

God Cared For Israel

Exodus 17

Faith Portal Church

ADULT

Unit 11 Lesson 7

Supplemental Texts

Exo 16

Focus Verse

“And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.” – Exodus 17:13

Introduction

God had been so gracious to His people since He delivered them out of the hands of their enemies a month ago (Exo 12:1-6; 16:1). While the Lord led them by the pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night (Exo 13:21-22), they murmured against God whenever they were faced with any need. Having witnessed God’s love in action toward them while in Egypt, there should not have been a doubt that God would continue to care for them.

Deeper Look

And There Was No Water – Exo 17:1-7

The Israelites finally left the desert of Sin after many days, as the Lord directed, and camped in Rephidim. They camped in Dophkah and Alush before arriving in Rephidim (Num 33:12-14). But they found no water to drink in Rephidim! Though, the plight of the Israelites was real, they should not have been angry with their leader, Moses. Up to this point, they should have learned how to cry unto God or, at the least, appeal to Moses to mediate for them before God to meet the urgent need. As a great leader, Moses cried out to the Lord, and not against his people. The next directive from God was Moses’ delight because he knew God would provide water to end their thirst. The Israelites drank of the Lord, the spiritual Rock (1 Cor 10:4). This same Rock provides the spiritual water to quench the thirst of every dying soul (John 4:10-14; 7:37-38).

Then Came Amalek – Exo 17:8-16

While the Israelites were in Rephidim, the Amalekites made an unprovoked attack against them (Deut 25:17-18) that caused Moses to order Joshua to have some men ready to fight back. The Amalekites were descendants of Amalek, the grandson of Esau (Gen 36:12). The success of Israel in the battle depended on Moses’ endurance to supplicate before God in lifting his hands up. But Aaron and Hur gave Moses a seat and supported his hands when they became tired. It is notable that Moses, Aaron and Hur, and Joshua worked together for a common goal. This prayer gave Israel victory over Amalek. So, Moses built an altar and named it “Lord is My Banner.”

Questions

1. Looking back to how God had provided for the Israelites in the wilderness, why would God keep leading them if they would not trust Him to provide the water they seriously needed?
2. Did Moses feel frustrated by the constant attacks from his own people? What proof is there? Why did the Israelites fail to realize they were contending with God?
3. What did the rock that Moses strike typify? See 1 Cor 10:4. In light of your answer, what is the spiritual significance of Moses striking the rock with his rod, the flow of water out of the rock, and the people drinking of the water?
4. What did God do to show the Israelites that He was with them from the moment they walked out of Egypt? Why did the Israelites doubt the presence of God in their midst? Read Exo 17:7. Was their doubt justified? Explain.
5. What could be a discouragement to Joshua when Moses told him to choose some men to fight the Amalekites? Conversely, what could be an encouragement to him?
6. What happened to Moses as he engaged in prayer for Israel's victory? What did Aaron and Hur notice, and how did they respond? What lesson is here for us?
7. The Amalekites got what they deserved by losing to Israel. What proved that God was displeased with the Amalekites? How does God defend His people today?

Personal Meditation

At times, the children of God face unprovoked attacks by the enemies around, even while walking in the will of God. Being in the will of God is not a guarantee that we will not experience difficult times, but rather, a guarantee that God will always be with us and fight our battles (See Exo 14:13-14; Isa 43:1-2; 54:15-17; Rom 8:31). When the Israelites were in Rephidim, the people of Amalek came to war with them. The Amalekites attacked those straggling behind when they were exhausted and weary (Deut 25:17-18). The Israelites went to war with the Amalekites. And because the Lord was with Israel, He gave the Amalekites into their hand. Not only that, but the Lord also promised to wipe out the memory of the Amalekites from the earth (v. 14; Deut 25:19).

What is remarkable about the war is that Israel's victory depended on Moses' prayer as he raised his hands. Think about it. The men of Israel were not yet trained for wars. That was why God did not lead them through Philistine territory (Exo 13:17). Though, Moses' prayer was key, yet his hands had to be supported and Joshua had to keep fighting. What is our role in God's work?

DAILY STUDY

Monday	Exo 17:1-3
Tuesday	Exo 17:4-6
Wednesday	Exo 17:7-9
Thursday	Exo 17:10-12
Friday	Exo 17:13-14
Saturday	Exo 17:15-16



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