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The Death of Miryam

20: 1

She was the only woman whose death has been remembered from the Exodus generation.



Chapter 20 opens with a one-sentence account of the **death** and **burial** of **Miryam** at the infamous **Kadesh**. **The people of Isra'el, the whole new wilderness generation, entered the Tzin Desert in the first month (Pesach, Hag Ha'Matzah, Resheet), and they stayed in Kadesh.** Therefore, that **oasis** marked the beginning of the wilderness wandering (**to see link click [By - The Report of the Spies](#)**), and now marks the end of the wilderness wandering. From that point, **the Israelites** will be proceeding towards **the Promised Land**. **There Miryam died, and there she was buried** in the sand of **the wilderness**. **She** was gone, approximately 126 years old, and **she** was the only **woman** whose **death** has been remembered from **the Exodus generation**. **She** last appeared on the stage in **Chapter Twelve** along with **Aaron** in a revolt against the authority and leadership of **Moses** (see **[Bu - The Rebellion of Miryam and Aaron](#)**). **Miryam, Moses,**

and Aaron were siblings (**Exodus 6:20** and **15:20**), and **they** were **co-leaders** in **the wilderness** journey from **Egypt** to **their** current location (**Micah 6:4**). **Numbers Twelve** recounted the jealous challenge of **Aaron** and **Miryam** to **Moshe's** authority, and described the **leprosy** (see the commentary on **Leviticus Cg - The Test of M'tsora**) that **Miryam** alone suffered as punishment. The end of **Numbers 12** noted that **all the people** waited the traditional seven days for **Miryam** before setting off again on the march. **Her** leadership was clearly honored by the people, and that honor was extended to her again according to the death and burial notice here in the Torah. The text does not imply that **Miryam's death** outside **the Promised Land** was the result of **her** earlier rebellion; it simply reports that **she died** and was **buried** in **Kadesh-barnea**. The same will not be true for the upcoming **deaths** of **Aaron** and **Moses**, as we shall see, **they** die outside of **the Land** because of **their sin**.³⁹³

*Dear Heavenly **Father**, Praise **You** for **Your** Awesome Love that willingly paid the great price to ransom and rescue me from spiritual death. **Messiah** is preparing a home in heaven for me (**John 14:1-3**). **But whoever did receive Him, those trusting in His name, to these He gave the right to become children of God (John 1:12)**. Though my earthly body will **die**, my soul will be eternally with **Messiah** because of **His** bearing of my **sins** and rising from the dead.! **And just as it is appointed for men to die once, and after this judgment, so also Messiah, was offered once to bear the sins of many. He will appear a second time, apart from sin, to those eagerly awaiting Him for salvation (Hebrews 9:27-28)**. May I live my life focusing on loving **You** back and thanking **You** for **Your** gift of an eternal home in heaven, my Wonderful and Loving Heavenly **Father**! In **Messiah Yeshua's** holy **Name** and power of **His** resurrection. Amen*