



- Exodus 17:1-7 (ESV) 1 All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. 2 Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” 3 But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” 4 So Moses cried to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” 5 And the LORD said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. 6 Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”



- After your baptism, what were your expectations for your life as a follower of Jesus?
- We often don't deal with hardship and suffering very well.
- Especially when promises have been made.
- Relationships are very difficult; hard work in marriage
- Building trust takes: time, consistency, and faithfulness (proof?)



- Why would the Israelites be hesitant to trust God completely?
 - True they had seen great wonders, repeatedly
 - But they had been mistreated repeatedly by the Egyptians too. They had tried to kill the Israelites in many ways, abused them.



- Exodus 17:1-7 (ESV) 1 All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, **according to the commandment of the LORD**, and camped at Rephidim,
 - Exodus 13:21-22 (ESV) 21 And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. 22 The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.



**according to the commandment of Jehovah
Exodus 17:1**

- The people were following Moses, who followed the cloud that is Jehovah.
- The events that happen now are not by accident.
- God lead them to this place in the wilderness.



- Exodus 17:1 — and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.
- Exodus 12:37 — And the people of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children.
- How hard did they search for water?



- This is the second time, in a very short time, that they needed water in the wilderness.
 - Previously undrinkable water, people grumbled, Moses threw log in water as God told him, and water was sweet.
 - God lead them to more water.
- What lesson should they have learned from this?
 - God can make undrinkable water drinkable.
 - God can lead them to water.



- But this situation is different.
 - There is no water in the place that God and Moses has lead them.
 - Can water appear from nowhere?
 - not by any natural occurrences
 - Surprising, the people still fail to understand who Jehovah is ... gods of the Egyptians; Moses' signs ... Jehovah is limited in their minds.



- How did the people react to this lack of water?
 - quarreled (2, 7)
 - strive, contention; maybe legal dispute
 - tested Jehovah (2, 7)
 - put to the test; prove the quality
 - will God act as promised?
 - thirsted (3)
 - grumbled (3)
 - complain; murmuring
 - resentment, dissatisfaction, anger
 - ready to stone Moses (4)
- “Give us water to drink!”



- 3) “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?”
- (NET Bible Notes - Full Notes) 17:3 c sn
 - Their words deny God the credit for bringing them out of Egypt,
 - impugn the integrity of Moses and God by accusing them of bringing the people out here to die,
 - and show a lack of faith in God's ability to provide for them.



- 7) “Is Jehovah among us or not?”
- (NET Bible Notes - Full Notes) the people in the desert in rebellion putting God to the test.
 - By doubting that God was truly in their midst, and
 - demanding that he demonstrate his presence,
 - they tested him to see if he would act.
 - when it is done out of unbelief, then it is an act of disloyalty.



- Not hard to imagine their thinking:
 - God is leading us.
 - God leads us to someplace where there is not water ... again.
 - If God is leading us, and cares for us, then why would he lead us to someplace with no water.
 - So is this really God leading us, or just Moses, and does Moses know what he's doing?

What Jehovah Reveals about the People



- Psalms 95:6-11 — 6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! 7 For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today, if you hear his voice, 8 do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness, 9 when your fathers put me to the test and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work. 10 For forty years I loathed that generation and said, “They are a people who go astray in their heart, and they have not known my ways.” 11 Therefore I swore in my wrath, “They shall not enter my rest.”

What Jehovah Reveals about the People

Hard hearts

Psalm 95.6-11

- Harden your hearts (8)
 - This also happened with the Pharaoh.
 - In his stubbornness, he only believed long enough to have the problem stop.
 - Then he returned to questioning who Jehovah was... not believing.

What Jehovah Reveals about the People

**Put Jehovah
to the test
& proof**

Psalm 95.6-11

- Put me to the test (9) ... put me to the proof (8)
 - Doubt, questions, challenges
 - Our expectations meet with reality

What Jehovah Reveals about the People

**They go
astray in
their hearts**

Psalm 95.6-11

- a people who go astray in their hearts (10)
 - wandering in heart and mind, always thinking that thing could be better if only
 - Aaron and the Israelites would soon demonstrate this with the making of the golden calf at Sinai

What Jehovah Reveals about the People

**They have
not known
my ways**

Psalm 95.6-11

- they have not known my ways (10)
 - God has shown them repeatedly that
 - He is almighty ... do what needs to be done
 - He **cares** for them; He **delivers** them; He **helps** them
 - But they keep doubting and questioning: no amount of proof is enough
 - Their standard for God's behavior is about their wish fulfillment.
 - Everything should cater to them
 - Nothing should ever be difficult
 - When something goes wrong, it's never their fault. It's God's failure.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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Is Jehovah Among Us or Not?

Exodus 17:1-7

Synopsis: When the people are lead by God to a place without water, they quarrel with God and test Him. But this was a test and thus the hearts of the people were revealed. But God's purpose was greater and provided for them.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”