

**Episode:** Promised Land Series No. 05

**Narrator:** Aaron

**Primary Scriptures:** Exodus 15-18

**Story Summary:** After the Red Sea until the time of Mount Sinai

**Location:** Red Sea, in the deserts

**Time:** c. 1526 BC Birth of Moses

c. 1446 BC The plagues and exodus

**Suggested Memory Scriptures:** Exodus 15:1, 15:11, 15:26; 16:35; 17:12

The Israelites are deliriously happy after watching the destruction of Pharaoh and his army when they drown in the Red Sea. A tiny hint of dissention is revealed in Exodus 15:20 when Miriam is described as the sister of just Aaron instead of Aaron and Moses. Just three days after the destruction of Pharaoh, the Israelites are in full-blown complaint mode against Moses and God when no water can be found.

God quells their complaints by healing the water of Marah. After doing so, God makes a rather odd statement. "If you follow and obey me, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians." The implied threat in this statement could not have been missed by the Israelites.

About six weeks later, the Israelites complain against Moses and Aaron once more. They are so unhappy that they wish to be back in bondage in Egypt, where they fantasize they had been fed well. It was clear there was absolutely no meat or food to be had in the desert. Only a miracle could save the Israelites. This is just the desperate situation God wanted for them. He proved to be their God by providing manna and quail for them.

The provision of manna and quail was also a test. God put stipulations on the ways the people could gather and eat the manna. The people failed the test, and showed that they did not trust God.

Plenty of manna, plenty of quail. Not plenty of water. The people get tired of having a minimum amount of water, and demand that Moses provide more. Moses knows their complaints are against God, not just against him. Once again, Moses obediently follows God's commands, and water is provided for the Israelites. God must surely be hoping that the Israelites are learning to trust him.

Do you ever wonder if your actions affect your descendants? If so, pay attention to the Amalekites, a wild desert people. They attacked the seemingly helpless Israelites, but God empowered the Israelites to defeat them. The penalty? God vowed to be at war against the Amalekites through the generations until they were completely destroyed, which happened hundreds of years later.

Moses is overwhelmed with the immense task of herding the Israelites. His father-in-law proposes some ways to relieve him, but things have to change. And they will. In a big way.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What did the Israelites do after the Lord defeated the Egyptians?
2. What were the main points of the song Moses and the Israelites sang after the defeat of the Egyptians?
3. What was the main point of the song Miriam and the Israelite women sang after the defeat of the Egyptians?
4. After the defeat of the Egyptians, how much time passed before the Israelites complained bitterly about not having enough water?
5. At Marah, what did God promise the Israelites if they would do what is right and obey his commands?
6. Why did God provide the Israelites with manna and quail?
7. Why did Moses preserve some of the manna? How long did the Israelites receive manna?
8. What did God promise to do to the Amalekites?

1. They sang to celebrate. 2. God is majestic and overwhelmingly powerful. God is the salvation of the Israelites. 3. God is to be exalted for his powerful deliverance. 4. Three days. They complained at Marah. 5. Not to bring the diseases on the Israelites that he had brought on the Egyptians. 6. So they would know he is God. Exodus 16:12 7. As a reminder for future generations. 40 years, until they reached Canaan. 8. Wipe them out.

### Application Questions:

1. Have you ever celebrated the Lord's greatness when he has provided a victory in your life? How did you celebrate? Have you ever acknowledged his greatness even in the midst of what felt like a defeat? How so?
2. The Lord showed his great power by delivering the Israelites from the Egyptians by the water of the Red Sea. Three days later, the Israelites complained because they didn't have enough water. Do your complaints show that you don't have much faith in God's power?
3. Even after they received manna and quail, many of the Israelites did not trust God to keep providing for them. Is there an amount of money that you could save that would indicate you do not trust God to provide for you?

### Application Questions for Teens:

1. When you pray, what do you pray for? Do you ever pray with the intention of telling God how amazing and awesome he is?
2. The Israelites were given the miracle of manna and quail, and were told to follow instructions that would prove if they really trusted God to provide for them. What could you do to prove that you trust God to provide for you?

God said he would wipe out the Amalekites. Does that action fit your concept of a loving God? Why or why not? What other characteristics of God are important to remember?