

Israel Complains

Exodus 13:17-16:16





The Israelites left Egypt. As they were travelling Moses took a baby in his hands and held him up for all to see.

“Remember what happened here. Tell this to your children and your grandchildren. Command them to tell the story.”

God led his people to the Red Sea saying, “I know if we go to the North they will find the Philistines and will be frightened.” So God led them South towards the Red Sea, as they traveled God appeared as a white cloud. At night He was a flaming column.



When the Egyptians learned that all of the Israelites had left, they came to Pharaoh, “What will we do now? Who will do the work? Who will build? Now we have no slaves!”

So Pharaoh set out with 600 of his best chariots to recapture the Israelites.

When the Israelites saw the Egyptians coming they were terribly frightened. They turned to run away and saw they were trapped next to the Red Sea. They turned on Moses and Aaron saying “Why did you bring us here to die? There was enough room to bury us in Egypt!”

After a moment Moses turned to them and said, “Do not be afraid! God will fight for you.”



God moved His great cloud between the Egyptians and the Israelites and said, “Moses, hold your hand over the water and it will part before you. You will walk on dry ground.”

Moses did as God commanded and stretched his arm out over the water. God sent a great wind and blew all the water away.

Israel was able to walk across on dry land with a wall of water on either side of them. They looked up in amazement as they saw fish swimming next to them and there was not a speck of mud for them to step in.

Pharaoh saw the Israelites passing on dry ground and urged his chariots forward, as the warriors moved forward they glanced from side to side nervously.



As soon as the whole army was in the middle of the sea, God said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the water again.” As Moses did all of the water came crashing down upon the Egyptians.

The Israelites saw all of this and were amazed. They stopped and praised God for all He had done.

Then Moses sang a song of praise to God, “Lord you have done great things for us! You destroyed Pharaoh’s army and rescued us! God is a mighty warrior!”

Moses’ sister Miriam led the women in a song and dance to praise God, “Praise the Lord for His great victory! He has saved us from Pharaoh’s might.”



The Israelites traveled on for a while and they were in a desert. They were getting thirsty and they'd found NO water.

Finally they found a spring of water and eagerly ran forward to drink some of the water. As soon as they drank the water they spat it back out. The water was bitter and not good to drink.

So they went to Moses and complained to him, "We're thirsty! Why did you bring us here where there's nothing to drink?"

So Moses went and prayed to God, "God, please we are thirsty and the water here isn't fit to drink. Please show me what to do."

As Moses opened his eyes, God showed him a branch. Moses took the branch and threw it into the water. Suddenly the water was sweet and good to drink.



The Israelites continued on and in the second month they started to complain. “Why didn’t God kill us in Egypt? Instead He led us into this wilderness and we’re going to starve to death.”

Moses went to God in prayer, “God we are hungry. I know You can do all things. Please give us food.”

God answered Moses, “I will provide food for you. On the first five days of the week the Israelites are to gather enough food for the day. Do not keep any until the next day. On the sixth day they are to get food for two days because on the seventh day there will be no food. You are to rest.”



Moses and Aaron went to the people and explained what God had said, “You will stop your grumbling against God today when God rains food from the sky and tonight He will bring quail for you to eat meat.”

That night quail came in and covered the camp. The next morning heavy dew came and when it had dried up there was food on the ground.

The Israelites looked on in confusion, and asked, “What is it?”

Moses answered them, “It is the bread God has given you to eat.”



But some of them did not listen when Moses said, “Do not leave any until the next morning.” When they went to eat the next morning it smelled horrible and there were worms and maggots in it.

On the sixth day people gathered food for two days, and then rested the next day.

But again some people did not remember what Moses had told them, and so they went out on the seventh day looking for food and did not find any.

Moses shook his head at these silly people, “How long before you listen to what God has to say?”



All of the Israelites moved on and continued traveling. Eventually they stopped because there was no more water to drink. Forgetting the miracles God had worked before they turned to Moses and said, “Where is our water? Why did you bring us here to die of thirst? Our children will die!”

So, Moses went and prayed to God, “What can I do? They’re ready to kill me!”

God answered Moses, “Go, hit the rock with your staff and you will have water to drink.”

Moses did just as God ordered and water gushed forth. The people rushed forward to drink it, and the Israelites stopped complaining for a while.

Questions

Younger Kids

1. What did Moses tell the Israelites to teach their children?
2. Did the Israelites walk across on mud?
3. What did the Israelites complain about?
4. How did God solve their thirst?
5. What did God give them to solve their hunger?
6. How can you show God you trust Him for everything you need?

Middle Kids

1. How do the Israelites react when they see the Egyptians coming? Read Exodus 14:11-12.
2. Now, what do the Israelites do after they've crossed the Red Sea? Read 15:1, 20-21.
3. Was the mana enough food to keep them from being hungry? Read Exodus 16:16-18.
4. God commands us in this passage to rest. Read Genesis 2:2-3. Why do you think God emphasizes rest so much? How can you rest?

5. The second time the Israelites don't have water they're arguing with Moses and Moses is afraid he will be killed. How did Moses react? Read Exodus 17:4. Was this the right thing to do? What should you do when you are scared?

Older Guys

1. Reread the passage Exodus 15:22-17:7. Take note of how many times the Israelites grumbled and complained. What is their solution? How do you react when you encounter a difficulty?
2. Read Exodus 15:22-27. Now compare it to Exodus 17:1-7. What are the similarities and what are the differences? Look at your life, did God always provide the same way through similar difficult situations?
3. Read Exodus 16:1. Why do you think it took this long for the Israelites to complain about food?
4. Read Exodus 16:17-8. Who does Moses say the Israelites are ultimately grumbling against? Now look at yourself and your complaints.

Who do you complain about? Who is the One who is ultimately to blame?

5. Read Exodus 16:20 Are the Israelites showing faith in God?

Activities

1. Write your own praise song to God and perform it.
2. Try crossing the Red Sea. Get some blankets for the Red Sea and part them then walk across. After you've walked across put the "sea" back together.
3. Read Exodus 16:10. Imagine what the Glory of the Lord looked like in a cloud.
4. Eat crackers with honey. How does it taste? Would you want this for your meal every day? If you're feeling adventurous try some quail. How does that taste?
5. An omer is about 2 quarts. Measure out that much and see how much that is.
6. Divide into two groups and make a line in the middle of the room. Spread pom-poms or cotton balls all over the floor each team has 1

minute to gather as many of them as they can into their cups. Whichever team has the most cups filled wins.

Online

1. Crossing the Red Sea craft-
<http://mamajenn.com/blog/2010/03/crossing-red-sea.html>
2. Parting the Red Sea craft and act out-
<http://ver70.blogspot.com/2011/02/parting-of-red-sea.html>
3. Prince of Egypt corssing the Red Sea-
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PNGgsHbzWPs>
4. Moe and the Big Exit Plagues and crossing the desert-
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=roA-bTp2UcQ>
5. mana recipe-
<http://www.christianitycove.com/childrens-church-lessons-manna-from-heaven/192/>

6. mana craft and recipe-

<http://sundayschoolsources.com/lessons/OT/Exodus/manna.htm>

7. Quail craft-

<http://bibleclasscreations.blogspot.com/2012/06/manna-and-quail.html>