

EXODUS: The Person, Promise, and Power of God

Exodus 15:22-16:36: The Pull of Egypt; The Provision of God

"... you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness ..."
(Deuteronomy 8:2)

After _____, what comes *next*?

The answer is _____ – the long, hard, difficult process of being conformed to the holiness of God.

After 400 years of immersion in a culture and among a people that did not know _____, much refining was required for God's people if they were to take on His _____ and carry out His _____.

God got his people out of _____; now He must get Egypt out of His _____!

To this end, there can be no _____ ...

The instrument God would employ was the _____ ...

The lessons they (we) need to learn include (Deuteronomy 8):

- He _____ us (8:2) so that _____ on Him ...
- He _____ us (8:2) so that we see what we need to _____ and _____ ...
- He exposes our _____ (8:3) so we seek and depend on His strength ...
- He builds our _____ (8:3) so that we learn to trust resolutely in His promises ...
- He _____ us (8:5-6) to turn us from pain and error ...
- He _____ His might and power, His provision and care, and His love and kindness in unmistakable ways (8:4, 14, 15, 16) ...
- He cultivates _____ in us (8:6), stirring our hearts to _____ Him ...
- He demonstrates His own _____ to us (8:2, 11, 14, 18, 19) so that we never _____ him, look to other 'gods' besides Him, or fail to be _____ to Him ...
- He gives us _____ (8:7-10) so we can trust Him in ever season ...
- He shows His _____ in all that is (8:18) and His _____ at work ...

Their journey is not fundamentally different than ours:

We, too, pass through the Red Sea, through the desert, across the Jordan into the promised land. With Israel we fall into doubt and unbelief and through punishment and repentance experience again God's help and faithfulness. All this is not mere reverie but holy, godly reality. We are torn out of our own existence and set down in the midst of the holy history of God on earth. There God dealt with us, and there He still deals with us, our needs and our sins, in judgment and grace.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*, p. 53.

Consider our spiritual 'pilgrimage' from salvation thru sanctification all the way to glory:

²¹ When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, ²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. (Acts 14:21-22)

Bitter Water Made Sweet: Exodus 15:22-27

Marah marked their first _____ after their great victory (and they performed _____) ...

What did the test reveal about them?

What did the test reveal about Moses?

What did the test reveal about God?

Sometimes what appears to be _____ to us is _____ for us

Grumbling and Grace: Exodus 16:1-12

How **serious** is the sin of _____? (7x in 5 verses!)

- Grumbling is _____ ...
- Grumbling _____ our _____ ...

"Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness, where your ancestors tested me; they tried me, though they had seen what I did." (Psalm 95:8-9)

"See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called 'Today', so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness." (Hebrews 3:12-13)

From Kevin DeYoung:

- Grumbling _____ the past ...
- Grumbling _____ the present ...
- Grumbling _____ ...

This is an important insight about the sin of complaining. All our dissatisfaction and discontent ultimately is directed against God. Usually we take out our frustrations on someone else, especially people who are close to us. A psychologist would call this displacement. In the case of the Israelites, although they were taking things out on Moses, they were really angry with God. This is why God always takes our complaints personally. He knows that when we grumble about our personal circumstances, our spiritual leaders, or anything else, what we are really doing is finding fault with him. We are complaining about what he has provided (or not provided, as the case may be). A complaining spirit always indicates a problem in our relationship with God.

Philip Graham Ryken and R. Kent Hughes, *Exodus: Saved for God's Glory*, 425.

What is the solution?

"... Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God ..." (v. 12)

Bread from Heaven: Exodus 16:13-30

God's act of gracious provision also included two tests:

- 1) Will you conduct your _____ according to my commands?
- 2) Will honor me by observing a _____?

Some thoughts on the Sabbath:

- *It predates the _____ ...*
- *It is rooted in _____ ...*
- *Its _____ was established by God ...*
- *It is _____ more than _____ ...*
- *It is for the _____ of our _____ ...*

I led them out of the land of Egypt and brought them into the wilderness. ¹¹ I gave them my statutes and made known to them my rules, by which, if a person does them, he shall live. ¹² Moreover, I gave them my Sabbaths, as a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord who sanctifies them. ¹³ But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness. They did not walk in my statutes but rejected my rules, by which, if a person does them, he shall live; and my Sabbaths they greatly profaned. (Ezekiel 20:10-13a)

Was God's provision _____ or _____?

Eight evidences of the miraculous:

1. The manna did not _____ until Moses said it would.
2. It was not interrupted by the weather or the seasons for _____.
3. There was enough to feed _____ of people every day.
4. There was _____ as much on the sixth day.
5. It _____ if you tried to keep it.
6. The other _____ did not have it.
7. Once the Israelites got to the edge of Canaan, it _____.
8. The portion in a special vessel before the Lord did not _____.

A Lasting Testimony: Exodus 16:31-36

The manna served as a _____. In addition to everything else that God wanted his people to remember – their atonement, their deliverance, their adoption – he wanted them to remember his _____. God wanted his people to remember how well he cared for them in the wilderness, giving them their daily bread for forty years, right up to the day they entered the Promised Land.

Next week: That 'Rock' was Christ!