

EXODUS Lesson 17

Exodus Chapter 17

Distributed by: KJV Bible Studies

Website: www.KjvBibleStudies.net

e-mail: mail@KjvBibleStudies2.net

Memory verses for this week: Job 14:1 Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. Job 14:2 He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.

Introduction: We continue our study on Exodus this week. In last week's lesson, we studied about how God fed the Israelites with the manna from heaven. Even though being fed daily, the people murmured and God provided meat by giving them quails for meat.

I. The Smitten Rock

Exo 17:1 And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the LORD, and pitched in Rephidim: and there was no water for the people to drink. Exo 17:2 Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD?

This chapter begins with "AND," which is a conjunction. Thus we know that the events in this chapter are connected with that which goes before. "Exodus 16 and 17 go together just as John Chapters 6 and 7 go together. In Exodus 16 we find the Manna and in John 6 the bread of life. In Exodus 17 the water comes out of the rock which is a type of the Holy Spirit. In John Chapter 7 the Lord Jesus announces the coming gift of the Holy Spirit.

In verse 1 it says that they found no water in Rephidim. The Jews had journeyed according to the command of the Lord but the place to which they came had no water. As in previous times, they blamed the hardship on Moses. If they had only realized that God had led them there for a purpose, they might have come to grips with the reality that wherever God guides, He provides.

In verse 2 they tempted God.

Psa. 78:15-19 He clave the rocks in the wilderness, and gave them drink as out of the great depths. He brought streams also out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers. And they sinned yet more against him by provoking the most High in the wilderness. And they tempted God in their heart by asking meat for their lust. Yea, they spake against God; they said, Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?

Can God furnish a table in the wilderness? Yes He can and He did.

Exo 17:3 And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?

Exo 17:4 And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me.

The people thirsted for water, and their murmuring proved their utter unbelief. When things don't go exactly as we want, we need to not be this way. But our flesh cries out to get exactly what we want when we want it. We need to bring out desires under the control of the Holy Spirit and walk by faith. We marvel that a people could say such a thing after seeing all the miracles they had seen.

After all God had provided Manna and quail, so why should they doubt Him now. This really reveals the awful condition of the human heart. The child of God can always depend upon God. Even when we don't understand, God is working in our lives when we know Christ as Lord and Savior.

Rom. 8:28, And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

One of the people understood, and went to the right place for help. Verse 4 says Moses cried unto the Lord. One of my favorite verses in the bible is Psalms 46 and verse 1.

Psa. 46:1, God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

We may be weak in our human strength, but God is omnipotent and always available to help us no matter how bad the situation. It says in Psalms that he is a VERY PRESENT HELP in trouble.

The people were running out of patience and they were almost ready to stone Moses. This is the first time that stoning is mentioned in the Bible.

Exo 17:5 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go.

Exo 17:6 Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

When things look hopeless, it is amazing what God can do. Moses is instructed to take the elders and go out to the rock in Horeb. Moses was told to smite the rock. The "ROCK" is one of the titles of God.

Deut. 32:15; Isa. 32:2.

II Sam. 22:2 And he said, The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer.

Psa. 95:1 O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Christ is that rock that was being typified here.

Matt. 16:18, And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

God was using the rock here as a type of our Lord Jesus Christ. Many times we find the Lord teaching in the old testament with types that point to the New Testament. The rock had to be smitten for water to come forth. So for our salvation to be accomplished, Christ must be smitten there on calvary. The rock in Horeb was smitten by the rod of Moses. Christ was smitten by God.

Isa. 53:4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

Water came forth from the smitten rock. The water is a type of the Holy Spirit.

John 7:37-38 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

When Moses smote the rock with his rod, all of Israel had water.

I Cor. 10:4, And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

Every child of God has the Holy Spirit.

Rom. 8:9, But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Exo 17:7 And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not?

At this time a new name given to the place. It was not only called Massah, but also Meribah. (Keep in mind that Israel deserved judgment, but grace granted mercy).

We have record in Numbers that water came from the rock a second time.

Num 20:2 And there was no water for the congregation: and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron.

Num 20:3 And the people chode with Moses, and spake, saying, Would God that we had died when our brethren died before the LORD!

Num 20:4 And why have ye brought up the congregation of the LORD into this wilderness, that we and our cattle should die there?

Num 20:5 And wherefore have ye made us to come up out of Egypt, to bring us in unto this evil place? it is no place of seed, or of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates; neither is there any water to drink.

Num 20:6 And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto them.

Num 20:7 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Num 20:8 Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.

Num 20:9 And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him.

Num 20:10 And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?

Num 20:11 And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.

Num 20:12 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.

Num 20:13 This is the water of Meribah; because the children of Israel strove with the LORD, and he was sanctified in them.

The rock in Exodus 17 foreshadows Christ on the cross. The rock in Numbers 20 foreshadows Christ exalted on high. The word for rock is different in these two chapters in the Hebrew. In Numbers 20, the word for rock speaks of a high rock or fortress. This shows the exalted priestly work of Christ.

The rock was not to be smitten a second time as we have record in Num. 20, for it is a type of Christ who was smitten once.

Rom. 6:9-10, Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

Heb. 9:26, For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

We must follow God's instructions exactly. When we do it our way, there is a penalty to pay for doing the right thing in the wrong way. Note the results of Moses striking the rock a second time.

Num 20:12 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.

Proper methods are important. Because that second striking of the rock marred the typification, Moses was not allowed to enter into the promised land. Christ was only to be smitten one time, not twice.

II. The Smitten Flesh

Exo 17:8 Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim.

Exo 17:9 And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand.

The flesh is under the domination of this world system. God's people have been delivered from this present evil world.

Gal. 1:4, Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.

Christians are in the world physically, but not of the world spiritually.

John 17:14-16, I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Christians should not be conformed to the world.

Rom. 12:2, And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Unless this is a reality in our lives, we will never be able to have victory over the flesh. Amalek was typical of the flesh. Amalek was the Grandson of Esau.

Gen. 36:12 And Timna was concubine to Eliphaz Esau's son; and she bare to Eliphaz Amalek: these were the sons of Adah Esau's wife.

Amalek was born after the flesh.

Gal. 4:29, But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.

The Amalekites were long time foes of Israel.

Num. 24:20, And when he looked on Amalek, he took up his parable, and said, Amalek was the first of the nations; but his latter end shall be that he perish for ever.

I Sam. 15:2 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass. And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt.

Just as Amalek was a foe of Israel, so is the flesh the enemy of the child of God.

Gal. 5:17, For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

I Pet. 2:11, Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.

Only God can give the Christian victory over the flesh. Note the place and the occasion. It was at Rephidim, after they had drank from the Rock. Is this not the same today? Notice that the conflict followed the last 7 words of verse 7.

Exo 17:7 And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not?

Exo 17:10 So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

Amalek (typifying the flesh) must be fought against. Weapons of divine appointment must be used. This is the first mention of Joshua. While this was the first mention of Joshua, but he would be mentioned about 200 times in the rest of the Bible. His name means "Jehovah is salvation."

The New Testament rendering of the word Joshua in Greek means Jesus. Joshua is a type of the believers in prayer in conflict with the flesh. Moses on the mount is a type of the believer in prayer and supplication before God.

I Tim. 2:8, I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands,

without wrath and doubting.

Exo 17:11 And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.

Exo 17:12 But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

It is only as we seek help from above that we prevail over the flesh.

Psa. 28:2 Hear the voice of my supplications, when I cry unto thee, when I lift up my hands toward thy holy oracle.

Moses' hands become heavy it says in verse 12. How weary we become in supplication.

Luke 18:1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.

I Thess. 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

Col. 4:12, Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

Exo 17:13 And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

Exo 17:14 And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.

The word of God which is the sword of the Spirit is needed to prevail over the flesh.

Heb. 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Eph 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

Eph 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Eph 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Eph 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Eph 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching

thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Psa. 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Though Amalek (typifying the flesh) was discomfited, he was not destroyed, and so it is in our battle against the flesh.

I Cor.9:26-27, I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Amalek was discomfited, an attack on the weak and the faint.

Deut. 25:17-18 Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt; How he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee, when thou wast faint and weary; and he feared not God.

Isa. 40:30-31, Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Verse 14 records that Amalek was finally to be destroyed. One day when we get our glorified bodies, we too will have dominion over the flesh, but never will we here in our earthly tabernacle. It will be a daily battle between the flesh and the spirit until we either die or the Lord comes back in the eastern sky.

*Exo 17:15 And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi:
Exo 17:16 For he said, Because the LORD hath sworn that the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.*

Moses built an altar and called the name of it Jehovahnissi. Jehovah-nissi means "the Lord our banner", and this means we will never compromise with the flesh but will battle from generation to generation.

Study Questions:

1. Why does this chapter begin with "AND?"

This is a continuation from the chapter before tying ch. 16 to 17.

2. How does Exodus 16 relate to Exodus 17?

In Exodus 16 we find the Manna and in Exodus 17 the water comes out of the rock which is a type of the Holy Spirit.

3. How does John 6 and John 7 compare?

In John 6 Christ is presented as the bread of life. In John Chapter 7 the Lord Jesus announces the coming gift of the Holy Spirit.

4. Why were they at Rephidim in the first place?

God was leading them through the wilderness.

5. Who did they blame for lack of water?

As in the past, it was Moses.

6. What were they about ready to do to Moses?

Stone him.

7. Who stood upon the rock?

The Lord

8. What was the rock a type of?

Jesus Christ

9. Who is called "ROCK" in the Bible?

One of the titles of God/Christ

10. What is the significance and the lesson from the smiting of the rock.

Jesus had to be smitten for our sins.

11. What did the water typify?

The Holy Spirit.

12. Who all received the water, and what is the lesson from this?

All the nation of Israel received it. All who receive Christ will receive the water of Life.

13. Briefly contrast the difference between the smiting of the rock in Exodus 17

and Numbers 20.

Numbers 20 details how the rock was smitten the second time which mars the typification. Christ was smitten once only for our sins.

14. What did the disobedience of Moses cost him?

He was not allowed to enter into the promised land.

15. Explain the origin of Amalek.

One born after the flesh.

Gen. 36:12 And Timna was concubine to Eliphaz Esau's son; and she bare to Eliphaz Amalek: these were the sons of Adah Esau's wife.

16. Who or what does Amalek typify?

The flesh.

17. How can we gain the victory over Amalek?

Only through the help of the Holy Spirit in our daily battle with the spirit and the flesh.

18. What will finally happen to Amalek?

He will ultimately be destroyed.

* Base outline for lessons by permission from:

THE BOOK OF EXODUS

By E. L. Bynum

© by Tabernacle Baptist Church

KJV Bible Studies are prepared and distributed free of charge. The lessons may not be sold without consent. If you have questions or wish to discuss the lessons, or possibly need help in finding Jesus Christ as your Personal Lord and Savior, contact us at the email below.

Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

Website: www.KjvBibleStudies.net

e-mail: mail@KjvBibleStudies2.net

Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.