

IS PRESUMPTION A SIN?

The American Heritage Dictionary says, “presumption is a boldly, arrogant, or offensive behavior.” Webster says, “Presumption is an overstepping of proper bounds.” Presumption can be a very serious sin. A sin that is linked to disobedience.

This was the sin of Moses and Aaron in Numbers, chapter twenty. God had told Moses and Aaron to gather the assembly, and in their presence speak unto the rock and it shall give forth water.

But Moses did not completely follow God’s instructions. It is true that he and Aaron gathered the assembly as God instructed. But, when it came to the part of speaking unto the rock, Moses behaved in an inappropriate manner. The Scripture says, “...Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: ...” Moses overstepped his bounds. He did not do as God commanded. Therefore, he and Aaron both suffered.

Why did Moses behave in such a manner? His anger toward the people. But with God this was no excuse for his action. Moses and Aaron both, were guilty of sin, they did something that God did not authorize. Their behavior was bold, arrogant, and offensive.

It’s clear that Moses sinned, but Aaron also was implicated (shown to be a party) in it as well. Why? He smote not the rock, Moses did.

The fact that Aaron is included in the punishment would indicate that he must have somehow been included in the action. The fact that the Bible is silent of his involvement doesn’t exonerate (free from blame) him. The fact that God punished Aaron along with Moses is evidence enough that Aaron did something to warrant this action of God. God never punishes the innocent.

Scripture: Numbers 20:1-13

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