

Exodus Chapter 17

V: 1 The congregation, the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin to Rephidim.

- This is their 9th stop:

1. Exodus 12:37	Succoth (booths, temporary shelter)
2. Exodus 13:20	Etham, "fort" – the Lord encamped about them as a Pillar of Cloud & Fire.
3. Exodus 14:2	Pi-ha-hiroth, between Migdol and the Red Sea. Baalzephon – the Lord watches over.
4. Exodus 15:23	Mara, bitter springs.
5. Exodus 15:27	Elim, trees – an oasis, a place of refreshment.
6. Exodus 16:1	From Elim to the wilderness of Sin.
7. Num. 33:12	Dophkah (knock)
8. Num. 33:13	Alush (I will "knead" as in bread)
9. Exodus 17:1	From the wilderness of sin to Rephidim. (Resting Place)

Numbers 33:12-14 ¹²“And they took their journey out of the wilderness of Sin, and encamped in Dophkah. ¹³And they departed from Dophkah, and encamped in Alush. ¹⁴And they removed from Alush, and encamped at Rephidim, where was no water for the people to drink.”

“According to the commandment of the Lord...” – God is the One who is leading them.

Exodus 13:21-22 ²¹And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: ²²He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.”

- There was no water for the people to drink – that they knew of.
- God has a purpose in all these things:

40 years later Moses would record:

Deuteronomy 8:2 “And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep His commandments, or no.”

- Rephidim: “resting place”

V: 2 Chide: (H7378) “riyb” (reeb); speak out in angry or displeased rebuke, to voice disapproval; to quarrel.

- Again: chided with Moses – as opposed to God who is the One who is leading them to this place.
- The people demanded of Moses – give us water that we may drink.

James 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

Philippians 4:6 “Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

- Moses responds to the people with two points:
 1. Why do you direct your “chiding” to me?
 2. Why do you tempt the Lord?
 - We’ve already covered the point about being honest with God and directing our anger, frustration, or dissatisfaction directly to Him as opposed to the instrument of His choice in our lives.

Tempting the Lord: Tempt: (H5254) Nasaw: tempt, prove, test.

- There are times when the Lord “tests” or “proves” us so that man can see where we are in the Lord.
- Men are however forbidden from “testing” the Lord:

Jesus later quotes Deuteronomy in Matthew Ch. 4 when Satan seeks to tempt Him:

Deuteronomy 6:16 “Ye shall not tempt the Lord your God, as ye tempted Him in Massah.”

- God later uses this situation in the lives of Israel as an example of what not to do.

Question: What is the difference between tempting the Lord and making our petitions known?

Answer: Genuine need & genuine attitude.

V: 3 The people thirsted: they had a genuine need, attitude is the issue.

- No sooner does God begin to provide their daily bread, it is waiting for them every morning – God’s faithfulness is manifest in the provision of Manna.
- Can they really think that given God’s faithful provision of Manna, that He will let them die of thirst in the dessert?
- The children of Israel all too quickly forget what the Lord had done for them, and what He has promised to do.

Murmur: to grumble; complain; to howl...

- 3rd time they accuse Moses of seeking to kill them in the wilderness:
 1. Trapped at the Red Sea -

2. When they were hungry for bread.
 3. Now when they're thirsty.
- They still aren't looking to the Lord – they are focused on the man.
 - In their complaint they mention themselves, their children, and finally their cattle – they are concerned for their wealth.
 - One of the lessons learned last week relative to manna the bread from Heaven, Jesus, the bread of life, the true Manna from Heaven:

Deuteronomy 8:3 “And He humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that He might make thee know that man doeth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live.”

- Just like the Manna that represented Jesus, when they do receive life giving water from the rock – we know that Jesus is that rock – and that only the water that comes from Him will satisfy.

1 Corinthians 10:4 “And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.”

Psalms 18:2 “The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.”

Psalms 18:31 “For who is God save the Lord? Or who is a rock save our God?”

Psalms 95:1 “O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.”

The faith lessons are all about dependency upon Him...

John 4:7-26 Samaritan woman at the well.

Speaking of earthly water:

John 4:13 “Jesus answered and said unto her, whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:”

Speaking of the water of life, that flows from Jesus, He said:

John 4:14 “But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”

John 7:37 “... If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink.”

Jesus is the Rock:

Psalms 78:12-16 “¹²Marvelous things did He in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan. ¹³He divided the sea, and caused them to pass through; and He made the waters to stand as an heap. ¹⁴In the

daytime also He led them with a cloud, and all the night with a light of fire.
¹⁵He clave the rocks in the wilderness, and gave them drink as out of the great depths. ¹⁶He brought streams also out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers.”

Psalm 114:7-8 ⁷“Tremble thou earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob. ⁸Which turned the rock into a standing water, the flint into a fountain of waters.”

One of the last invitations in the Bible:

Revelation 22:17 “And the Spirit and the bride say, come. And let him that heareth say, come. And let him that is athirst say come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”

V: 4 Moses demonstrates the proper way to deal with their need: making their petitions known to God Himself.

David knew this well:

Psalm 5:1-3 ¹“Give ear to my words, O Lord, consider my meditation. ²Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray. ³My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.”

- How did our Lord Jesus teach us to deal with these things?

Matthew 5:9-11 ⁹“After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed by Thy name. ¹⁰Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us this day our daily bread.”

- Moses would appear to be having some confidence issues as well:

“.... they be almost ready to stone me.”

V: 5-6 And the Lord said unto Moses:

- God speaks to Moses and gives him direction that leads to the provision of water for the Israelites.
- Examining cause & effect: The solution to their problem was found in the words or in the word of God.

2 Peter 1:2-3 ²“Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, ³according as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”

- Horeb: desolate, desolate place.
 1. Go before the people.
 2. Take the elders before the people. Elderly – “elders” hadn’t been picked yet. Purposefully involving the elders – who would later instruct the “youngers”.
 3. Take the rod or God with you; a symbol of God’s authority. (Dependency, God’s power.)
 4. I will be there.
 5. Go to the rock of Horeb.
 6. Smite the rock.
 7. Water will come out, that the people may drink.
 - Moses did so, in the sight of the elders – witnesses, he was obedient.
-

Paul’s commentary cited earlier:

1 Corinthians 10:4 “And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.”

- Jesus is the Rock, the Rock of our salvation, smitten by the rod – which previously had turned into a serpent before Pharaoh – fitting or fulfilling the picture of the Messianic prophecy given in **Genesis 3:15**.

Speaking to the Serpent:

Genesis 3:15 “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”

- At the cross, Jesus was crucified, the power of sin, death was defeated. The power of Satan was crushed. “Head bruised”.
- At the cross, Jesus was crucified – a nail driven through His heel, His heel was bruised.
- Just after that happened, a Roman soldier took a spear and pierced the side of Jesus and both blood and water poured out (John 19:34) – the church was birthed, the people saved by the flow, from the Rock.
- So here at Rephidim, the Rock is smitten by the rod which was once a serpent, and water pours forth, the greatest need of the people is met.

Isaiah 53:4 “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.”

- Everything points to Jesus.

V: 7 Massah, Meribah.

Massah: to test, to try, temptation.

Meribah: to strive with, contend, find fault.

“Is the Lord among us or not?”

- So what is that big pillar of cloud thing anyway...?

Psalm 95:8 “Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness.”

V: 8 No sooner does the Lord meet their need for water than the next trial arrives in the form of Amalek.

- We can look at this as part 2 of a 1-2 punch – another trial added on top of another trial.
- Part of the bigger picture is that the Lord used the first to prepare them for the 2nd.
- Knowing that Amalek was coming; God gave the children of Israel a hunger and a thirst for more of Him; then He met that need – and they were prepared for Amalek.

1 Peter 2:2 “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word that ye may grow thereby.”

Matthew 5:6 “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”

- **Amalek:** dweller in the valley (low life); a grandson of Esau – son of the flesh.
- Jacob made his mistakes in life, but he had a capacity for the things of God; he is eventually called Israel – governed by God. Esau was a man that was ruled by his flesh, with no apparent capacity for the things of God.

Romans 9:13 “As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.”

- Amalek is a type of the flesh, our struggle with the flesh.
- 1st ones to attack the nation of Israel as they were leaving Egypt.
- This is something that God doesn't forget; He later commands Saul to destroy the Amalekites, but Saul is disobedient.

- As with the Amalekites, God wants us to completely eradicate the works of the flesh in our lives.
- Later it would be an Amalekite that delivered the final death blow to Saul.
- If we don't deal with the flesh – crucifying it – then it will come back to haunt us – seeking dominion over us, seeking to kill us.

Romans 6:11-13 “¹¹Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. ¹²Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. ¹³Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”

Deuteronomy 25:17-18 “¹⁷Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come froth out of Egypt; ¹⁸how he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee, when thou wast faint and weary; and he feared not God.”

- The tactics of the Amalekites were to attack from the rear, hitting the weak, the stragglers, those that were weary and week:

1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

V: 9-10 1st mention of Joshua – God is salvation – Jesus.

- Choose out men to go out to war:
- **2 Chronicles 25:5** relates that one of the requirements for being able to go out to war is that a man must be 20 years old or older.
- Go out and meet the Amalekites, Moses will go to the top of the hill with Aaron & Hur, Joshua and the men will do battle with the Amalekites.
- Joshua is obedient.

Who fights the battle? The battle belongs to the Lord...

Luke 8:22-25 “²²... Let us go over unto the other side of the lake...”

- Jesus fell asleep, huge storm, “**Master we perish!**” Jesus rebukes the storm, then addresses the faith of the disciples.
- One of the points of the story is that when He said lets go to the other side, it's a forgone conclusion that they will get there – there is / was nothing to fear.

- God has spoken to Moses and the children of Israel through Moses that He would not only deliver them from Egypt, but give them the promise land – the land that He promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It's a forgone conclusion that they will get there – regardless of food, water, or Amalek!

Romans 8:31 “What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”

V: 11 As Moses held up his hands – Israel prevailed.

- As Moses lowered his hands – Amalek prevailed.

2 Corinthians 10:4 “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.”

1 Timothy 2:8 “I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.”

Ephesians 6:17b-18 ^{17b} “... and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: ¹⁸Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”

- When we pray, we have victory – when we stop praying, the enemy is victorious.

V: 12 Moses' hands were heavy. (Not Joshua's)

Jesus taught His disciples:

Luke 18:1 “... men ought always to pray, and not to faint;”

- Aaron and Hur did what they could to facilitate Moses' ministry, they gave him a chair, and held up his arms.

Speaking of Messiah:

Isaiah 35:3 “Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees.”

V: 13 Joshua “discomfited” Amalek... overthrew him, defeated him.

James 5:16b “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

- The battle was fought in the valley, but it was won on the mountain top.
- We can see that “prayer”, intercessory prayer played a central role in this victory.

Psalms 91 – [turn to / read.](#) Moses invoked prayer, Joshua exercised the Word, the Sword of the Spirit.

V: 14 God wants this occasion to be remembered – and he wants the remembrance of Amalek removed.

- In Genesis 5:1 Moses records that this is the book of the generations of Adam, wherein Moses is recording the descendants of Adam – which is a part of the Pentateuch, the Law – and at the same time a historical book.
- Something that was probably actually recorded after the events described here in Exodus.
- This reference to a memorial book is in a chronological sense the first reference to a “book”, and the first time they are told to write or record.
- It records the victory of Joshua – Yeshua – Jesus over the Amalekites, representing the flesh, by the edge of the sword – the sword of the Spirit – the word of God – Jesus, Yeshua, Joshua.

V: 15 Moses builds his first altar, the battleground becomes a place of worship.

Response:

- Jehovah / Yahweh Nissi: “The LORD my Banner”

Isaiah 11:10 “And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign / banner of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and His rest shall be glorious.”

Song of Solomon 2:4 “He brought me to the banqueting house, and His banner over was love.”

V: 16 The Lord hath sworn that He will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.

- As far as God is concerned there is never peace with the flesh.

James 4:4 “... know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”

-
- Before we leave this scene, I want to leave you with one last thought:

Romans 8:37-39 ³⁷Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. ³⁸For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, ³⁹Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

- When Joshua was down below, fighting the battle as it went back and forth.

- There is no record of this; but if he had he turned and looked over his shoulder during the battle - what would he have seen?
- He would have seen three men on a hill, the one in the middle with his arms outstretched – a picture of the cross, a picture of victory in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:37 ^{“37} Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.”