

The Book Of Exodus

Wednesday, July 19, 2017 / Session Eight

THE MIRACLE OF SUPPLIES IN THE WILDERNESS

1 As we approach Exodus chapter 16, Israel has been delivered from bondage in Egypt,
2 have crossed the Red Sea miraculously, and Pharaoh's army has been drowned. All would
3 seem to be excellent - except for the fact that Moses now has several million "pilgrims"
4 crossing the Sinai Peninsula around the Dead Sea, forty years from entering the Promised
5 Lane. How to feed them? How to provide water? What about shelter? How to deal
6 with many of the crowd who are perpetual trouble makers? What about nations they
7 must cross who hate them? Exodus 17 **And Moses cried unto the Lord, saying,**
8 **What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me.** Yes, Moses
9 had his hands full, didn't he? Without God's intervention again and again the Jews
10 would have died enroute to Canaan. Let's pick up the story:

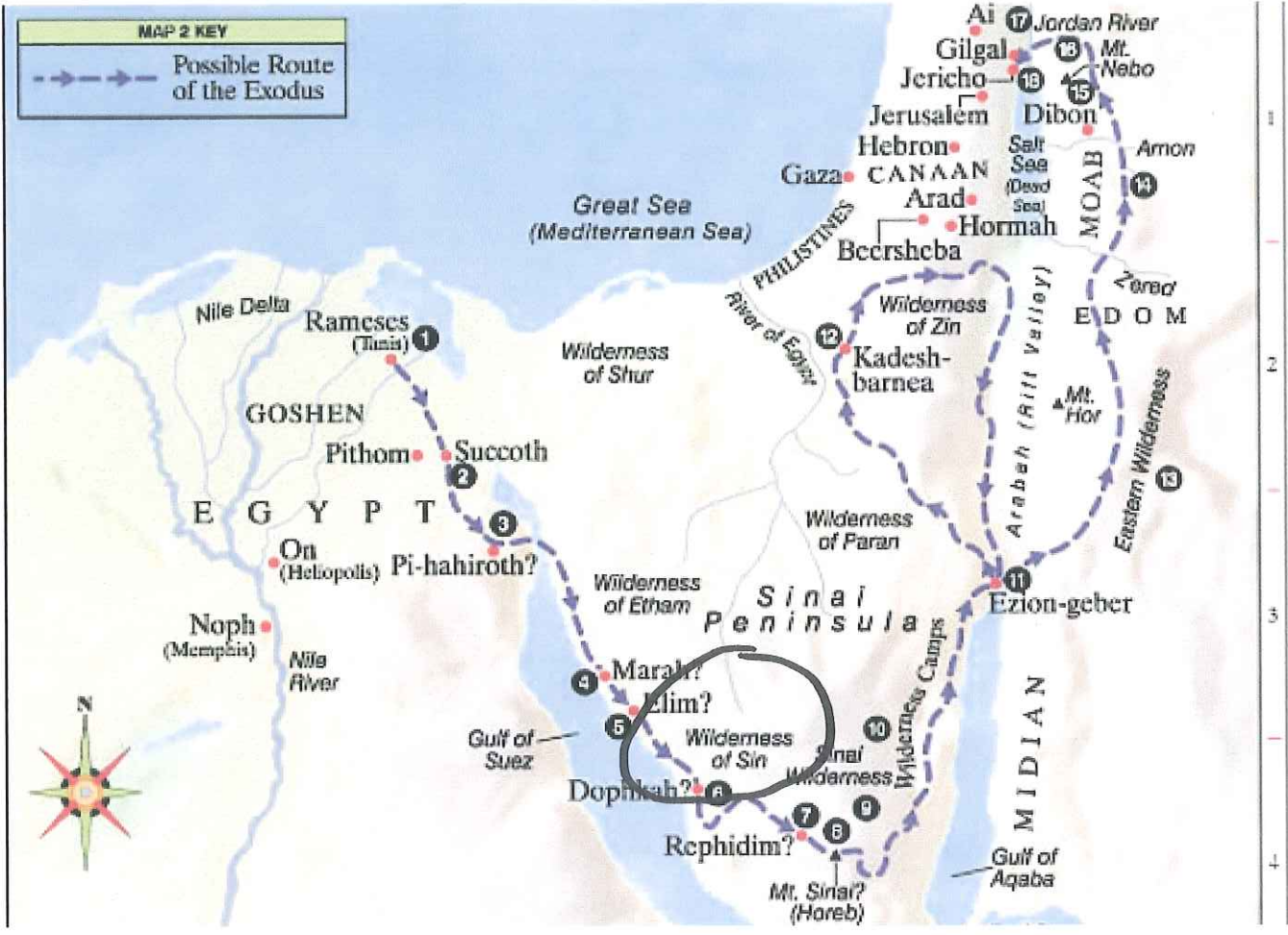
11
12 Exodus 16:1-6

13 **And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of**
14 **Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the**
15 **fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt. [2]**
16 **And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and**
17 **Aaron in the wilderness: [3] And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to**
18 **God we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the**
19 **flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into**
20 **this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.**

21 **[4] Then said the Lord unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you;**
22 **and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove**
23 **them, whether they will walk in my law, or no. [5] And it shall come to pass, that on**
24 **the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as**
25 **much as they gather daily. [6] And Moses and Aaron said unto all the children of**
26 **Israel, At even, then ye shall know that the Lord hath brought you out from the land**
27 **of Egypt:**

MANNA

28
29
30
31 It is rather easy to understand the feelings of the crowd as they began crossing the
32 peninsula of Sinai. They were in hostile and unknown territory, they had basically only



Our study tonight begins as Jews approach the Wilderness of Sin, circled on this "possible" route map of the Exodus.

the stuff they carried out of Egypt, although they did have the money and precious jewels given them by the exasperated Egyptians. Where would they sleep? What would they eat? Where was water in this God-forsaken place?

Now, a couple of months into their journey, going several days without fresh water, the people began to complain. They didn't really know God very well. Their Heavenly Father had no intention of His people dying of thirst or starvation. He would care for them. He began by sending manna every morning, six days a week (except for Sabbath). But...on the day before Sabbath there would be a double supply so they would not have to work on His day.

"What is it?"

Manna was a special food provided for the Jews during the Exodus from Egypt. The name is of uncertain meaning. The Hebrew "man" is a question and added to "hu" would mean "what is it?" On the other hand it may be an adaptation of the Egyptian "mennu" which means food. It came

1 *at night resembling frost and may have collected in dewdrops. It was white,*
2 *of delicious flavor, and resembled seed of the coriander, a plant of the*
3 *eastern Mediterranean area - which was both tasty and nourishing. The*
4 *Bible makes it certain that manna came as a temporary provision for the*
5 *chosen people.*

6 THE ZONDERVAN PICTORIAL BIBLE

7
8 God also provided meat for the people:

9
10 QUAIL

11
12 Exodus 16:12-13

13 **I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel: speak unto them, saying,**
14 **At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye**
15 **shall know that I am the Lord your God. [13] And it came to pass, that at even the**
16 **quails came up, and covered the camp: and in the morning the dew lay round about**
17 **the host.**

18
19 God gave the Israelites enough food to last for each day - the exception being the day
20 before Sabbath (Friday) during which there was a double supply. This meant the people
21 did have to work on Sabbath.

22
23 One of the joys of going to Israel to see how the people still observe their Lord's day.
24 Most of the Jews, whether religiously observant or not, do not work on Sabbath. Our
25 own guide for many years, David Assael, does not (WILL NOT!) work on Saturday. I
26 usually guide on that day in which we go to Bethlehem, an Arab (primarily) city in which
27 Saturday is not observed.

28
29 WATER

30
31 Exodus 17:1-7

32 **And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness**
33 **of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the Lord, and pitched**
34 **in Rephidim: and there was no water for the people to drink. [2] Wherefore the**
35 **people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses**
36 **said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the Lord? [3] And**
37 **the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and**
38 **said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our**
39 **children and our cattle with thirst? [4] And Moses cried unto the Lord, saying,**
40 **What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me. [5] And the Lord**

1 **said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel;**
2 **and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go. [6]**
3 **Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite**
4 **the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses**
5 **did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. [7] And he called the name of the place**
6 **Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because**
7 **they tempted the Lord, saying, Is the Lord among us, or not?**

8
9 Note in verse 6 God commanded Moses to STRIKE the rock. Later we will find the
10 people again needing water and God told Moses to SPEAK to the rock; however, in his
11 anger he struck the rock, disobeying God. Numbers 20:8 **Take the rod, and gather**
12 **thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the**
13 **rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to**
14 **them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts**
15 **drink.**

16
17 That act would cost Moses dearly for he was not allowed to enter the Promised Land,
18 only to view it from Mount Nebo (in Jordan).

19
20

In the spiritual sense, Jesus Christ is our rock, and He was smitten for our deliverance at Calvary. Think about this: Moses was to speak to the rock on the second occasion because the rock had already been smitten. On the cross Jesus cried out, "It is Finished!" He does not have to be smitten again for God was satisfied with what our Lord accomplished on Calvary.
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21
22 **THE AMALEKITES**
23

24 This episode would begin a long-term enmity between the Israelites and the Amalekites
25 (who were descendants of Esau). The Amalekites lived in Moab, east of the Dead Sea.
26 It would be several centuries later that then Israelite King David would subdue this
27 warring nation.

28
29 This battle has been preached about countless times through the ages and points out how
30 important it is for pastors and leaders to have spiritual support from those they lead:

31
32 Exodus 17:8-16

33 **Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim. [9] And Moses said unto**
34 **Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand**
35 **on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand. [10] So Joshua did as Moses**

1 had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to
2 the top of the hill. [11] And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel
3 prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. [12] But Moses' hands
4 were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and
5 Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the
6 other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. [13] And
7 Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. [14] And the
8 Lord said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the
9 ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under
10 heaven. [15] And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovah-nissi: [16]
11 For he said, Because the Lord hath sworn that the Lord will have war with Amalek
12 from generation to generation.

13
14 **HUR** - Jewish tradition has it that Hur was the husband of Moses' sister Miriam. His
15 name has certainly been made famous by the late 1950's classic film BEN HUR.

16
17 **JOSHUA** - now enters the picture as the eventual successor to Moses. God put him in a
18 position to learn from one of the world's greatest leaders, Moses. And Joshua will
19 certainly come through in fine fashion when, upon Moses' death, Joshua takes the
20 leadership to bring the Israelites across the Jordan River to conquer most of the Promised
21 Land. It is important to remember that Joshua was born in Egyptian slavery.

22
23 **REPHIDIM** - was a rather large resting area in the wilderness of Sinai.

24
25 Word had gone ahead to the Amalekites of the approaching Israelites. They decided to
26 attack the Jews at Rephidim. Perhaps, they thought, they could catch the Jews napping,
27 so to speak. Moses was placed on a high place so he could be seen. He held that
28 famous rod in his hand, high over his head. Remember he is now in his 80's. No easy
29 task for him perhaps as his arms would grow weary. But as long as he held up that rod,
30 the Israelites were winning. When he lowered his arms, Joshua and Hur, on either side
31 of him, lifted his hands and the Jews continued to win the battle.

32
33 The lesson here, of course, is obvious. Every leader needs Godly people around him to
34 lift his hands. For 30 years now I have had that at First Assembly. My wife, the
35 pastoral staff, the support staff, incredible boards (church councils), and so forth.
36 Leadership is never a one-man show. Every leader needs great people around him - and
37 he can be no better than those people are!

38
39 With the battle behind them, the Israelites continue on and Moses receives some more
40 much-needed assistance.

JETHRO

We are not sure how much time had passed since Moses (at age 80) had left his family in the Sinai wilderness to return to Egypt to deliver the Jews from slavery. Now there will be a reunion, not only with Zipporah, his wife, and sons Gershom and Eliezer, but also his father-in-law:

Exodus 18:1-7

When Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses' father in law, heard of all that God had done for Moses, and for Israel his people, and that the Lord had brought Israel out of Egypt; [2] Then Jethro, Moses' father in law, took Zipporah, Moses' wife, after he had sent her back, [3] And her two sons; of which the name of the one was Gershom; for he said, I have been an alien in a strange land: [4] And the name of the other was Eliezer; for the God of my father, said he, was mine help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh: [5] And Jethro, Moses' father in law, came with his sons and his wife unto Moses into the wilderness, where he encamped at the mount of God: [6] And he said unto Moses, I thy father in law Jethro am come unto thee, and thy wife, and her two sons with her.

[7] And Moses went out to meet his father in law, and did obeisance, and kissed him; and they asked each other of their welfare; and they came into the tent.

By this time Moses and the children of Israel have arrived in Midian south and east of the Dead Sea. Remember that Moses' father-in-law Jethro had been a priest there.

The original Midian had been a son of Abraham by his wife Keturah (after Sarah) had passed away. Although Jethro had been kind to Moses, the Midianite nation had not been so to Israel, the people of God. God would command Moses to smite the nation (Numbers 25:16-18 **And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, [17] Vex the Midianites, and smite them: [18] For they vex you with their wiles, wherewith they have beguiled you** Then, 200 years later, in the days of Gideon and the Judges, God delivered Israel into the hands of the Midianites for seven years (one of those seven cycles we studied in our series on Judges). In the time of Moses, the Midianites had prospered. Numbers 31:32-34 **And the booty, being the rest of the prey which the men of war had caught, was six hundred thousand and seventy thousand and five thousand sheep, [33] And threescore and twelve thousand beeves, [34] And threescore and one thousand asses...** Earlier in that 31st chapter, scripture speaks of the Midianites gold, silver, brass, iron, tin and lead.

Moses seemed to have a closer relationship to his father-in-law Jethro than he did with his wife Zipporah. J. Vernon McGee pointed out: *When Moses went out to greet his*

1 *family, we are told that he kissed his father-in-law but nothing is said about him kissing*
2 *his wife. This passage says nothing about Moses being glad to see his sons either. All*
3 *of this seems to confirm our conclusion that Moses' family relationship was not as it*
4 *should have been.*

5 THRU THE BIBLE / MCGEE / THOMAS NELSON PUBL. / VOLUME 1 / PAGE 259
6

7 When, at 80, Moses had announced to his family that God had spoken to him from the
8 burning bush to return to Egypt as the deliverer, none of his family, as far as we know,
9 seemed enthused about his prospects. But now....well, it was a different story:

10
11 Exodus 18:8-12

12 **And Moses told his father in law all that the Lord had done unto Pharaoh and to**
13 **the Egyptians for Israel's sake, and all the travail that had come upon them by the**
14 **way, and how the Lord delivered them. [9] And Jethro rejoiced for all the goodness**
15 **which the Lord had done to Israel, whom he had delivered out of the hand of the**
16 **Egyptians. [10] And Jethro said, Blessed be the Lord, who hath delivered you out of**
17 **the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of Pharaoh, who hath delivered the**
18 **people from under the hand of the Egyptians. [11] Now I know that the Lord is**
19 **greater than all gods: for in the thing wherein they dealt proudly he was above**
20 **them. [12] And Jethro, Moses' father in law, took a burnt offering and sacrifices for**
21 **God: and Aaron came, and all the elders of Israel, to eat bread with Moses' father in**
22 **law before God.**

23
24 JETHRO'S BRILLIANT IDEA TO HELP MOSES
25

26 Exodus 18:13-18

27 **And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to judge the people: and the**
28 **people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening. [14] And when Moses'**
29 **father in law saw all that he did to the people, he said, What is this thing that thou**
30 **doest to the people? why sittest thou thyself alone, and all the people stand by thee**
31 **from morning unto even? [15] And Moses said unto his father in law, Because the**
32 **people come unto me to enquire of God: [16] When they have a matter, they come**
33 **unto me; and I judge between one and another, and I do make them know the**
34 **statutes of God, and his laws. [17] And Moses' father in law said unto him, The thing**
35 **that thou doest is not good. [18] Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this**
36 **people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to**
37 **perform it thyself alone.**

38
39 In other words, Moses, you need help before you kill yourself!

40
41 Exodus 18:21-22

1 **Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men**
2 **of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands,**
3 **and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens: [22] And let them judge**
4 **the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring**
5 **unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself,**
6 **and they shall bear the burden with thee.**

7
8 There is both good and bad in Jethro's suggestion. At the outset let me say that Jethro's
9 intentions were good, I believe. He knew Moses was weary and they were still a long
10 way from Caanan. But this was Jethro's suggestion, not God's. And even though it
11 gave Moses some immediate relief, the long range was not good. Why? Because out of
12 Jethro's suggestion came the organization known as the Sanhedrin - the ruling class of 70
13 men who 1500 years later would condemn Jesus to the cross.

14
15 Next week we come to Mount Sinai. On several occasions I have climbed Mount Sinai -
16 not clear to the top as Moses did, but near it. At least it's what people today call Mount
17 Sinai. St. Katherine's church. On Mt. Sinai Moses will meet God and be given two
18 vital things:

- 19 • The Ten Commandments
- 20 • The Plans and Specifications for the Tabernacle in the Wilderness

21
22
23 This will be one of the greatest studies we have ever undertaken!