

Out of Bondage onto Promise

Exodus 16:1-36

- Although Israel has been delivered out of Egypt and the bondage of slavery that doesn't mean all their problems are gone, in fact we see for most of them that was only the beginning. What do you mean? After just three days of freedom what did the people do, begin to doubt God and complain to Moses because they were thirsty, seventy two hours from seeing the Red Sea part, the mighty Egyptian army drowned, and a victory in which they didn't lift a finger to achieve, and yet Israel went from singing God's Praises, to sighing woe is me, in just three days.

V1-36

- **V1** we left Israel as they came to "**Elim**" an oasis of water and palm trees where they could get rest and comfort from the trials and threats of Egypt. **V2-3** but they can't stay here if they were to get to their ultimate destination of the promise land, so after three weeks they leave the comfort and convenience of "**Elim**" and head into the "**wilderness of sin**", so aptly named.
- Tests and hardship often show us what is really inside of you doesn't it, and what you'll find is a whole lot of sin, notice as things become more difficult instead of the people looking to God they complain to Moses. The whole congregation is hungry, they've been away from Egypt only a month and they are fondly remembering the food that they had eaten to the full.
- If we listen to them then you could agree that maybe they should have stayed in Egypt for it sounds like they had it pretty good there, but what they'd conveniently forgotten was the bondage, the beatings, the misery they encountered from their forced labor as slaves. Folks you cannot trust yourself, the person who is most deceived by you is you, they in their pain had convinced themselves that being slaves in Egypt was better than enduring hardship and following the Lord in the wilderness, so they accused Moses of bringing them there to die.
- **V4-8** after wishing that the Lord had killed them in Egypt while they were full rather than in the desert when they were empty, God hearing their complaining answers with grace and mercy instead of punishment and judgment, telling them that by the evening that He would "**rain down bread from heaven**". And if that wasn't enough He also would give them meat to eat.
- The blessing of "**bread from heaven**" came with the responsibility of obedience to the Lord's instructions, they had a specific time in which to gather, and they weren't supposed to keep any overnight but to trust that God would bless them with this bread every morning. Also they were to do this everyday except the seventh day, for they were told to gather twice as much on the sixth day to over for the seventh, as God told them to rest on that day from all work.
- Moses made sure to tell them that in these blessings there is an expectation of personal growth, as although they were complaining to Moses, the Lord knew they really was complaining about their disappointment in how they felt God wasn't taking care of them properly. We may put a face to our pain by saying its this person or that thing but ultimately as followers of the Lord our complaints- disappointments are really directed at the Lord, and scripture says He hears them.

- **V9-12** Moses after telling them their complaints are not against him but against the Lord he tells them the Lord has heard them and that they are now going to see the glory of the Lord. In other words since your still doubting Me, even after the plagues, the Red Seas, the mighty miracles He has done for you, then watch this as I fill your bellies with bread, meat and water. You think you were eating to the full in Egypt then watch what I will do since you don't think I'm doing enough.
- **V13-19** God provides for them from resources that they didn't know existed, anytime we don't understand what God is doing we need to remember we are not in a position to trust God based on us understanding Him in the first place, we simply need to believe He has our best interest at heart. They didn't know what that was falling from the sky, they didn't know where those birds came from, all they knew is God said He would do it, so trust Him and be obedient to what He says, it's the same for us today, I don't need to understand I just need to trust what He says.
- **V20-21** God would always provide enough so you didn't have to try and gather more to save for the next day as just as God provided today He would provide tomorrow just trust and show up. But people didn't do that, some kept what God provided today for just in case He forgets to show up tomorrow and the Lord made the leftovers spoil and go bad. Also notice the people had to show up early to get the bread or when the sun came up it melted.
- Three things about this, **1st** this shows the sufficiency of Christ, how He meets all our daily needs, **2nd** this provided Israel with a work ethic, so they wouldn't get lazy and think they could show up all hours of the day thinking God was on their time an they'll get up whenever they felt like it. **3rd** at the start of each day like Israel we should also feed on the Christ and the Word of God, and this needs to be done on a daily basis, as we cannot live off of yesterdays or last weeks meal, we need to be feeding on a daily basis in order to deal with the pressures of life amen!
- **V22-26** so the Lord uses Moses to show them exactly how to trust in what He says as he explains for them how to gather and trust the Lord to provide a daily double before the Sabbath. **V27-30** some still didn't get it and yet the Lord is patient with them telling Moses to remind the people to gather twice as much on the sixth and God will make sure it will last past the seventh day.
- **V31-36** God shows them that there will be a time in which some of the bread will be set aside for the priests when He gives them His Law, so in teaching them obedience, patience, trust, its in preparations for future dealings with the people. What God does with us now is also Him preparing us to teach others in the future, but we need to trust Him, by obeying, being patient, and trusting that He does have a plan and its for our best interest amen!