

Session Nine:
A Grumbling Journey, A Patient God (Ex. 15:22-17:1-16)

The Grumblers:

1. How many times do the Israelites grumble? Consider Ex. 15:24, 16:2, 17:3.
 - a.
2. Consider Numbers 33:11-15. How many other places had the Israelites visited since being at the Red Sea?
 - a.
3. Who do the Israelites grumble against? Hint: there are at least three answers! Consider Ex. 16:2, 7-8. And, of course, pitying the Israelites or not, this was not good behavior.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

Grumblers Answered:

1. What does God do for his grumbling people? What could he have done? Will he treat the Israelites as he treated the Egyptians? Consider Ex. 16:9. Not only does God hear his people, what else does he do? See Ex. 16:12.
 - a.
2. But how do the Israelites respond? See Ex. 17:3.
 - a.

Moses, the Water Man:

Read Ex. 15:22-27

1. How many instances of water do you see here?
 - a.
2. What is the significance of God using a log to cure the water? See both Ex. 15:25, 2:3. What are the two items of salvation made of? If you still don't see it, consider Gen. 6:14, 7:7. Keep an eye out for this theme. It isn't the last time we'll see God save in this way.
 - a.

More Needs of the Body, or Is it a Need of the Soul?:

Read Ex. 16:1-35:

1. Consider what the Israelites say in Ex. 16:2-3. How does God answer? Notice how he does something other than simply attend to the needs of their body. What else does he do? Consider Ex. 16:4-5, 6-7.
 - a.
 - b.
2. How does God use the bread and quail to test his people? Consider Ex. 16:15-19, especially 16:20. How does he respond to disobedience here? See Ex. 16:20-21.
 - a.
 - b.
3. How does God test them yet again? See Ex. 16:22-25. Notice how it is what "the LORD has commanded." Note the specific instructions given in Ex. 16:26. But what do the people do with these instructions? See Ex. 16:27. What does God do? See Ex. 16:28-30. How is this different from how God treated the Egyptians?

- a.
- b.
- c.

The Water Man Strikes Again:

Read Ex. 17:1-7:

1. Notice how similar the Israelites are to Pharaoh. When God came to multiply his people, remember what Pharaoh said? See Ex. 1:9-10, 16. Of course, you recall how God still multiplied his people despite Pharaoh's plans to foil God. But now again, consider, how are the Israelites like Pharaoh? God has stated a promise again, not to multiply, but now to test his people (see Ex. 16:4), but now what do the people do to God? See Ex. 17:7.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. Remember how Pharaoh died, and God's plan succeeded? What then ought God to do to the Israelites, who now pretend to be God and test *him*? Yet, what does God do? 17:5-6. Notice how God saves his people through Moses. What does Moses use? Isn't this an interesting pattern?
 - a.
 - b.
3. Also recall other instances of striking: See Exodus 2:12, 7:17, 8:17, 9:15, 17:5-6. What theme is there behind the striking?
 - a.

Another Wooden Deliverance:

Read Ex. 17:8-16:

1. Note the way God saves his people especially in Ex. 17:9. Isn't this a bizarre scene? See Ex. 17:10-12.
 - a.
2. What does God think of the Amelekites? See Ex. 17:14. Why would he think this? See Ex. 17:8. Also consider Deuteronomy 25:17-19 for help. Isn't it incredible that God didn't here tell some other people to write a memorial against and destroy Israel? What does this tell us about our God?
 - a.
 - b.

Connections to the New Testament:

Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-11

1. St. Paul reads Ex. 17:1-7 in a figurative way and connects it to Christ. Consider 1 Cor. 10:1-4. How does Paul connect Christ to the narrative of Moses at Rephidim? What does Paul urge the Corinthians to do?
 - a.
2. Also consider: upon what was Christ killed? How is this like God's deliverance in Exodus?¹

¹ A wooden cross!

a.

Take Away:

1. This week, I urge you to consider how God delivered the Israelites, while destroying and planning to destroy the Egyptians and Amalekites.
2. I also urge you to remember how you are part of the “spiritual israel.” Because of Jesus (consider Ephesians 1:5). Because of Jesus atoning sacrifice, you are like an Israelite, and God is on your side.

Closing Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, we praise you for showing patience with the Israelites, yet we fear you for showing your wrath to those who oppose you, such as the Egyptians and Amalekites. Thank you for adopting us as children of faith in Jesus Christ, so that you also show us patience and forgiveness. Please remind us of this great gift we have in Jesus this week. In Jesus’ name, amen.