and to strike the rock after which waters would gush from it.

Moses had tended sheep upon that mountain for forty years and must have known the very rock about which God had spoken.

So he did as the Lord had commanded him and struck the rock in the sight of the elders of Israel.

Out of the rock gushed the life-giving waters they so much needed.

Moses called the place Massah and Meribah which means "*chiding and tempting*," because they said, "*Is God with us or not?*"

In this rock we see another picture of Christ.

"For they drank of that spiritual rock which followed them and that rock was Christ" (I Corinthians 10:4), Paul tells us, in the New Testament explains.

Suppose Moses had called these elders around him and showed them the rock and told them it contained water to drink. Would that have satisfied their thirst?

No, Moses had to strike the rock and then the waters came and they drank.

So it was with Jesus Christ. He came into the world and lived a beautiful life, full of good deeds. He was a blessing to all who came to Him, but He had to be smitten on the cross before He could give eternal life to us. Out of His side rushed the blood that, before God, covers all of our sins and saves us forever.

If the Israelites had looked at the water and said, “Yes, we believe it is water and good water, too,” would that have quenched their thirst?

No, they had to drink, each one for himself, in order to save his own life.

Even so, every sinner must take Christ for Himself and take of Him to have eternal life.

~ end of chapter 19 ~

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