

**~MASSAH (169)**  
**(Mas'sah) [Testing, Trial]**

- One of the names for the place near Rephidim where the Israelites received a miraculous supply of water. As instructed by Yehowah, Moses and some of the older men of Israel went to the rock in Horeb. There Moses struck the rock.
- The water that then began to issue forth flowed as a river there in the wilderness. Moses subsequently named the place **Massah** meaning, **Testing, Trial**, because the Israelites had put Yehowah to the test by their faithless murmuring, and on account of their quarreling, he called it Meribah, meaning, **Quarreling**.
- And the entire assembly of the sons of Israel proceeded to depart from the wilderness of Sin by stages, which they took according to the order of Yehowah, and went camping at Rephidim. But there was no water for the people to drink. (**Exodus 17:1**)
- And the people fell to quarreling with Moses and saying; Give us water that we may drink. But Moses said to them; Why are you quarreling with me? Why do you keep putting Yehowah to the test? (**Exodus 17:2**)
- And the people went on thirsting there for water, and the people kept murmuring against Moses and saying; Why is it that you have brought us up out of Egypt to put us and our sons and our livestock to death by thirst? (**Exodus 17:3**)
- Finally Moses cried out to Yehowah, saying; What shall I do with this people? A little longer and they will stone me! (**Exodus 17:4**)
- Then Yehowah said to Moses; Pass in front of the people and take with you some of the older men of Israel and your rod with which you struck the Nile River. Take it in your hand and you must walk on. (**Exodus 17:5**)
- Look! I am standing before you there on the rock in Horeb. And you must strike on the rock, and water must come out of it, and the people must drink it. Subsequently Moses did so under the eyes of the older men of Israel. (**Exodus 17:6**)

- So he called the name of the place **Massah** and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the sons of Israel and because of their putting Yehowah to the test, saying; Is Yehowah in our midst or not? (**Exodus 17:7**)
- He opened a rock, and waters began to flow out, these went through the waterless regions as a river. (**Psalms 105:41**)
- Shortly before his death Moses warned Israel not to put Yehowah to the test as they had done at **Massah**.
- You must not put Yehowah your God to the test, the way you put him to the test at **Massah**. (**Deuteronomy 6:16**)
- Further, at Taberah and at **Massah** and at Kibroth-hattaavah you proved yourselves provokers of Yehowah to anger. (**Deuteronomy 9:22**)
- Then, in blessing Israel, he again took note of this event, indicating that it had resulted in testing Levi.
- And as to Levi he said; Your Thummim and your Urim belong to the man loyal to you, whom you put to the test at **Massah**. You began to contend with him by the waters of Meribah. (**Deuteronomy 33:8**)
- In this case Levi may mean the heads of the tribe, that is, Moses and Aaron.
- Later, the psalmist admonished the Israelites not to harden their hearts like the generation that wandered in the wilderness. His reference to Meribah and **Massah** evidently alludes to Israel's murmuring for water at Rephidim, the incident being representative of their faithless course throughout the entire 40-year period.
- Do not harden your heart as at Meribah, as in the day of **Massah** in the wilderness. (**Psalms 95:8**)
- When your forefathers put me to the proof, they examined me, they also saw my activity. (**Psalms 95:9**)
- For forty years I kept feeling a loathing toward that generation, and I proceeded to say; They are a people wayward at heart, and they themselves have not come to know my ways. (**Psalms**

**95:10)**

- Concerning whom I swore in my anger; They shall not enter into my resting-place. (**Psalms 95:11**)
- This appears to be the thought conveyed by the quotation of the psalmists words, from the **Greek Septuagint**, found at (**Hebrews Chapter 3**). Do not harden your hearts as on the occasion of causing bitter anger, **Meribah**, as in the day of making the test, **Massah**, in the wilderness, in which your forefathers made a test of me with a trial, and yet they had seen my works for forty years, literally, and they saw my works forty years.
- Do not harden your hearts as on the occasion of causing bitter anger, as in the day of making the test in the wilderness. (**Hebrews 3:8**)
- In which your forefathers made a test of me with a trial, and yet they had seen my works for forty years. (**Hebrews 3:9**)
- **Both**
- Do not harden your heart as at **Meribah**, as in the day of **Massah** in the wilderness. (**Psalms 95:8**)
- Do not harden your hearts as on the occasion of causing bitter anger, as in the day of making the test in the wilderness. (**Hebrews 3:8**)
- May also include Israel's later murmuring for water at the Meribah in the Kadesh area.
- And the sons of Israel, the entire assembly, proceeded to come into the wilderness of Zin in the first month, and the people took up dwelling in Kadesh. It was there that Miriam died and there that she was buried. (**Numbers 20:1**)
- Now there proved to be no water for the assembly, and they began to congregate themselves against Moses and Aaron. (**Numbers 20:2**)
- And the people went quarreling with Moses and saying; If only we had expired when our brothers expired before Yehowah! (**Numbers 20:3**)

- **And why have you men brought Yehowah's congregation into this wilderness for us and our beasts of burden to die there? (Numbers 20:4)**
- **And why have you conducted us up out of Egypt to bring us into this evil place? It is no place of seed and figs and vines and pomegranates, and there is no water to drink. (Numbers 20:5)**
- **Then Moses and Aaron came from before the congregation to the entrance of the tent of meeting and fell upon their faces, and Yehowah's glory began to appear to them. (Numbers 20:6)**
- **Then Yehowah spoke to Moses, saying; (Numbers 20:7)**
- **Take the rod and call the assembly together, you and Aaron your brother, and you must speak to the crag before their eyes that it may indeed give its water, and you must bring out water for them from the crag and give the assembly and their beasts of burden drink. (Numbers 20:8)**
- **So Moses took the rod from before Yehowah, just as he had commanded him. (Numbers 20:9)**
- **After that Moses and Aaron called the congregation together before the crag, and he proceeded to say to them; Hear, now, you rebels! Is it from this crag that we shall bring out water for you? (Numbers 20:10)**
- **With that Moses lifted his hand up and struck the crag with his rod twice, and much water began to come out, and the assembly and their beasts of burden began to drink. (Numbers 20:11)**