Moses' Momentary Mistakes, had Permanent Punishment

Numbers 20:1-13

Life of Moses

Whose comment, Moses' or God's?

(Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)
Numbers 12:3

There are times when we legitimately have a reason to be angry

"In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. **Eph. 4:26-27**

When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.
Proverbs 10:19

Five Levels of Anger

1. Irritation
2. Indignation
3. Wrath
4. Intense fury
5. Rage

This time is different

The Lord said to Moses, "Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink."
Numbers 20:7-8

(40 years earlier)

The Lord answered Moses, "Walk on ahead of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will stand there before you by

the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." **Ex. 17:5-6**

He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, "Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?" Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank.
Numbers 20:10-11

Be faithful to the very end
Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life. **Revelation 2:10**

God did not allow Moses into Canaan

But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them." **Num. 20:12**

At that time I pleaded with the LORD: "O Sovereign LORD, you have begun to show to your servant your greatness and your strong hand. For what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do the deeds and mighty works you do? Let me go over and see the good land beyond the Jordan—that fine hill country and Lebanon." **Deuteronomy 3:23-25**

But because of you the LORD was angry with me and would not listen to me. "That is enough," the LORD said. "Do not speak to me

anymore about this matter. Go up to the top of Pisgah and look west and north and south and east. Look at the land with your own eyes, since you are not going to cross this Jordan.
Deuteronomy 3:26-27

The nature of Moses' Sin

1. Public sin
2. Repeated sin
3. Serious sin
4. Forgiven sin

The Rock symbolized Christ
They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.
1 Corinthians 10:3-4

Three relevant applications about anger for our lives from this passage.

1. Self-control is essential for the believer.

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.
Ephesians 4:2-3

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. **Eph. 4:30-31**

2. Character flaws require constant vigilance.
Three relevant applications about anger for our lives from this passage.

Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.
1 Corinthians 9:26-27

When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong. Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group.
Galatians 2:11-12

3. Sin in the life of the believer has earthly, but not eternal, consequences.

because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.
Hebrews 12:6

Christ forgives us, but we may have to live with the consequences of our failures.
Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
Ephesians 4:32

Ask God for the grace to forgive, like Jesus.

Ask the Lord to help you find a way to express kindness and forgiveness.

If you love me, you will obey what I command. **John 14:15**