

Out of Bondage onto Promise

Exodus 17:1-16

- Israel upon leaving Egypt has been hungry and they've been thirsty, and each time the people complained, murmured and blamed Moses as if he caused their bad circumstances the Lord has intervened and supplied their need. Charles Spurgeon said **"God's people tend to engrave their trials in marble and write their blessings in sand"** meaning we remember the trials and forget that God every time has met the need, of course this is not us but Spurgeon's congregation.

V1-16

- **V1-3** the people are headed toward Mount Sinai and they are being led by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, when the cloud stops during the day the people stop and make camp, when night comes the cloud is replaced by fire and it burns until the daylight comes. So that means it is not Moses who is leading them into difficult and trying circumstances its God, and the reason is twofold > **1.** to prove His power, **2.** to build their faith and character.
- This trial is a repeated test, one in which they had already failed, so what does God do He has them retake the test. Folks don't ever forget this, as unlike man God doesn't get tired or weary, if we continue to refuse to learn the spiritual lesson God is teaching us He'll continue the lesson, which is why so many people are in the same position they were in a twenty years ago, as they refused to learn what God is teaching them, so they keep retaking the test.
- **V4-7** I love how Moses tells the congregation that in complaining about him they really were pointing the finger at God, He refused to take on their problem of not trusting in God, scripture tells us we're to bear each others burdens but never should we take on peoples burdens. What does he do he cries out to God, even though it wasn't Moses fault that they were thirsty, but as their leader it was his responsibility to help lead them to the answer **"to cry out to the Lord"**.
- The people are talking about killing Moses, this is the man who has led them out of the bondage of Egypt and onto the promise land that God said He would give them, and yet because of some difficulty and hardship their ready to get rid of him. Moses under the pressure of an unfair attack is still called to respond in the right way despite how he may have felt personally.
- **V5-6** God tells Moses how water would be provided, Moses was to take his rod and strike the Rock and out of the Rock will come water. Moses obeys the Lord and the people receive fresh water, but notice Moses gives the place a name, calling it **"Massah, Meribah"**, **which means test and contention"**. Later God would use these names to remind Israel how they had quarreled with Him in **Deut 6:16, 9:22, 33:8**. The biggest problem wasn't that they were thirsty it was their attitude toward the Lord, as they asked **"is the Lord among us" V7**.

- **V8-10** you can believe when testing and trials are producing murmuring and complaining here comes the attacks from “**Amalek**”. Amalek in scripture is a type of the flesh, and notice it seems to come out of nowhere, so Moses calls Joshua to lead the Israelites into battle. It doesn’t tell us here but the method of attack used by Amalek is despicable > **Deut 25:17-18** says they attacked the rear of the camp, where you would find the women, children, aged and sick.
- **V11-13** Moses, Aaron and Hur, go up to the top of the hill and as Moses holds up his hands Israel wins, but when his hands start to lower they lose, so what do they do? They hold up his hands together, this is in prayer, spiritually, and in concern of the battle practically, none of us should want to see anyone losing to the flesh, so if we have to help hold someone up by prayer or by involvement then we shouldn’t hesitate to do it amen!
- **V14-16** after the victory comes the testimony, as God tells Moses to write this down in the memorial book, and recount it to Joshua that He will utterly block out Amalek under heaven. Question: when was the last time you ran into an Amalekite? Spiritually it shows us that one day the flesh will be dealt with in this exact way also never to be heard from again.
- Moses then builds an altar and calls it “**Jehovah Nissi**”, “**The Lord is My banner**”. This proves that none of us alone can defeat the flesh, only the lord, therefore I must rely and depend upon Him to provide the spiritual weaponry for me to come out victorious anytime he attacks me.