



The Exodus

Lesson 7: Journey To Sinai

(Exodus 15:22-19:9)

After crossing the Red Sea, Moses brought Israel into the Wilderness of Shur. They traveled three days in the wilderness and could not find any water to drink. Then, they came to Marah. But, the water in this place was bitter and they could not drink it. So, the people complained against Moses, saying “What shall we drink?” (Exodus 15:24).

Then, after Moses cried out to the Lord, the Lord showed Moses a tree. When he threw the tree into the water, the people could drink the water. And, God made a rule and promise for Israel, telling them that if they would carefully obey what He told them, He would not put any of the diseases on them that were brought on the Egyptians, saying, “For I am the Lord who heals you” (Exodus 15:26). From Marah, Israel came to Elim, where there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees; and they camped by the water.

From Elim, Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin – exactly one month after they left Egypt. But, the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron because they were hungry. They said that they wished they had died in Egypt while they had plenty of food to eat rather than dying of hunger in the wilderness.

Yet, God heard their complaint and He was going to take care of His people by sending bread and meat to them so they would know He is their God. In the evening, God would send quails into the camp of Israel so that they could have meat. And, in the morning, God would provide bread. Whenever the dew lifted in the morning, there would be a small, round substance as fine a frost. It was like white coriander seed that tasted like wafers made with honey. When the people saw it, they asked each other, “What is it?” (Exodus 16:15), because they did not know what it was and called it “Manna” (which means, “What?”).

All the Israelites were to go out and gather the manna. Whatever was not gathered would melt whenever the sun got hot. One omer was to be gathered for each member of the family so that everyone would have enough to eat. If they did not eat what they gathered, it bred worms and stank the next morning. Only on the sixth day of the week was anyone allowed to gather any more, so that they would

not do any work on the seventh day (the Sabbath). On that day, they were to gather twice as much – and it did not produce worms or stink. The Israelites were also told to fill an omer with manna and keep it so that future generations could see how God fed them in the wilderness.

From there, the Israelites journeyed to Rephidim. But, there was no water for the people to drink in this place and the people complained again, saying that Moses had brought them and their animals out of Egypt to die of thirst. So, the Lord told Moses to take the elders of Israel and strike the rock with his staff. And, when he did, water gushed from the rock so that the people could have something to drink. Therefore, Moses called the place “Massah” and “Meribah” because they tested the Lord by questioning whether He was among them.

While the Israelites were at Rephidim, the Amalekites came and fought against them. Moses told Joshua to choose some men and fight against Amalek the next day, while Aaron, Hur, and Moses would go up on top of the hill. Whenever Moses held up his staff, the Israelites would win. But, whenever he let down his hands, Amalek would win. So, Aaron and Hur sat Moses on a stone and helped him hold up his hands so that Joshua defeated Amalek.

Next, the Israelites went from Rephidim to Sinai. This was the place God had promised to bring the Israelites whenever He appeared to Moses from the burning bush. Now, this was the place God was going to make His covenant with Israel. God had rescued Israel out of Egypt and brought them to this place. He wanted them to be His holy nation and keep His commandments. The Israelites will remain at this place and be given commandments from God for nearly a full year.

Discovering God’s Word Bible Study Series

Study Number: CS46

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Study Questions:

- 1) Why did the people complain in Marah?

- 2) What did God do to help them?

- 3) Why did the people complain in Wilderness of Sin?

- 4) What did God do to help them?

- 5) What rules did God give the Israelites for gathering manna?

- 6) Why did the people complain in Rephidim?

- 7) What did God do to help them?

- 8) Where did God bring the Israelites to enter a covenant with them?

Memory Verse:

“In the third month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on the same day, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai” (19:1).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about: