

From Sea to Desert Retaliation From the Enemy

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Last week we started with Moses and the nation of Israel in Egypt. It just took 24 hours, ultimately to get Israel out of Egypt, but it will take until after the exile in Babylon to get Egypt out of Israel. The people will find themselves being less than faithful but it did not begin once they got to the promised land, it began in Egypt.

The Real Enemy

Exodus 12:12

“For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and fatally strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the human firstborn to animals; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments—I am the LORD.” (NASB 2020)

Numbers 33:3–4

“They set out from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the day after the passover the Israelites went out boldly in the sight of all the Egyptians, while the Egyptians were burying all their firstborn, whom the LORD had struck down among them. The LORD executed judgments even against their gods.” (NRSV)

Behind all the plagues, we see that in the unseen realm, Yahweh was judging the fallen divine beings who had set themselves up as gods. Yahweh went out of His way to show who is really in control.

The idea is not that each plague neatly corresponds to an Egyptian deity, only that the powerful acts of Yahweh went beyond the power of the gods of Egypt and their divine representative-son, Pharaoh. (Heiser 2015, 150)

The contest was indeed with Pharaoh and when all was done, he was done.

So about the crossing of the red sea or is it the sea of reed?. This all arises due to translations which some think points to the crossing being across a reed covered lake because of the term yam suph.

The term yam suph is also applied to the Gulf of Suez and the the Gulf of Aqaba which flank the Sinai Peninsula. (Kitchen 2003, 262)

God was showing the fallen divine beings just who is in charge. Oh, and He is coming directly against them, graphically seen in the contest in Egypt.

The word about what God did got around, by the time they get to Jericho, here is the conventional wisdom of the time.

Joshua 2:8 – 11

Before the scouts had lain down, she went up to them on the roof “I’m really convinced that the LORD has given you the land,” she said, “because we’re overwhelmed with fear of you. All the other inhabitants of the land are demoralized at your presence, because we heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Reed Sea right in front of you as you were coming out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan River—to Sihon and Og—whom you completely destroyed. When we heard these reports, we all became terrified and discouraged because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath.” (ISV)

That was the reason for the crossing. Yahweh used it to demonstrate His power, yes, but for a specific purpose— to make it crystal clear to the Israelites that I AM was unparalleled, unchallenged, and sovereign. It was a demonstration of His authority over the divine entities who’d chosen to abuse the responsibilities He’d given them after Babel. And it was a clear message to the gods that the days of their rebellion were numbered. (Gilbert 2017, Kindle Locations 1664-1667)

The result of the miracle was life changing to say the least. In a couple of days, the people will be complaining again, but for now, they worship and praise as they see the reverse of this view.



(Bolen 2012, Used with Permission)

Since it says in Revelation 15:3 that we will be singing this song, a song of victory praise and worship, I thought we would at least take a look at this song.

Exodus 15:1–19

Then Moses and the Israelis sang this song to the LORD: “I’ll sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has thrown into the sea. The LORD is my strength and song, and he has become my salvation. This is my God and I’ll praise him, the God of my father and I’ll exalt him. The LORD is a man of war, the LORD is his name! Pharaoh’s chariots and his army he has hurled into the sea; his best officers sank in the Reed Sea. The deep covered them, they went down into the depths like a rock. Your right hand, LORD, was majestic in strength, your right hand, LORD, shattered the enemy. In the greatness of your majesty you broke down your enemies. You sent forth your anger, it consumed them like stubble. By the breath of your nostrils the waters were piled up, the flowing waters stood up like a hill, the deep waters congealed in the heart of the sea. The enemy said, ‘I’ll pursue them, I’ll overtake them, I’ll divide the spoil. I’ll satisfy my anger on them, I’ll draw my sword, and my hand will bring them to ruin.’ You blew with your breath, and the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters. Who is like you among the gods, LORD? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, and working wonders? You stretched out your right hand, and the earth swallowed them. You have led with your gracious love this people whom you redeemed. You have guided them with your strength to your holy dwelling. The people heard and they quaked, anguish has seized the inhabitants of Philistia. Then the chiefs of Edom were terrified, the nobles of Moab trembled uncontrollably, and all the inhabitants of Canaan melted away. Dread and fear have fallen on them, because of the strength of your arm. They have become silent as a stone, until your people pass by, LORD, until this people you acquired pass by. You will bring them in and plant them on the mountain of your inheritance. You have made a place where you will reside, LORD. Your own hands have established a sanctuary, LORD. The LORD will reign forever and ever. When the horses of Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen went into the sea, the LORD caused the waters of the sea to come back over them, but the Israelis walked through the middle of the sea on dry land.” (ISV)

Did you catch it back in verse 11?

Exodus 15:11

“Who is like you among the gods, LORD? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, and working wonders?” (ISV)

The Bible provides commentary in Psalm 74

Psalm 74:12–17

“Yet God my King is from of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth. You divided the sea by your might; you broke the heads of the sea monsters on the waters. You crushed the heads of Leviathan; you gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness. You split open springs and brooks; you dried up ever-flowing streams. Yours is the day, yours also the night; you have established the heavenly lights and the sun. You have fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you have made summer and winter.” (ESV)

I did not see anything in the references in the book of Exodus talking about God destroying any sea monsters during the crossing, I do read about judgement against the fallen ones though. Again, there is more here if we dig a bit.

The symbolic imagery of Leviathan and the “sea” (yam) is well known from the ancient literature of Ugarit, a city-state in ancient Syria. Of the stories that have survived from Ugarit, one of the most famous describes how Baal became king of the gods. This story is the backdrop for Psalm 74. (Heiser 2015, 153)

The imagery of vv. 13–14 originates in West Semitic mythology. The description of Leviathan should be compared with the following excerpts from Ugaritic mythological texts: (1) “Was not the dragon [Ugaritic tnn, cognate with Hebrew תנין (tanin), translated “sea monster” in v. 13] vanquished and captured? I did destroy the wriggling [Ugaritic ’qltn, cognate to Hebrew עקלָתוֹן (’aqallaton), translated “squirming” in Isa

27:1] serpent, the tyrant with seven heads” (note the use of the plural “heads” here and in v. 13). (See CTA 3.iii.38–39 in G. R. Driver, *Canaanite Myths and Legends*, 50.) (2) “For all that you smote Leviathan the slippery [Ugaritic brh, cognate to Hebrew בָּרַחַה (bariakh), translated “fast moving” in Isa 27:1] serpent, [and] made an end of the wriggling serpent, the tyrant with seven heads” (See CTA 5.i.1–3 in G. R. Driver, *Canaanite Myths and Legends*, 68.) In the myths Leviathan is a sea creature that symbolizes the destructive water of the sea and, in turn, the forces of chaos that threaten the established order. In the OT, the battle with the sea motif is applied to Yahweh’s victories over the forces of chaos at creation and in history (see Pss 74:13–14; 77:16–20; 89:9–10; Isa 51:9–10). Yahweh’s subjugation of the waters of chaos is related to his kingship (see Pss 29:3, 10; 93:3–4). Isa 27:1 applies imagery from Canaanite mythology to Yahweh’s eschatological victory over his enemies. Apocalyptic literature employs the imagery as well. The beasts of Dan 7 emerge from the sea, while Rev 13 speaks of a seven-headed beast coming from the sea. Here in Ps 74:13–14 the primary referent is unclear. The psalmist may be describing God’s creation of the world (note vv. 16–17 and see Ps 89:9–12), when he brought order out of a watery mass, or the exodus (see Isa 51:9–10), when he created Israel by destroying the Egyptians in the waters of the sea. (Bible Studies Press 2019)

The point here is that what Baal had claimed in the realm of myth, God had done in the realm of history—and done for his people, working salvation. Scripture will also use this language for the battle with ‘the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places’ (cf. Isa. 27:1; Rev. 12:7ff.; 13:1ff.); but here verses 12–15 survey the earthly scene, clothing the exodus events in its lively imagery, from the Red Sea (13a) to the Jordan (15b), and from the realm of judgment on the enemy (13b, 14a) to that of God’s turning the wilderness into a scene of plenty (14b, 15a). (Kidner 1975, 297-298)

The Bible says what it means. Yahweh rescued His people at the Red Sea. And it was there— it had to be there— because it was a message to Ba`al and the rest of the spirit realm. (Gilbert 2017, Kindle Locations 1675-1676)

By linking the exodus event—the taming of the chaotic waters so that Yahweh’s people could pass through them untouched—with the creation story, the biblical writers were telegraphing a simple, potent message. Yahweh is king of all gods. He is lord of creation—not Pharaoh, who, in Egyptian theology, was responsible for maintaining creation order. The same God who created also maintains that creation, and calls it into his service when needed. (Heiser 2015, 154)

Very simply, when Moses asks, “who is like You among the elohim” we know the answer. The Creator God is capable, able and willing to do whatever is needed to take care of His people.

Galatians 3:26–29

“For you are all sons and daughters of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to promise.” (NASB 2020)

Regroup

- Back in Genesis 3 there was rebellion.
- God had intended for His Divine and Human Creations to live together with Him on His Holy Mountain, His garden, Eden. Rebellion changed all of that.
- The vision of God for us to dwell with Him can only be done His way. The counterfeit attempts we saw in Genesis 6 and Genesis 10 and 11 only reemphasized that.
- God is to dwell with His people His way.

As a result of the teachings of the fallen angels – the abuse of women, the manufacture of weapons, medicine and abortion, the cosmetics and jewelry of the fashion which led to fornication and corruption, predicting (i.e. shaping) the future, and reducing humans to mortality, ‘there arose much

godlessness...and as men perished they cried their cry went up to heaven'(1 Enoch 8:2,4). (Barker 2004, 45)

Creation was destroyed not by ignorance, but by those 'skilled in doing evil' – the abuse of knowledge. (Barker 2004, 47)

Jeremiah 4:22

"For My people are foolish, They have not known Me. They are silly children, And they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, But to do good they have no knowledge." (NKJV)

According to what we have studied up to this point, that skill was transmitted by fallen divine beings who came to Mount Hermon in Genesis 6 resulting in the destruction of the world. The only ones to survive were those on the barge with Noah. But more rebellion ensued (Genesis 11) so that we are now at the point of God making a nation for Himself – Israel.

God delivered that family from bondage under Moses. Egypt and its gods were defeated. What was corrupted in Eden and counterfeited in the days of the flood and Babel was quickened to life on the other side of the waters of chaos. (Heiser 2015, 155)

Since leaving Egypt, God is moving with His people, now it is time for them to meet more formally. Leading up to the big meeting to come at Mount Horeb the people travelled in stages, and we learn they are all cranky all of the time. Cranky people need to have their attention grabbed which God will do, the problem is, the enemy has learned to counterfeit it.

2 Thessalonians 2:9–12

"The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness." (NKJV)

Exodus 17:1–7

"Then all the congregation of the sons of Israel journeyed by stages from the wilderness of Sin, according to the command of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, and there was no water for the people to drink. So the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water so that we may drink!" And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people were thirsty for water there; and they grumbled against Moses and said, "Why is it that you have brought us up from Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "What am I to do with this people? A little more and they will stone me!" Then the LORD said to Moses, "Pass before the people and take with you some of the elders of Israel; and take in your hand your staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. Then he named the place Massah and Meribah because of the quarrel of the sons of Israel, and because they tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us, or not?" (NASB 2020)

Once Again, the people complain to Moses about Moses. Once again Moses nails it as to who they are really complaining about. Now the people are ready to find new leadership.

As the leader, Moses goes the only place he can go – to God. God provides the solution, but the demonstration of power will be limited to a few elders. The demonstration, strike a rock.

1 Corinthians 10:1–6

"For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they were all drinking from the spiritual rock

that followed them, and the rock was Christ. But God was not pleased with most of them, for they were cut down in the wilderness. These things happened as examples for us, so that we will not crave evil things as they did.” (NET)

Moses used the same staff that had been used in Egypt. It had been a serpent once and had eaten the serpents provided by Satan to his servants Pharaoh’s magicians.

Genesis 3:15

“And I will make enemies Of you and the woman, And of your offspring and her Descendant; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise Him on the heel.” (NASB 2020)

The rock is struck by the rod which at one time was a serpent. Jesus was indeed bruised on the heel for us and as a result of that bruising on the cross, we now have access to living water just as the nation had access to water.

John 7:38

“The one who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’ ” (NASB 2020)

God has just taken His people from an oasis with water, quail and manna, to a place with no visible water supply at all. In the middle of the desert, to the same mountain that Moses saw a bush burning but not burning and where Moses met Yahweh and the Angel of Yahweh, who have been with him and the people.

Wilderness Lessons

1. Trust God wholly and completely for everything to include even the most basic of daily needs.
2. When ready to complain about the situation or the apparent lack of basic daily needs...see 1.

So, what about the water? How much water are we talking about here? Is this a serious miracle? Yes, it is; let’s parse this out a bit.

- Average usage per person for all aspects in a desert region = 50 liters per day
- Active work = personal need = 2 liters per hour
- Daily need = 100,000,000 liters per day
- 26,417,000 gallons per day
- Over 3.5 million CF of water per day
- Lake Powell would be a 50-day supply at that rate
- A lot of water and God supplied this for 40 years

Psalm 78:15–16

“He split rocks open in the wilderness, and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep. He made streams come out of the rock, and caused waters to flow down like rivers.” (NRSV)

In the desert, water is a precious resource. Access to water has been a cause for warfare. Amalek will attack the people because of water. If you have it, someone else will want it.

Now take and apply this to living water which is provided to us by the Holy Spirit. We are all given the Holy Spirit at salvation, and for those who ask, He empowers. This concept holds as we see the enemy impersonating Him, lying to us about Him, doing whatever he can to get us to grieve the Holy Spirit. In the future during the Tribulation, the impersonation will become a point of power projection as Satan tries to impersonate the trinity.

Acts 16:16–18

“As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and us, crying out, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.” And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.” (ESV)

Ephesians 4:30–31

“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.” (, NKJV)

We are told not to grieve, bring pain to the God of the universe in the person of the Holy Spirit and then we are told what activities can do that. Basically, act and do in the flesh rather than in the Spirit.

Amalek is a type of the flesh. Their tactic is to hit the weak.

Exodus 17:8–16

“Then Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, “Choose some men for us and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.” So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed; and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses’ hands grew weary; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; so his hands were steady until the sun set. And Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the sword. Then the LORD said to Moses, “Write this as a reminder in a book and recite it in the hearing of Joshua: I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.” And Moses built an altar and called it, The LORD is my banner. He said, “A hand upon the banner of the LORD! The LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.”” (NRSV)

To deal with Amalek, Joshua was delegated to lead the troops. Aaron and Hur were to accompany Moses.

For Moses, while his hands are lifted up in prayer, there is victory over Amalek. But this isn’t happening quickly, and prayer can be hard work. For Moses, it is tiring. When we engage in spiritual warfare, just as Moses is, persistent prayer is what is required to be victorious. That happens best when we are praying with others who are like minded.

Moses needed laborers, like minded helpers to help him. He needs laborers who see the need and step in without being asked to do so. We have received the same challenge from Jesus.

John 4:35

“Don’t you say, ‘There are four more months and then comes the harvest?’ I tell you, look up and see that the fields are already white for harvest!” (NET)

One of the spiritual gifts specifically named in 1 Corinthians 12:28 is helps. Another way to say what that is, is the gift of serving. Aaron and Hur did that for Moses.

Once the battle is over, God tells Moses to write down what God has done and recite it to Joshua. Why?

It is all about dealing with the flesh.

- Notice what God wants done with Amalek.
- There is no quarter to be given to the flesh.
- There can be no peace with the flesh.
- The only thing to be done to the flesh is to crucify it.

In Amalek the heathen world commenced that conflict with the people of God, which, while it aims at their destruction, can only be terminated by the complete annihilation of the ungodly powers of the world. . . . (Constable 2003, Ex 17:14)

Again, this is all about spiritual warfare spilling over into the physical realm. After the victory...time to worship.

Exodus 17:15–16

“Moses built an altar, and he called it “The LORD is my Banner,”for he said, “For a hand was lifted up to the throne of the LORD—that the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.”” (NET)

In terms of chronology, a meeting is coming. Dealing with the flesh is part of being ready for that meeting. So is worship.

Exodus 24:1–4

“Then He said to Moses, “Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and you shall worship at a distance. Moses alone, however, shall approach the LORD, but they shall not approach, nor shall the people come up with him.” Then Moses came and reported to the people all the words of the LORD and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do!” And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. Then he got up early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain with twelve memorial stones for the twelve tribes of Israel.” (NASB 2020)

In terms of biblical theology, the imagery has a distinct meaning. God is starting his intended Edenic rule with Israel. Israel will have a single earthly leader (eventually the messianic king, the ultimate offspring of Eve) and a council of seventy. The number telegraphs that, as the kingdom of God is re-established on earth, the seventy nations will be reclaimed, a process that began with the ministry of Jesus and will continue to the end of days. (Heiser 2015, 157)

Isaiah 24:19–23

The earth is utterly broken, the earth is split apart, the earth is violently shaken. The earth staggers like a drunken man; it sways like a hut; its transgression lies heavy upon it, and it falls, and will not rise again. On that day the LORD will punish the host of heaven, in heaven, and the kings of the earth, on the earth. They will be gathered together as prisoners in a pit; they will be shut up in a prison, and after many days they will be punished. Then the moon will be confounded and the sun ashamed, for the LORD of hosts reigns on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and his glory will be before his elders.” (ESV)

Of course, we know the rest of the story, Israel will fail and Jesus Christ will come to planet earth to begin the recovery process, already but not yet. At the end of the tribulation we see the ultimate end. The loyal members of Yahweh’s council are called elders. Fast forward to Revelation 4 and 5 where we see the corrupt members of the heavenly council have been replaced by faithful and loyal members of God’s family. The church.

Revelation 3:21

“To those who win the victory I will give the right to sit beside me on my throne, just as I have been victorious and now sit by my Father on his throne.” (GNB)

Galatians 3:26–29

“It is through faith that all of you are God’s children in union with Christ Jesus. You were baptized into union with Christ, and now you are clothed, so to speak, with the life of Christ himself. So there is no difference between Jews and Gentiles, between slaves and free people, between men and women; you are all one in union with Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are the descendants of Abraham and will receive what God has promised.” (GNB)

2 Peter 1:4

“In this way he has given us the very great and precious gifts he promised, so that by means of these gifts you may escape from the destructive lust that is in the world, and may come to share the divine nature.” (GNB)

Already, we are sharing in the divine nature of our Savior. But someday very soon, we will be like Him.

1 John 3:1–3

“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears **we shall be like him**, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.” (ESV)

Do you see it? As believers, our destiny is to be ranked higher than the angels and to be a part of God’s Divine Council. After all, as believers, we are already family.

1 Corinthians 15:35–49

But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.” (ESV)

Exodus 24:9–11

“Then Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and they saw the God of Israel. And there was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity. But on the nobles of the children of Israel He did not lay His hand. So they saw God, and they ate and drank.” (NKJV)

Moses and the elders are in the throne room eating and enjoying God’s presence. Notice the imagery, we will see it again.

Other Views of the Throne Room

Ezekiel 1:1 – 28

Ezekiel 10:1

“In my vision I saw what appeared to be a throne of blue lapis lazuli above the crystal surface over the heads of the cherubim.” (NLT)

Isaiah 6

Daniel 7

Revelation 4

Exodus 24:11

“But on the nobles of the children of Israel He did not lay His hand. So they saw God, and they ate and drank.” (NKJV)

Noble as used here does not mean by birth.

The Hebrew word means deep-rooted, striking deep roots into the earth; hence metaph. sprung from an ancient and noble stock. (Gesenius and Tregelles 2003, 74)

Literally, those who have been invited to fellowship with God are those who are deeply rooted into Him. Even as this is going on with the elders, there is still spiritual warfare going on back in the camp. The fallen know they need to make a counterattack and soon.

1 Corinthians 10:12–14

“Therefore let the one who thinks he stands watch out that he does not fall. No temptation has overtaken you except something common to mankind; and God is faithful, so He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it. Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.” (NASB 2020)

We are warned that when we think we have it all together, when we think we are spiritually strong, watch out. The people listened to the wrong voice, but it was one they were familiar hearing from. There is going to be a calf problem.

Exodus 32:19–28

“And when he was drawing near to the camp, he saw the calf and the dancers, and having grown angry with wrath, Moses cast the two tablets from his hands and shattered them at the base of the mountain. And after taking the calf that they had made, he burned it in the fire and ground it to powder and scattered it in the water and made the sons of Israel drink it. And then Moses said to Aaron, “What did this people do to you so that you have brought upon them such a great sin?” And Aaron said to Moses, “Do not be angry, lord, for you yourself know the impulsiveness of this people. For they kept saying to me, ‘Make gods for us who will go before us, for this man, Moses, who led us out of Egypt, we do not know what has happened to him.’ And I said to them, ‘If anyone has gold, remove it.’ And they gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf.” And when Moses saw the people, that they were scattered—for Aaron had caused them to scatter, a mockery for their enemies—and Moses stood by the entrance of the camp and said, “Whoever is with the Lord, should come to me.” Therefore all the sons of Levi gathered. And he said to them, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘Each one fasten his own sword upon his thigh, and pass through and turn back from gate to gate throughout the encampment, and each one kill his brother, his kinsman, and each one his neighbor.’ ” And the sons of Levi acted just as Moses instructed them, and about three thousand men of the people fell on that day.” (Lexham Press 2020, Ex 32:19-28)

Stop and think about it. Israel has seen the mighty hand of God. They have heard His voice. The elders have had dinner with Him including Aaron, the same guy who makes the calf. Yet...

Next week, the giving of the law.
Remember, where God is, His council is.

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