

**EXODUS 14:23-16**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Exodus chapter 14 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

As we have seen in our studies of Exodus, the Jews were slaves in Egypt for some 400 years and we saw that “**... the Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with rigor. [harshness]**” Exodus 1:13.

They were not in a good position, and things were getting worse and worse. Thus, we are told in Exodus 2:23-25, “**Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage. So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them.**”

And God intervened and sent them a deliverer, He sent them Moses! And Moses asked that Pharaoh let the children of Israel go, but he kept refusing and God brought plague after plague upon the Egyptians, ten of them.

And the last one was the death of the firstborn. When this happened to Pharaoh and all the people in Egypt that did not apply the blood of the lamb upon their door, they were more than happy to let these troublemakers go.

So we saw that some 2 to 3 million people left Egypt and headed to the Promise Land. And after a time, Pharaoh realized that he let all his slaves go and he and his army go after the children of Israel to bring them back.

At this point the children of Israel have the Red Sea in front of them, mountains on either side of them, and they can see the dust that the chariots and horses from Pharaoh's army made billowing in the distance and coming towards them!

And the response of the people is interesting. We are told in Exodus 14:10-12, **“And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the Lord. Then they said to Moses, ‘Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, ‘Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.’”**

They were all with Moses until trouble came and then they were all against Moses! Go figure.

But I do love the response of Moses in Exodus 14:13-14, **“And Moses said to the people, ‘Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.’”**

And God tells Moses, ***“Son, it is time to getting moving!”*** And as Moses stretches out his arms over the Red Sea, with his rod in his hand, the waters part and the children of Israel cross over the Red Sea on dry ground!

That is where we finished up last time in our study, in Exodus 14:21-22 where we read, **“Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.”**

With that as our introduction, let's begin reading in Exodus chapter 14 beginning in verse 23 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word this evening.

## **EXODUS 14**

### **VERSES 23-28**

The Egyptian army is coming hard and fast upon the children of Israel and to move 2 to 3 million people quickly does not happen. But God protected them and slowed the Egyptian army down.

How did He do that.

He put a cloud of darkness upon them so they couldn't see, which slowed them down.

(Exodus 14:20)

Also, as the army of the Egyptians got closer to the children of Israel, God slows them down by loosening their chariot wheels and they are having all kinds of trouble as they trying to cross the Red Sea to get to the children of Israel.

And when it got so bad, they finally had enough and tried to get out of there, they are struggling, they are not going anywhere! And the Lord tells Moses to stretch out his hand over the waters and they will come crashing down upon this Egyptian army!

Now for those who believe they crossed at the Sea of Reeds in only a few inches of water, explain to me how all of the Egyptian army and their horses, drowned in a few inches of water.

How bad were they at swimming? ***“Just stand-up men!”*** Right!

You see, the water came crashing down upon them and they drowned.

A wall of water from both sides, 1,000 feet high came crashing down, of course they drowned, no one could survive that. Keep in mind that the Red Sea has a maximum depth of 8,200 feet (2,500 m) in the central median trench and an average depth of 1,640 feet (500 m).

So to push these waters back, they would have to rise up very high!

That means Pharaoh and his entire army were destroyed in the Red Sea. (Psalm 136:15)

And think about this, in a split second over 250,000 Egyptian soldiers were gone! That is God judging sinful man and it doesn't take that long once He starts!

And if it was the Sea of Reeds, then the Egyptian army could have outflanked them by going around it, so again, that just does not fit.

Not only that, but in this area of the Gulf of Aqaba they have found Egyptian chariot wheels, chariots, and bones buried in the Red Sea.

I think this is where they crossed and thus, Mount Sinai is very close, it is in Saudi Arabia!

Grant Jeffery, in his book, *The Signature Of God*, tells us,

Consider the words of this ancient inscription about the Israelites' escape from Egypt.

Six ancient inscriptions were found on different cliffs in the Wadi Sidri, located on one of the natural routes the Jews would have chosen when entering the interior of the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt.

In his book, Sinai and Palestine, Dr. A. P. Stanley wrote about his 1853 visit to Wadi Sidri as the natural place leading up from the Red Sea: “A stair of rock, the Nukb Badera, brought us into a glorious Wadi (Sidri) enclosed between red granite mountains. . . . In the midst of the Wadi Disri, just where the granite was exchanged for sandstone, I caught sight of the first inscription” (A. P. Stanley, Sinai and Palestine, London: John Murray, 1905, p. 70). . . .

### **The Sinai Inscriptions**

The wind blowing, the sea dividing into parts, they pass over. (1)  
 The Hebrews flee through the sea; the sea is turned into dry land. (4)  
 The waters permitted and dismissed to flow,  
 burst rushing unawares upon the astonished men,  
 congregated from all quarters banded together  
 to slay treacherously being lifted up with pride. (5)

The leader divideth asunder the sea, its waves roaring.  
 The people enter, and pass through the midst of the waters. (10)

Moses causeth the people to haste like a fleet-winged she-ostrich crying aloud;  
 the cloud shining bright,  
 a mighty army propelled into the Red sea is gathered into one;  
 they go jumping and skipping.  
 Journeying through the open channel,  
 Taking flight from the face of the enemy.  
 The surge of the sea is divided. (41)

The people flee, the tribes descend into the deep.  
 The people enter the waters.  
 The people enter and penetrate through the midst.  
 The people are filled with stupor and perturbation.  
 Jehovah is their keeper and companion. (23)

Their enemies weep for the dead, the virgins are wailing.  
 The sea flowing down overwhelmed them.  
 The waters were let loose to flow again. (8)  
 The people depart fugitive.  
 A might army is submerged in the deep sea,  
 The only way of escape for the congregated people. (21)

So the Egyptians were wiped out and during this generation the Egyptians never bothered the children of Israel. God said that He would bless those who bless the children of Israel and He would curse those who would come against them, and that is what we see here! (Genesis 15:3)

### VERSES 29-31

God parted the waters of the Red Sea, and the children of Israel did not walk upon wet sand but dry sand!

From a human perspective, this was impossible and yet, God brought them through just as He had said He would do. He was faithful to His people!

Spurgeon told the story of an old saint who lay on her deathbed and declared that Jesus would never forsake her, because He had promised so.

Someone asked her, ***“But suppose that He did not keep His promise, and you were to be lost?”***

She answered, ***“Then He would be the greater loser than I. It is true I would lose my soul, but God would lose all His honor and glory if He were not true.”***

God’s motive for delivering us is not only His love for us, but also a desire to guard His own glory and honor. Spurgeon wrote,

***Brethren, if we have trusted in God, and have come out of the Egypt of the world through his grace, and have left all its sins behind us, if we were left to die in the wilderness, the Lord Jesus Christ would lose his glory as a Saviour, the divine Father would lose his name for immutable faithfulness, and the Holy Ghost would lose his honour for perseverance in completing every work which he undertakes.***

- Charles Spurgeon

So what was the result of this great work of God in delivering the children of Israel not only from their bondage in Egypt but bringing them through the Red Sea?

The result of all this is they feared the Lord but tragically, they lost that fear of the Lord and rebelled against the Lord in a very short period of time.

What a warning to us, to keep our eyes focused on Him, obey Him and fear Him, for He is ***GOD!***

That means in the good times and the bad times, the hard times and the easy times, we are to follow Him all the days of our life! We are to trust in Him no matter what! Remember what Paul wrote in Romans 8:31, “**What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?**” May we not forget that ***HE IS FOR US!***

Now, out of this great victory that God gave them over this massive Egyptian army, we will see the children of Israel celebrate and give glory to God in this song of Moses.

This is the first recorded song in the Bible and, in Revelation chapter 15, speaking of another deliverance; it is the last song that is sung in the Bible.

## **EXODUS 15**

### **VERSE 1**

It is great that they are singing praises to God for what He had done, but why didn't they sing this song before they were delivered?

Now you might be thinking, “***How could they do that?***”

The reason they could have done that is because God assured them of the victory just as He has given to us those precious promises of victory in our own lives.

Thus, may we learn to praise Him in the midst of the trial, before the victory has been achieved, knowing that He will see us through!

What was this joy, this spiritual high based upon?

Interestingly enough it was based upon an experience and experiences are wonderful with God and I am not negating them, but if that is where your faith is based upon, you, like the children of Israel will see that the joy you had won't last long before it turns into murmuring and complaining!

You need to have an abiding relationship with God that is based upon the Word of God! Experiences in our life change, but the Word of God will never change!

I also want you to notice how personal this song is, it is in the first person.

Our songs, our praise should be like that with the focus upon God.

You see, worship is unto the Lord and not unto man.

Today, many times we see worship as more of an entertainment, what this musician can do, this guitar solo, that drum solo, dancing on the stage instead of focusing on the Lord!

Back at Calvary Chapel of Elk Grove, my old church, we had a very talented drummer. He was awesome and he was a great teacher, he taught my son how to play the drums.

One day he was using what I call "*pots and pans*" to play music during worship and it sounded great, it was beautiful, and my wife told him so.

And as they talked after service he said, "*Julie, I wish there was a curtain in front of me so no one could see me. But when they are worshipping, they would be focused on the Lord instead of me! You see, if they are focusing on me then they are not focusing on the Lord!*"

How true that is. It is as Psalm 40:3 tells us, "**He has put a new song in my mouth - Praise to our God; Many will see it and fear, And will trust in the Lord.**"

That new song that He has given to us, may we sing it loud and strong so others may see the joy the Lord has given to us!

Now, in this first section we see an introduction that speaks of the **TRIUMPH OF GOD**, how He brought about the destruction of this Egyptian army!

We used to sing this song when I was a young Christian called – ***I WILL SING UNTO THE LORD!***

This is how it went,

I will sing unto the Lord for He has triumphed gloriously,  
The horse and rider thrown into the sea.  
I will sing unto the Lord for He has triumphed gloriously,  
The horse and rider thrown into the sea.

The Lord, my God, my strength, my song has now become my victory.  
The Lord, my God, my strength, my song has now become my victory.  
The Lord is God and I will praise Him,  
My Father's God and I will exalt Him.  
The Lord is God and I will praise Him,  
My Father's God and I will exalt Him.

- I Will Sing unto the Lord

And here with this song, ***“Notice, the song is all of God; there is not a word about Moses. Read this song through, and neither Moses, nor Aaron, nor Miriam are in it: God is all in all.”*** (Spurgeon)

Let's look at this song picking up in the last part of verse 1.

### VERSES 1b-3

We saw **THE TRIUMPH OF GOD** in verse 1 and now, here in verses 2-3 we see that the focus in these verses is **WHAT GOD IS**.

Moses tells us that He is my strength, song, salvation, He is my God, He is a Man of war, and His name is **YAHWEH!** We should be able to say the same thing about our God!

### VERSES 4-13

The Focus in these verses is **WHAT GOD HAS DONE.**

God has given them victory over their past enemies, even in their arrogance He brought the enemy down!

God has done the same for us folks; He has given to us victory over the enemies of our past, those fleshly desires as well as victories in the present!

Not only that, but He has also delivered them and us in those victories!

Thus, ***“Who is like You LORD?”***

Absolutely no one!

Here are a few verses expounding on this.

In Psalm 71:19 we are told, **“Also Your righteousness, O God, is very high, You who have done great things; O God, who is like You?”**

In Psalm 77:13 we are told, **“Your way, O God, is in the sanctuary; Who is so great a God as our God?”**

Psalm 89:6-10 tells us, **“For who in the heavens can be compared to the Lord? Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened to the Lord? God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, And to be held in reverence by all those around Him. O Lord God of hosts, Who is mighty like You, O Lord? Your faithfulness also surrounds You. You rule the raging of the sea; When its waves rise, You still them. You have broken Rahab in pieces, as one who is slain; You have scattered Your enemies with Your mighty arm.”**

Psalm 113:4-5 tells us, **“The Lord is high above all nations, His glory above the heavens. Who is like the Lord our God, Who dwells on high.”**

And in Micah 7:16-19 we are told, **“The nations shall see and be ashamed of all their might; They shall put their hand over their mouth; Their ears shall be deaf. They shall lick the dust like a serpent; They shall crawl from their holes like snakes of the earth. They shall be afraid of the Lord our God, And shall fear because of You. Who is a God like You, Pardoning iniquity And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in mercy. He will again have compassion on us, And will subdue our iniquities.”**

There is no one like our *GOD!*

Now for those who teach that Moses and the children of Israel didn't cross the Red Sea but a marshy swamp to the north a few inches deep called the Sea of Reeds, this song becomes a problem.

Notice what it says in Exodus 15:5, **“The depths have covered them; they sank to the bottom like a stone.”** I think that is clear!

And we did cover this last time in our study, looking at many other passages that speak of a great wall of water as well. And the Egyptians did not drown in a few inches of water, but as it says here, **“they sank to the bottom like a stone.”**

#### VERSES 14-18

The focus in these verses is *WHAT GOD WILL DO.*

God will give them victory over future enemies and those that hear of the past victories of God will be fearful of Him.

Not only that, but God will bring them into the Promise Land. God is doing the same in our lives. God is going to give us the victory over our future enemies and people who see what God is doing in our lives will be fearful of Him, either respecting Him or fearful of His power!

And that life in the Promise Land is a life not in heaven but a walk in the Spirit, being led by Him on a daily basis as we surrender ourselves to Him. That is where the victory truly is found. Paul put it like this in Galatians 5:16-17, **“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.”**

Now, in regard to the children of Israel, word did spread about what God did at the Red Sea and what God was doing in their lives.

In the city of Jericho, when they heard that the children of Israel were coming, they put the city under lock down, but why? Listen to what Rahab tells us in Joshua 2:9-13, **“... ‘I know that the Lord has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath. Now therefore, I beg you, swear to me by the Lord, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father's house, and give me a true token, and spare my father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.’”**

Just as God had told them, came to pass!

And just in case anyone loses sight of this, *YAHWEH* reigns “**Forever and ever**” or His reign is eternal! Thus, no matter what you are going through, He is still on the throne, never forget that!

#### VERSE 19

In this verse it just recaps the story of God destroying the Egyptian army and giving Israel the victory as they crossed through the Red Sea on dry ground and the Egyptians drowned in the waters of the Red Sea! All of them, including Pharaoh!

#### VERSES 20-21

Miriam, the sister of Moses is the first woman in the Bible called a prophetess. And here she is singing, dancing, doing whatever you do with a timbrel, as she praised the Lord!

And notice, she did not lead the men, but the women in this.

Paul, in I Timothy 2:12 said, “**And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.**”

It is not that men are better, smarter, closer to God than women, not at all. This is the way that God has established it, and the warning is that men need to be spiritual leaders in their homes because women tend to be more sensitive to spiritual things and they can also be deceived as Eve was.

And the same is true in a church, women can lead women, they can lead children, but men are to be pastors within the church, not women. Thus, if anyone has a problem with that, talk with God!

Look at what is going on here. They are singing and dancing and praising the Lord there in the wilderness. I guess it could not get any better than that! But, as we will see, that joy, that dancing, does not last long. Here comes some difficulty and that joy turns to anger, complaining and the like as we will see.

#### VERSE 22-24

Here, after this great victory, now they face their first trial, no water.

They have been going for three days and have found not a drop and with 2 to 3 million people, your water supply will run out very quickly!

But don't fear, remember what they sang, "*The Lord shall reign forever and ever.*"

Exodus 15:18.

Thus, if God is on the throne, and He is, then nothing will stop them, they will be victorious in this also, won't they?

But that is not the way that they are seeing things. And it truly is incredible that just three days since the Red Sea miracle and now, this hardship causes them to murmur and complain!

Now, can you imagine as they first saw this water, some probably ran and jumped right in and as they tasted it, well, the waters were bitter, undrinkable.

All that water and they could not drink it!

But, instead of bringing it to the Lord they complained to Moses.

I wonder how often we do that. Instead of bringing a situation to the Lord, we complain.

I think John Newton in his song *Amazing Grace* spells it out for us as he wrote,  
***“Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come; ‘Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.”***

Amen to that! And we may sing it, but do we believe it? He will lead us home!

And yet, we see so many Christians who believe that God was able to save them, but then it is up to them to work hard, stay saved to make it home.

Paul dealt with that issue in Galatians where he wrote, **“O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth . . . Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?”** Galatians 3:1, 3.

I think that is very clear. Our God is more than able, never forget that!

#### VERSES 25-27

The children of Israel complained to Moses instead of bringing their requests, their concerns before the Lord.

Moses does bring this to the Lord and the Lord shows him a tree and tells Him to cast it into the water and those bitter waters would be made sweet, and they were!

How did God do this?

In his work on the Exodus journey, Buckingham believes that the chemicals in the sap of the broken limb drew the mineral content down to the bottom of the pool and left only good water on top. He also speculates that the high magnesium and calcium content worked as a laxative, cleaning out the digestive tracks of the children of Israel, getting rid of those Egyptian ailments!

Folk’s, the issue is not *how did God do this*, but *why did God do this*?

Make no mistake about this, it was a miracle of God, why can't we just believe it instead of trying to explain it away!

This was not a small pond and yet all the waters were made sweet! It was a miracle and that is all I need.

So why did He do it? And more importantly, what does that have to do with us as Christians?

When we find ourselves in bitter situations, around bitter people, having a bitter expression, it is only when we place another tree in the midst of those waters that the situation will become sweet in our lives and that is the cross of Jesus Christ!

I don't care what you are going through, bitterness is not of God, but sweetness is, and that sweetness will only come as you crucify the flesh and bring it all before the Lord!

And what we are seeing here is that God used this to test them to see what was in their heart, if they would trust Him, and they did not pass, they are still learning.

And this was not for God; it was to show them what was in their hearts.

Folk's, God does the same in our lives as He tests our character, what we are made of – the flesh or the spirit to show us so we can crucify the flesh and be filled with the Spirit!

What is interesting to me is that after this time of testing God brings them to Elim, where there were 12 wells of water and 70 Palm trees, a place of refreshing.

God knows what we are made of and when we need rest if we would only learn to trust in Him and walk by faith.

But here's the thing. If you refuse to let go of the bitterness, then you won't find those times of refreshing. It is only when we give it to Jesus that He can take those bitter things in our lives and make them sweet, bringing to us times of refreshing!

Remember what Psalm 30:5 says, “**. . . Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning.**”

Warren Wiersbe sums it up like this for us. He wrote,

*If life were nothing but tests, we would be discouraged. If life were all pleasure, we would never learn discipline and develop character. The Lord knows how to balance the experiences of life, for He brought His people to Elim where they found plenty of water and opportunity for rest. Let's be grateful that the Lord gives us enough blessings to encourage us and enough burdens to humble us, and that He knows how much we can take.*

- Warren Wiersbe, The Wiersbe Bible Commentary – OT, p. 171

Exactly!

## **EXODUS 16**

### **VERSES 1-3**

Now they have been out of Egypt for 1 month since they left on the fifteenth of the previous month (Exodus 12:18), and their food supplies are running low.

So what do they do?

No, they don't call for a prayer meeting but instead complain against Moses and Aaron for bringing them out of Egypt to die in the wilderness.

And when they found themselves in a difficult situation they remembered the past with rose-colored glasses, they remembered the past in a twisted way. They saw it as good and they did not remember that they were slaves in Egypt, under heavy bondage.

It was not the good life! But it did seem to justify their complaining when they saw things like that!

We as Christians need to be careful not to live in the past, especially during difficult times.

There is nothing wrong in learning from the past to help you in the present.

There is nothing wrong in seeing past deliverances by God to encourage you in the present.

But don't live in the past complaining about the present, that does not honor God and most often, we tend to look at the past with rose colored glasses, a twisted view of what it was really like, just as the children of Israel did!

Egypt is a type of the world, and they are longing to go back to the world to satisfy their needs instead of the Lord.

Was this a difficult situation that they were in?

You bet it was!

But instead of remembering how God delivered them out of Egypt, how God brought them through the Red Sea, all they could do is complain, murmur and long to go back to the world!

The world has nothing good for you, nothing at all. It is a deception! The Lord has what is best and will see you through whatever you are going through! Don't forget that!

One more point here. Can you imagine if Israel was ruled by a democracy here, Moses and Aaron would be dead, and they would be going back to Egypt at this point!

But the children of Israel were not to be ruled by a democracy but to be governed by God!

Folks, it truly is not a majority that makes something right because imagine what would take place in a church if that were the case!

God has to rule according to His Word otherwise there is anarchy, immorality; everyone does what is right in their own eyes.

Keep in mind that down the road the children of Israel, some of them will rebel against the authority of Moses, they wanted to be in charge. It does not work that way, God places men in positions of authority, not man.

#### VERSES 4-5

Here they are in an impossible situation and for God, nothing is too hard for Him! He rains bread down from heaven!

Now this bread from heaven, also called *angel's food*, (Psalm 78:25), was called *Manna* by the children of Israel or "*What is it?*"

Isn't that interesting? God gives them a miracle, angel's food, and instead of rejoicing they say, "*What is it?*"

May we not forsake what God has given to us on a daily basis. And here, it is the Word of God that is our bread to partake of daily.

And many today say, "*What is it?*" They negate that it is the Words of God given to us! May we never do that!

And we see here that with this manna God is going to test the children of Israel in two different ways.

The first way is that they needed to only gather enough of the manna for one day and not to try and get more to save for the next day.

The other was that on the sixth day of the week, on Friday's they were to gather twice as much as they would normally gather. And we will see that on the seventh day, the Sabbath, it was to be a day of rest, to rest in the Lord, to worship Him. So there was no manna that came from heaven on the Sabbath day!

Not too complicated but you know man, we think we know better than God, and in the end, what God has said we need to obey!

### VERSES 6-8

Again, this is an interesting point that Moses makes here.

When they were complaining about the situation they were in, complaining about Moses and Aaron and what they did to them, another fine mess they got them in, the reality is they were complaining against the Lord and Moses let them know that. You see, it was the Lord who brought them into this place.

That is so important for us to understand because once we do, it will change our whole outlook regarding the situations that we are in. Instead of murmuring and complaining we can praise and thank the Lord!

He is the One in control and He is the One who is leading us and thus, He will see us through. Once we understand that, then we truly can thank the Lord because it is His will that we do.

What do I mean by that? Listen to what Paul wrote in I Thessalonians 5:18, "**in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**"

Thus, this is a powerful lesson for us to learn. Instead of complaining, seek the Lord and see what He has for us. Don't complain, learn to worship Him, thank Him and sing His praises!

VERSES 9-14

According to Cole, the quails mentioned here *“migrate regularly between south Europe and Arabia across the Sinai Peninsula. They are small, bullet-headed birds, with a strong but low flight, usually roosting on the ground or in the low bushes at nightfall. When exhausted, they would be unable to . . . take off again. The birds are good eating, and were a favorite delicacy of the Egyptians.”*

That does sound interesting but think about the number of quail that would be needed to feed 2 to 3 million people. I see this as a miracle of God, that He brought these birds in to feed the children of Israel!

Also, it seems like God did not give them quail every day but just that first day. In Numbers 11:31 we read of meat being given to them but that is the only other time that the Lord gave them quail to eat!

But the manna was a daily occurrence, except on the Sabbath as I have said.

Each morning they would gather bread from heaven that was on the ground. We are told that it is like coriander seed, about the size of a sesame seed and it is sweet like honey according to Exodus 16:31. And its color was that of bdellium or a whitish like color according to Numbers 11:7. And lastly, they would either bake it or boil it according to Exodus 16:23.

And think about this. God gave them this angel’s bread, and don’t you think it would be great to eat?

Of course it was but as we will see as we move on in our studies in the Word of God we will see them complain about this food that God has given to them.

So God is providing the water for them. He provided meat for them on this day. And He is providing bread or manna for them in the wilderness. That is not too bad!

VERSE 15

Think about this. God has provided for them, and they do not recognize what God has done. How often that happens in our lives. May we keep our eyes and hearts open to what God is doing in our lives and how He is providing for us!

VERSES 16-19

We are told here that each man was to gather according to their needs, an omer's worth.

What is an omer?

An omer is probably about 6 pints!

Look at how this all plays out; how much manna God was providing for them.

Keep in mind that this is on a daily basis. Every person had an omer or 6 pints of manna each day!

If you do the arithmetic, 6 pints times just two million people equals 12 million pints or 9 million pounds or 4500 tons of manna each day!

And listen to what that equals, just to give you a perspective. That would be equivalent to 10 trains with 30 box cars for each train with 15,000 pounds in each car per day. And keep in mind that this went on for forty years! (Joshua 5:12)

Obviously, this is a miracle of God even though some like to say it was a natural phenomenon.

Let me explain it like this. There are some researchers who identify it with what the Arabs today call mann, which is formed when *"A tiny insect punctures the bark of the tamarisk tree, drinks the sap, and exudes a clear liquid that solidifies as a sugary globule when it hits the ground. When the sun comes up, it melts quickly and disappears."* (Buckingham)

If that was true, and I don't believe it is because this is bread from heaven, but if it was, that is a lot of insect excretion! How hard were these insects working? What were they eating?

No, it was not these insects, but God provided bread from heaven for them to eat!

#### VERSES 20-21

Didn't they hear what Moses told them?

Of course they did, but they didn't care, they had their own way of doing it and they did.

They thought they knew better!

Remember Frank Sinatra singing, "*I did it my way!*"

That was them and that is us as Christians. God tells us what is right, what we are to do in His Word, and we tend to ignore it at times.

And just as the manna stunk in those homes that kept it overnight, there were worms all over the place.

So too is truth without application, it *STINKS!* It only breeds things that are bad.

And, like the children of Israel, there is a harsh penalty in our lives for disobedience.

Also, as we have seen, this bread from heaven needed to be gathered daily, early in the morning or it was gone, it melted away.

Think of it like this as we apply it to our own lives.

In John 6:32-40 we are told, **“Then Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’ Then they said to Him, ‘Lord, give us this bread always.’ And Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.’”**

The true bread from heaven is Jesus and we too must partake of Him daily.

Others can't do it for us.

And it is good to start early in the morning and feed on Jesus.

How do we do that?

By reading His Word for we are told in John 1:1, **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”**

Thus, Jesus is the Word and as we feed on the Word of God we are, in a sense, partaking of Jesus.

People want to know about God, then read His Word, apply it to your life. I see that as one of those tragedies in some Christians. They know the Word of God, they can quote the Word of God, but when it comes time to applying it to their lives, they have no idea what to do. It is simple, ***OBEY!***

As the Lord told Joshua, **“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”** Joshua 1:8-9.

May we take in God’s Word and apply it to our lives as we walk by faith!

#### VERSES 22-30

God, in a sense, forced them to honor the Sabbath by not giving them any manna on the Sabbath, they were to gather twice as much on the sixth day, on Friday and it would not stink or get worms in it, they would be able to partake of it on Saturday, the Sabbath without gathering it that day.

Again, this is a miracle of God and all God asked of them and of us is to obey His Words!

But there were those who refused to obey, and they went out looking for manna on the Sabbath day and guess what? Just as God had said, there was none to gather in.

Folks don’t go looking for life, for fulfillment outside of God and His Word because you will never find it!

VERSES 31-36

Notice that what God gave them to eat was good, it tasted great!

God does not give us garbage to partake of, to feed upon, but His precious Word that brings forth sweetness to our lives!

It is as Jeremiah tells us, **“Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts.”** Jeremiah 15:16.

The Amplified Bible puts this verse like this, **“Your words were found, and I ate them; and Your words were to me a joy and the rejoicing of my heart, for I am called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts.”**

And The Living Bible tells us, **“Your words are what sustain me; they are food to my hungry soul. They bring joy to my sorrowing heart and delight me. How proud I am to bear your name, O Lord.”**

Folks, the world only has garbage for your life, don't run to the world to feed upon, run to the Lord!

We also see here that Moses is told to fill a pot of this bread from heaven and when the Ark of the Covenant is completed, to place it there as a testimony of what God has done for His people.

May our lives be a testimony to others of what God has done and is doing!

And notice how long they ate this manna for. Exodus 16:35 tells us, **“And the children of Israel ate manna forty years, until they came to an inhabited land; they ate manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan.”**

And we see that fulfilled in Joshua 5:12, **“Then the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year.”**

As I close this evening let me leave you with this.

Can you say as the Psalmist said, **“As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. . . .”** Psalm 42:1-2a.

You see, physical hunger will drive you to eat physical food. But spiritual hunger will drive you to spiritual food, to Jesus, the Word of God.

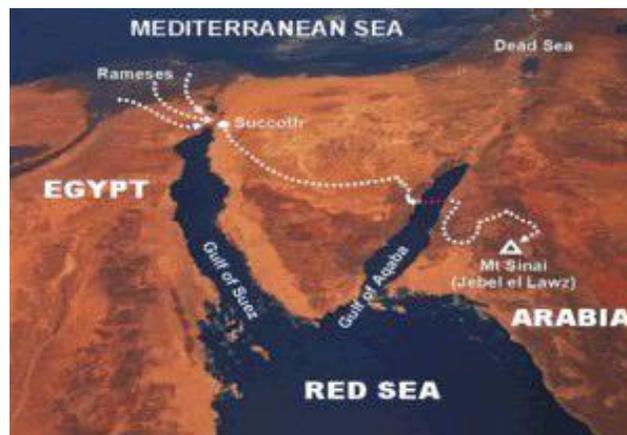
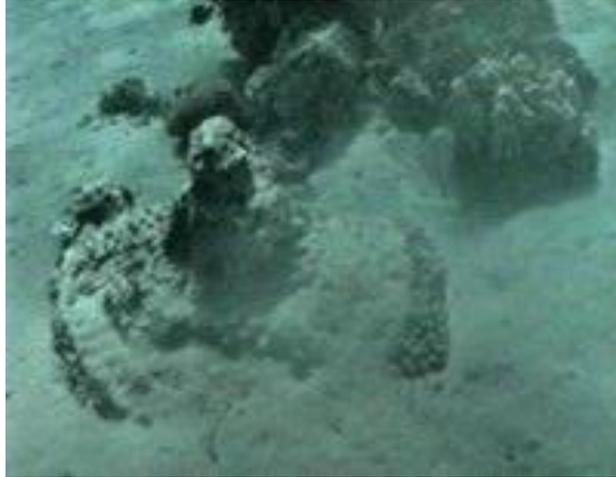
Think of the prodigal son, it was hunger that drove him home and it truly is hunger in our hearts that will drive us home as well, to Jesus, to the Word of God!

Please understand that it is God’s Word that is the bread from heaven, and it alone can feed our soul and produce health, strength and growth in our spiritual lives!



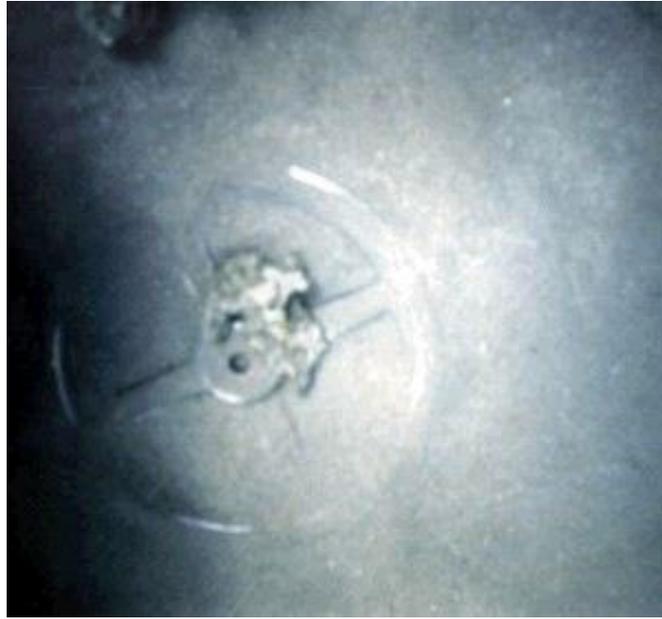
## PARTING OF THE RED SEA

Chariot Wheels found at the bottom of the Red Sea -- See pictures below and the route



You will be surprised to see proof of Pharaoh's chariot and bones of horses and men found in the Red Sea. Evidence of the crossing of the Red Sea . . . Pharaoh's drowned army.

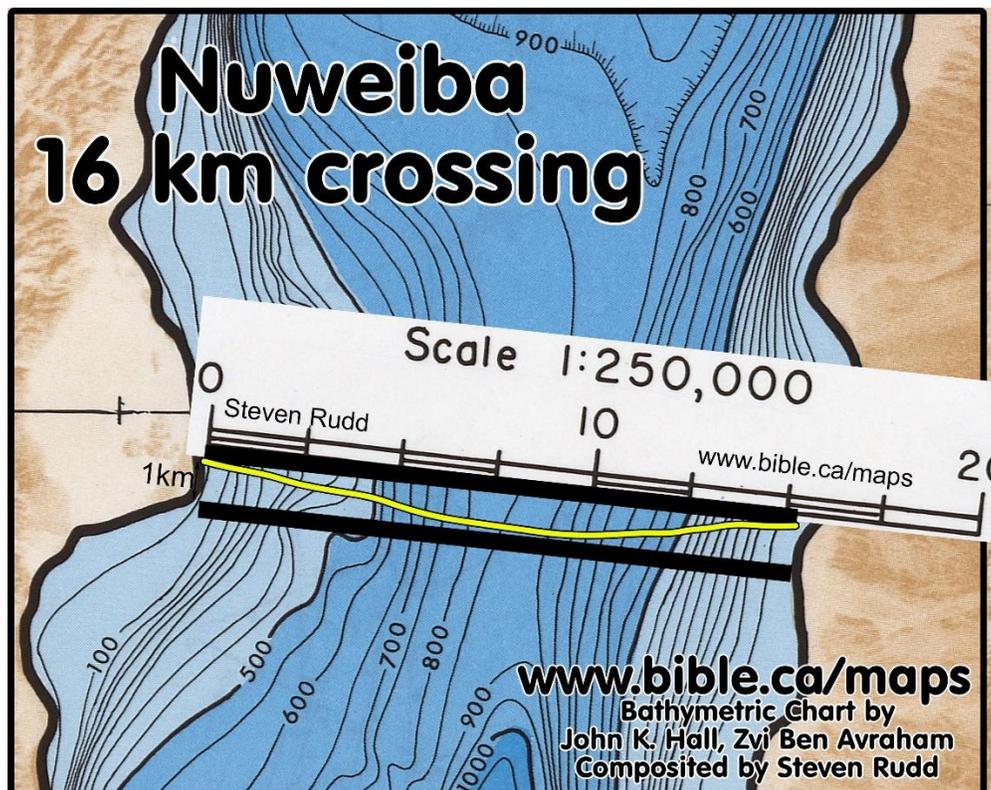






Mineralized bone, one of many found at the crossing site (above center). This one tested by the Department of Osteology at Stockholm University, was found to be a human femur, from the right leg of a 165-170cm tall man. It is essentially 'fossilized,' i.e., replaced by minerals and coral, hence cannot be dated by radiocarbon methods, although this specimen was obviously from antiquity. Chariot wheel and axle covered with coral and up-ended. Exodus 14:25 'And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily...'

How deep is the water? The Gulf of Aqaba is very deep, in places over a mile (1,600m) deep. Even with the sea dried up, walking across would be difficult due to the steep grade down the sides. But there is one spot where if the water were removed, it would be an easy descent for people and animals. This is the line between Nuweiba and the opposite shore in Saudi Arabia.





Depth-sounding expeditions have revealed a smooth, gentle slope descending from Nuweiba out into the Gulf. This shows up almost like a pathway on depth-recording equipment, confirming its Biblical description, ' . . . a way in the sea, and a path in the mighty waters' (Isaiah 43:16).