

WILDERNESS LESSONS # 2

August 23, 2015

I. Review

A. Theme Verse

1 Co 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it. (1Cor 9:24 - 10:1-13)

When you become a Christian, you enter a journey; Israel is our example of the lessons to be learned on the journey.

1 Co 10:11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

B. We are looking at Num 33 (also Ex 12:37 - 19:2)

There are 40 places that they "journey from", and "camp at".

I will give a definition of each of these places (derived from studying 3 sources; Exhaustive Dictionary of Bible Names, by S Smith, & J Cornwall; Cruden's Concordance; Strong's Concordance).

C. Last lesson

Their journey beginning place was Rameses

Rameses = "The standard bearer is evil"

1. [Day 1] They camp in Succoth = Booths; tents, tabernacles
2. [Day 2] They journey from Succoth and camp in Etham = Boundary; their strength
3. [Day 3] They journey from Etham and camp in Hahiroth

Hahiroth = The mouth of wrath; the opening of liberty

Hahiroth was by or near Baal-zephon & Migdo

Baal-zephon = [Lord; master; / intense expectation, longing]

Migdo = [a lofty tower, place]

II. Events at Hahiroth - the third day

A. The journey (Nu 33:8; Ex 14:1 - 15:21)

Israel at the Red Sea (Ex 14:1-18)

1. The decision of Pharaoh: Follow up! (Ex 14:1-9): Regretting his decision to free Israel, Pharaoh orders the Egyptian army, including 600 chariots, to capture the Israelites by the Red Sea.

Ex 14:1-4 God tells Moses, He will harden Pharaoh's heart and Egypt will pursue them.

Ex 14:5-9 Pharaoh and his army pursues Israel.

2. The despair of the people: Give up! (Ex 14:10-12): In great fear and anger the Israelites cry out to Moses, "Our Egyptian slavery was far better than dying out here in the wilderness!"

There are four questions/statements of fear and unbelief:

- Is it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness?
 - Why have you dealt with us in this way, bringing us out of Egypt?
 - Is this not the word that we spoke to you in Egypt, saying, 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'?
 - For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.
3. Declaration of Moses: Look up! (Ex 14:13-14): Moses reassures them, "don't be afraid. Just stand where you are and watch the Lord rescue you."
 4. The decree of God: Lift up! (Ex 14:15-18): Moses is told to raise his staff over the Red Sea, dividing the waters and allowing Israel to walk across on dry ground.

Israel crosses the Red Sea (Ex 14:19 - 15:21)

1. The protection (Ex 14:19-20): The pillar of cloud moves between the Egyptians and the Israelites. At night it becomes a pillar of fire, resulting in darkness for the Egyptians but light for the Israelites.
2. The parting (Ex 14:21-22): A strong east wind blows and parts the Red Sea, forming walls of water on each side.
3. The perishing (Ex 14:23-31): Attempting to pursue the Israelites across the dry path, the Egyptians drown when Moses lifts his hands, causing the waters to collapse on them.
4. The praising (Ex 15:1-21): A great victory celebration is held on the eastern banks of the Red Sea. Moses said his sister, Miriam, lead the nation in singing, music, and dancing.

B. Significance of this event

1. **This takes place on the third day** after Passover - in Hahiroth (Ex 14:1 - 15:21).
Jesus is our Passover (1Cor 15:7; Lk 22:15-20; Jn 6:26-58)

Jesus is raised from the dead on the third day (Mt 17:23; 20:19; 27:64; Lk 24:7, 21, 46; Ac 10:40; 1Cor 15:4)

2. What God did at the Red Sea

God did awesome things by the Red Sea (Ps 106:22).

Ex 14:19-20 there was cloud and darkness [for Egypt] yet it gave light [to Israel].

Ex 14:24 the Lord looked down from the pillar of cloud and fire

Ps 136:15 God overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea

God divided the Red Sea so that Israel passes through on dry ground

Ps 33:7 he gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle [heap]

Ps 106:9 he rebuked the Red Sea and it dried up (Ps 114:3, 5; 136:13)

3. Pillar of cloud

Ex 13:21 The Lord went ahead (led them) in a pillar of cloud
(Num 9:16; 14:14; Dt 1:33; Ps 78:14; Isa 4:5)

Ex 40:37 when the cloud stayed, they stayed (Num 9:17-22)

Num 10:34 Israel would set out [follow] when the cloud lifted [moved] (Ex 40:36; Num 9:17-22)

Ex 33:9-10 the cloud [at the tent of meeting] for communication (Num 12:5; Dt 31:15; Ps 99:7)

4. Pillar of fire

Num 9:16 ... and fire by night
Ex 13:21 God went before them in a pillar of fire (Num 14:14)
Ex 14:19 the pillar of fire was the angel of the Lord

5. Purposes for "the Lord goes before you":

Dt 1:33 to lead them (Ps 77:20; 136:16)
Dt 1:30 ... Will fight for you
2Sam 5:24 ...to strike the Philistines
the Lord promises to go before (us) his people Isa 45:2; 52:12)

6. People's response to the Lord at the Red Sea

Ac 7:36 Moses performed wonders and signs at the Red Sea
Ps 106:7 they (Israel) rebelled by the Red Sea
Heb 11:29 by faith (Israel) they passed through the Red Sea.

7. The Red Sea is a picture of baptism

1 Cor 10:1 all our fathers passed through the sea
1 Cor 10:2 our fathers were all baptised into Moses in the cloud and the sea.
1 Cor 10:1 our fathers were all under the cloud
1 Cor 10:2 our fathers were all baptised into Moses in the cloud and the sea

By faith, every person who goes into the waters of baptism should expect the following:

- a. Power over sin and condemnation (Rom 6:1-11; 8:1; Gal 5:24; Col 2:12-13).
- b. Power over the influence of the world (Gal 6:14).
- c. Power to live as a "new creation" (Rom 6:4, 10-11; Gal 2:20).
- d. Power of a cleansed conscience (1Pt 3:18-21).
- e. Power over the devil [demonic influence] (Col 2:9-15).

8. Horse and rider is a picture of the flesh (Ex 15:1, 4, 19, 21; Dt 11:4; Ps 78:53)

Ps 20:7 Some boast in horses and chariots

Isa 31:1 woe to those who rely on horses and chariots (Isa 36:9)

9. Lies that Israel embrace against God

Num 32:15 God will abandon them in the wilderness
Ex 14:11 God has brought us out to die in the wilderness (Ex 16:3; 20:4; 21:5)
Ex 14:12 it is better to serve the Egyptians than die in the wilderness
Dt 9:28 the Lord has brought them out to kill them in the wilderness
Num 14:2 would (wish) that we had died in this wilderness!

10. Consequences (results) of their unbelief and rebellion

Num 14:35 they will die in the wilderness (Num 26:65; 27:3; Josh 5:4)
Num 14:29 your corpses will fall in the wilderness (Num 14:32, 33);
Ps 106:26 God swore that he would make them fall in the wilderness.
Num 14:16 this is why God killed them in the wilderness (1Cor 10:5)
Heb 3:17 he was angry with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness
Ezk 20:17 I did not annihilate them in the wilderness

III. Fourth camp - Israel at Marah (Nu 33:8-9; Ex 15:22–26)

A. The journey

1. The problem (Ex 15:22–24): After traveling three days without finding water, the people discover the oasis at Marah has only bitter and undrinkable water.
2. The purification (Ex 15:25): The Lord tells Moses to throw a tree in the water and it will become clear and cold.

3. The promise (Ex 15:26): His name is Jehovah-Rapha; "I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, the LORD, am your healer."

B. Significance of this event

1. Israel traveled 3 days into the wilderness
Marah is in the wilderness of Etham (Nu 33:8-9).
Etham = Their strength, their sign

Marah is in the wilderness of Shur in Exodus (Ex 15:22–26).
Shur = Rampart; as a point of observation

2. Israel went three days' journey in the wilderness and camped at Marah
Marah = Bitter bitter or bitterness.

Israel's response = they grumbled at Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?"

The bitter water becomes sweet after Moses threw a tree into the water;
Even so, the cross of Jesus, applied to the bitter experiences of life, can empower them to become sweet.

3. Here we get the name Jehovah-Rapha - "LORD your healer". - God forgives all of our sins and heals all sicknesses (Isa 53:4-5; Psa 103:3; Mat 8:17; 1Pt 2:24; Jas 5:14-16).

References used in this study:

The Bible Reader's Companion
The King James Version study Bible
The Apologetics Study Bible
The Summarized Bible
Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Commentary
Old Testament Survey Series
The New Topical Textbook
The Outline Bible
Interpreting the Symbols and Types; by Kevin J. Conner