

18-19 Bible Study #13

12/11/18

Exodus 17

Water from the Rock

Exodus 17

- **Exodus 17:1-7**

- Father Sebastian said that if he was Moses he would have walked off the job at this point!
- Israel was encamped in the Northern portion of the *Sinai Peninsula* when they complained about not having water
- God directed Moses to go before them and lead them to *Mount Horeb (Sinai)* at the southern tip of the Peninsula
- The exact location of *Massah* and *Meribah** is not known
- Father pointed out the importance of understanding the dynamics of what was going on here

Exodus 17 (Cont)

- Moses did not strike any rock in the vicinity of the camp because God was trying to get them to *Mt. Sinai*
- If He gave them water when they were near *Rephidim*, they would not want to proceed to *Mt. Sinai*
- So, when they finally got the water, it was flowing from *Mt. Sinai*
- This was critical because Mt. Sinai was the source for the “living water”

Exodus 17 (Cont)

- This will be critical later on for both the Old and New Testaments' studies when we hear Jesus refers to Himself in John's gospel as the source of the "living water"
- It will also be important to the story of the Samaritan woman at the well
- John's gospel tells us that Jesus was the "word of God"
- Jesus, the word of God, became the source of the "living water," the "covental water" that will save the world
- Thus, in this passage from **Exodus**, we find the water flowing from *Mt Sinai* where the people of *Israel* will receive the "word of God"

Exodus 17 (Cont)

- The purpose of going to *Mt Sinai* was to get the “word of God” so that God would be able to “dwell among them”
- There is great unity here as by their receiving the “word of God,” He will dwell among them in an earthly tent (tabernacle)
- That is what John’s Gospel is all about
- God dwelling among us as the “word” in an earthly tent which was the human body of Jesus

Exodus 17 (Cont)

- If we look at these last few chapters in Exodus we see:
 - A Passover
 - Israel leaving Egypt
 - Crossing of the Red Sea
 - Need for food so He gave them flesh and bread
 - Need for water so He gave them water from the rock

Exodus 17 (Cont)

- In **John 6** we see:
 - A Passover story
 - The multiplication of the loaves and fish
 - The crossing of the sea of Galilee
 - Jesus proclaiming that He is the Exodus
 - Jesus tells the people that they are following him because they were hungry

Exodus 17 (Cont)

- This was followed by the lengthy “bread of life discourse”
- Then Jesus said that those who were thirsty could come to Him at the Feast of Tabernacles where He is standing on the top of the rock (the Mount of Olives)
- Clearly, the images of John’s gospel were taken right from the Book of **Exodus**

Exodus 17 (Cont)

- Without knowing these Old Testament stories, we will have a hard time understanding what was happening in the New Testament
- Father wants us to understand the meaning of each of the gospel events in the light of the Old Testament to which it corresponds *

Exodus 17 (Cont)

- **Exodus 17:8-16**

- The ***Amalekites***, who lived in *Moab*, were descendants of *Amalek* who was part of the genealogy of *Esau*
- Here, we are introduced for the first time to *Joshua* when he, as a general led the army of Israel in a battle against the *Amalekites*
- *Moses* climbed a hill overlooking the battle and lifted his hands in the air in prayer for the defeat of the *Amalekites*
- When he got tired, *Aaron* and *Hur* held them up to ensure victory

Exodus 17 (Cont)

- The “fathers of the church” see this as an image of Jesus on the cross with two thieves on each side
- In this passage, *Joshua's* role was saving his people from their enemies
- He was given the name *Joshua* (savior) by *Moses* (**Numbers 13**)
- This name eventually is translated as *Jesus* in *Greek*
- We need to watch the role of *Joshua* develop through the *Pentateuch*

Exodus 17 (Cont)

- We will see his most important work of bringing the people of *Israel* into the “Promised Land” later on
- It is interesting that *Moses* could only bring the people so far while *Joshua (Jesus)* brought them across the *Jordan* to the “Promised Land”
- This is why *Jesus’* ministry begins at the *Jordan* River
- Also, Matthew’s gospel concludes with *Jesus* commanding the Apostles to go out and baptize all nations

Exodus 17 (Cont)

- When the priest blesses the baptismal waters, he refers to the baptismal water of the *Jordan*
- This comes from the understanding of the early church concerning the connection of the baptism of the Christian with the baptism of *Jesus* in the *Jordan* and with the crossing of the *Jordan* with *Joshua*
- This is very, very rich

Exodus 17 (Cont)

- Eventually *Israel* will avenge herself from the *Amalekites* during the reign of King *Saul*
- In fact it was his 3rd failure to complete this mission as directed by God that caused King *Saul* to be replaced by King *David* (**1st Samuel 15**)*

Exodus 18

Jethro's Counsel to Moses

Exodus 18

- **Exodus 18:1-10**

- Moses' father-in-law (a *Moabite*) was a descendent of *Keturah* and *Abraham*
- He was a priest before the priesthood was reserved to the tribe of *Levi* after the “Golden Calf” event
- He also indicated that he had heard the “good news” concerning how God had brought the people of Israel out of the land of *Egypt*
- And he refers to the **LORD**, thus invoking the divine name *Yahweh* *

Exodus 18 (Cont)

- **Exodus 18:11-12**

- Next, *Jethro* stated that he knew that the Lord of *Israel* was greater than all the gods because of what he had done for the people of *Israel*
- We need to remember that before this incident the rest of the world believed that *Egypt* had the most powerful gods
- After the *Red Sea* incident, everyone knew that the God of *Israel* was even more powerful
- This again was the means that convinced many of the importance of fearing and worshipping the monotheistic God of *Israel*

Exodus 18 (Cont)

- This should remind us of the story in Acts: When Paul commented on the temple to the unknown god in *Athens*
- What *Jethro* was doing here was acknowledging that the God of *Abraham* and *Israel* was greater than all other gods because of what He did by bringing the people of *Israel* out of *Egypt*

Exodus 18 (Cont)

- Look at what God said in **Exodus 9:16** where it says that:
 - The plagues are going to get worse and decimate Egypt
 - They are going to impact directly on the people
 - God could have killed them all if He chose to do so
 - He wanted to demonstrate His power to the rest of mankind
- We will see this revelation again with the story of *Rahab* the harlot in **Joshua 2:8-14** *

Exodus 18 (Cont)

- **Exodus 18:13-27**

- In this final section, we hear about how *Jethro* offered assistance to *Moses* in doing his job as the leader of the people
- *Moses* accepted his suggestion and some scholars believe this became the foundation for what will ultimately be the *Sanhedrin**