

## March 6 Answers

- 1) Almost **38** years had passed since the rebellion at Kadesh-Barnea, and Israel was back where it started. Most of the **exodus** generation had passed away, and their children now formed the majority of the congregation. God deliberately withheld **water** from them to see if they would trust Him, but they assembled themselves against Moses and Aaron just like their parents before them (cf. Exod 17:2–6). How important it is to set a godly **example** for our children! God instructed Moses and Aaron to **speak** to the rock, but they did not obey. Moses **struck** it with his rod instead. Their sin against God was great, for the rock that followed them was **Christ** (1 Cor 10:4). That single instance of not treating God as holy in the sight of Israel cost them what they longed for the most—entry into Canaan. This teaches us that even the greatest leaders are held **accountable** for their sins, and none of us are exempt from God’s judgment (Rom 2:11). God also tested Israel by forcing them to march south around Edom’s territory, which was in the opposite direction from Canaan. Instead of patiently following God’s leadership, they grew irritable and rebellious: “There is no food and no water, and we **loathe** this worthless food [manna]” (Num 21:5). God sent fiery **serpents** among them, and many died before they repented and looked to the bronze serpent for salvation (John 3:14–16).