

Wilderness Trials and Good Advice

Lesson 9: Exodus 17-18

November 1, 2020

Exodus Outline

- 1-18 History
 - 1-4 In bondage in Egypt
 - 5-10 The contest with Pharaoh
 - 11-15 The exodus from Egypt
 - 16-18 Early days of travel
- 19-40 Worship
 - 19-24 The institution of the Law
 - 25-31 The tabernacle revealed
 - 32-34 The gold calf
 - 35-40 The tabernacle constructed

Grumblings

- Quarreling
 - Number 20:3
- Grumbled
 - Exodus 15:24
 - Exodus 16:2
 - Exodus 17:3
 - Numbers 14:2
 - Numbers 14:36
 - Numbers 16:11
 - Numbers 16:41

Lesson Outline

- 17:1-7 Water from a rock
- 17:8-17 Fight against Amalek
- 18:1-27 Jethro's visit
 - 18:1-12 Rejoicing in the Lord
 - 18:13-27 Jethro's advice

Water from a rock Exodus 17:1-4

¹Then 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. ²Therefore the people **quarreled** with Moses and said, "Give us **water** that we may drink." And Moses said to them, "**Why** do you **quarrel** with me? **Why** do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water; and they grumbled against Moses and said, "**Why**, now, have you brought us up from Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "**What** shall I do to this people? A little more and they will stone me."

- The Lord led them to a place without water
- They had already seen God provide their water needs in 15:22
- Their grumbling was against God
- They forgot the God of their salvation

Water from a rock Exodus 17:5-7

⁵Then 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. ⁶Behold, I will stand before you there on the **rock** at Horeb; and you shall strike the **rock**, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink.” And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He 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?”

- The staff is used again in a miracle
- There are two Meribahs
- The people had doubted God’s presence

Fight against Amalek Exodus 17:8-13

⁸Then **Amalek** came and **fought** against Israel at Rephidim. ⁹So Moses said to Joshua, "Choose men for us and go out, **fight** against **Amalek**. Tomorrow I will station myself on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand." ¹⁰Joshua did as Moses told him, and **fought** against **Amalek**; and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. ¹¹So it came about when Moses held his hand up, that Israel **prevailed**, and when he let his hand down, **Amalek prevailed**. ¹²But Moses' hands were heavy. Then they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it; and Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other. Thus his hands were steady until the sun set. ¹³So Joshua overwhelmed **Amalek** and his people with the edge of the sword.

- Amalek descended from Esau
- Both Moses and Joshua had important parts to play
- Even someone like Moses needs the help of others

Fight against Amalek Exodus 17:14-16

¹⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, “Write this in a book as a memorial and recite it to Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.” ¹⁵Moses built an altar and named it The LORD is My Banner; ¹⁶and he said, “The LORD has sworn; the LORD will have war against Amalek from generation to generation.”

- There seems to be a special book this was to be recorded in
- This victory was even to have a physical remembrance
- The destruction of Amalek happened under king Saul

Jethro's visit Exodus 18:1-4

¹Now Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses' father-in-law, heard of all that God had done for Moses and for Israel His people, how the LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt. ²Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took Moses' wife Zipporah, after he had sent her away, ³and her two sons, of whom one was named Gershom, for Moses said, "I have been a sojourner in a foreign land." ⁴The other was named Eliezer, for *he said*, "The God of my father was my help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh."

- Jethro was called a priest previously
- News traveled quickly even then
- Moses' family may not have been with him during the exodus
- The names of Moses' sons were memorials

Jethro's visit Exodus 18:5-8

⁵Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, came with his sons and his wife to Moses in the wilderness where he was camped, at the mount of God. ⁶He sent word to Moses, "I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you with your wife and her two sons with her." ⁷Then Moses went out to meet his father-in-law, and he bowed down and kissed him; and they asked each other of their welfare and went into the tent. ⁸Moses told his father-in-law all that the LORD had done to Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel's sake, all the hardship that had befallen them on the journey, and *how* the LORD had delivered them.

- They have finally made it to Sinai
- Moses recounted
 - What had happened to Egypt
 - Israel's hardships and deliverances
- The Lord was active in the exodus and in their daily journey

Jethro's visit Exodus 18:9-12

⁹Jethro rejoiced over all the goodness which the LORD had done to Israel, in **delivering** them from the hand of the Egyptians. ¹⁰So Jethro said, "Blessed be the LORD who **delivered** you from the **hand** of the **Egyptians** and from the **hand** of Pharaoh, *and* who **delivered** the people from under the **hand** of the **Egyptians**. ¹¹Now I know that the LORD is greater than all the gods; indeed, it was proven when they dealt proudly against the people." ¹²Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took a burnt offering and sacrifices for **God**, and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat a meal with Moses' father-in-law before **God**.

- Jethro's actions
 - Rejoiced
 - Blessed
 - Sacrificed
- Deliverance is a significant way that God deals with Israel
- Sacrifices were to lead to communion with God

Jethro's visit

Exodus 18:13-16

¹³It came about the next day that Moses sat to **judge** the **people**, and the **people** stood about Moses from the morning until the evening. ¹⁴Now when Moses' father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the **people**, he said, "What is this thing that you are doing for the **people**? Why do you alone sit as *judge* and all the **people** stand about you from morning until evening?" ¹⁵Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the **people** come to me to inquire of God. ¹⁶When they have a dispute, it comes to me, and I **judge** between a man and his neighbor and make known the statutes of God and His laws."

- What Jethro did
 - Observed what was happening
 - Asked what was happening
 - Offered advice
- Moses didn't see any other way to do things

Jethro's visit Exodus 18:17-21

¹⁷Moses' father-in-law said to him, "The thing that you are doing is not good. ¹⁸You will surely wear out, both yourself and these people who are with you, for the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone. ¹⁹Now listen to me: I will give you counsel, and God be with you. You be the people's representative before God, and you bring the disputes to God, ²⁰then teach them the statutes and the laws, and make known to them the way in which they are to walk and the work they are to do. ²¹Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able **men** who fear God, **men** of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place *these* over them *as* leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens.

- This would wear out Moses and the people
- It wasn't good for Moses to act alone in this
- Objections aren't as helpful without a solution
- The people needed
 - Doctrine
 - Ethics

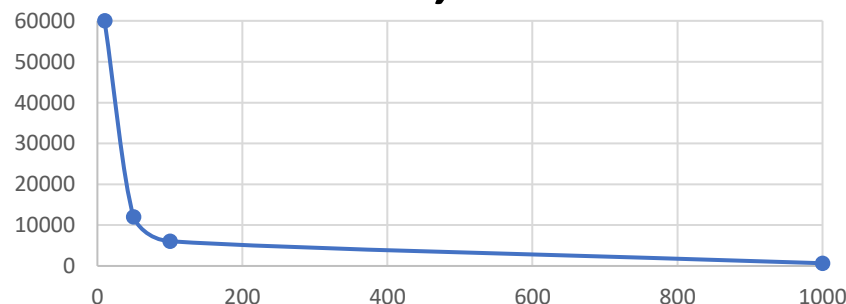
Jethro's visit Exodus 18:22-27

²²Let them **judge** the people **at all times**; and let it be that every major dispute they will bring to you, but every minor dispute they themselves will **judge**. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear *the burden* with you.

²³If you do this thing and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all these people also will go to their place in peace.”

²⁴So Moses listened to his father-in-law and did all that he had said. ²⁵Moses chose able men out of all Israel and made them heads over the people, leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens. ²⁶They **judged** the people **at all times**; the difficult dispute they would bring to Moses, but every minor dispute they themselves would **judge**. ²⁷Then Moses bade his father-in-law farewell, and he went his way into his own land.

- This solution would benefit Moses and the people
- Based on 600,000
 - 1,000 would be 600
 - 100 would be 6,000
 - 50 would be 12,000
 - 10 would be 60,000
 - **Total of 78,600**
 - **13.1%, or 7.6 : 1**



Summary

- The Lord is the One leading His people even when they go into difficulty
- All grumbling is against God, and is a denial of His involvement in our lives
- The people had quickly forgotten their salvation
- Physical battles are easier than spiritual battles
- We need to remember God's deliverances of us
- It is detrimental for all when a leader leads alone