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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1450 ~ A Farewell to Aaron.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

Some people seem to be born leaders. Perhaps you remember the popular boy at your school and how everyone wanted to be on his team. Or the girl who had lots of friends. Throughout history strong people have desired greatness and led armies to conquer other nations. Other leaders have changed the way people think by their writings and the way they live by discoveries beneficial to everyone.

It's very important for leaders to be worthy of their people's trust. Leaders need to stand against evildoing and guide their people in right ways.

The Almighty God had called Moses and Aaron to lead the Children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt. They had cared for them during the long years of wandering in the wilderness. They both loved and obeyed the One True God, and had taught their people to follow Him.

In today's story, the Children of Israel had arrived back at Kadesh, close to the land of Edom. Life had been hard during their many years in the wilderness but God had watched over them. He had given them water in the dry desert and supplied manna to feed them day by day. Now, nearly all the generation who had doubted and had disobeyed so many times, were dead. Their children would soon be in God's promised land, if only the people of Edom would let them pass through.

DRAMA - The Bible In Living Sound.

You may recall the patriarch Abraham had twin grandsons, Esau and Jacob. Esau's descendants were called the Edomites. So the people of Israel and the people of Edom were related. But the Edomites still remembered their ancestor, Esau, had missed the older son's special blessing. Instead, Isaac, their father, had given his blessing to Jacob. Many years later Esau had forgiven Jacob, but his tribe still held anger against the Israelites.

The Edomites refused to let Jacob's descendants take the short way across their land. They would rather see them dead!

So the children of Israel had to take a much longer route to get to Canaan.

It was very disappointing for them. They were longing to get to the promised land and to settle down. But God had allowed it. He knew what was best for His people. He still knows, today, what is best for those who belong to Him. We may be very disappointed when delays happen, or something blocks our way. We may think God has forgotten us. We may be tempted to give up. But God wants our trust in Him to grow. We are to keep on trusting and obeying Him.

The Bible book Romans, chapter 8, says this, "...in all things God works for good with those who love Him." It seemed all wrong to the Israelites to have to go such a long way around, when they had been so very close to Canaan. But God's plans were higher than theirs, and there was greater blessing for them in the longer route. Perhaps you are one of God's children, and you have hoped to do great things for Him. But life is not working out in the way you planned. Don't be discouraged! Your heavenly Father is working everything out for the best, and He is teaching you to be patient and to obey Him. The Lord Jesus Christ went through troubles like ours, when He was a man in our world. The Bible book Hebrews, chapter 5, says this, "Even though He was God's Son, He learned through His sufferings, to be obedient."

Aaron was now an extremely old man. God had given him great honour as the very first High Priest of Israel and Aaron had led his people to worship the One True God. But there had been failures in Aaron's leadership. Early on in the wilderness journey, he had not been faithful. He had given in to the people when they wanted him to make an idol god for them. Later he and sister Miriam had grumbled against their brother Moses.

Both times God forgave him, and he learned to obey God willingly. From that time on, he faithfully carried out his work as High Priest. But just a short time before today's story, he and Moses had disobeyed God. The people had been grumbling once again, because there was no water. They had remembered the time years before, when God told Moses to strike a great rock and plenty of sweet water had flowed out for everyone.

This time, God had told Moses to speak to the rock. But Moses and Aaron were fed up and angry at the people. When all the people came together, Moses did not honour God. He did not obey; he did not speak to the rock to give water. Instead, Moses said, "Do we have to get water out of this rock for you?" Then he lifted up his rod and struck the rock twice with it. Again, God gave everyone plenty of water, but He was displeased with Moses and Aaron. Because of this disobedience, they would not set foot in the promised land. This may seem hard to us, but their way was wrong. They knew God is faithful and would keep His word.

But although God disciplined the aged High Priest for his wrong actions, He still loved him. Aaron must climb the mountain to his final resting place, and there God took his spirit home.

The Bible teaches us that our God is full of love and mercy. He forgives us and makes us His children when we come to Him through His One and Only Son, Jesus. He is the loving Father who disciplines His children when we do wrong, to turn us into right paths.

MUSIC - Integrity Music.

That was Rita Baloche singing "If we confess our sins."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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