


Water from the Rock

Exodus 17:1 – 7


Presented by Bob DeWaay
May 4, 2008



Dire circumstances: no water

■ **Exodus 17:1**

Then all the congregation of the sons of Israel journeyed by stages from the wilderness of Sin, according to the command of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, and there was no water for the people to drink.



It is good when God tests man and bad when man tests God

■ **Exodus 17:2**

Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water that we may drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?"



More grumbling

■ Exodus 17:3

But the people thirsted there for water; and they grumbled against Moses and said, "Why, now, have you brought us up from Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"



Moses' righteous response was to call upon the Lord

■ Exodus 17:4

So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "What shall I do to this people? A little more and they will stone me."



Yahweh offers more proof of presence

■ Exodus 17:5, 6

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Pass before the people and take with you some of the elders of Israel; and take in your hand your staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink." And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.



Temptation and Murmuring

■ Exodus 17:7

He named the place Massah and Meribah because of the quarrel of the sons of Israel, and because they tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us, or not?"



Applications and Implications

- 1) We should understand what it means to test God and avoid doing so
- 2) The sins of those around us should drive us to prayer rather than bitterness
- 3) We should go to the Rock who was once smitten that we might drink life giving water



- 1) We should understand what it means to test God and avoid doing so

■ Numbers 14:22, 23

Surely all the men who have seen My glory and My signs which I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, yet have put Me to the test these ten times and have not listened to My voice, shall by no means see the land which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who spurned Me see it.



- 1) We should understand what it means to test God and avoid doing so

"To test God (not 'tempt' as in AV and other older versions) is to make upon him demands or requirements that are inappropriate either to his nature and character or to the circumstances."

Eugene Merrill *Deuteronomy* 172.



- 1) We should understand what it means to test God and avoid doing so

■ **Psalm 78:20-22**

Behold, He struck the rock so that waters gushed out, And streams were overflowing; Can He give bread also? Will He provide meat for His people? Therefore the Lord heard and was full of wrath; And a fire was kindled against Jacob And anger also mounted against Israel, Because they did not believe in God And did not trust in His salvation.



- 1) We should understand what it means to test God and avoid doing so

■ **Hebrews 3:7-9**

Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, As in the day of trial in the wilderness, Where your fathers tried Me by testing Me, And saw My works for forty years."



- 1) We should understand what it means to test God and avoid doing so

■ **Hebrews 3:11 - 13**

"As I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'" Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.



- 2) The sins of those around us should drive us to prayer rather than bitterness

■ **Luke 21:36**

"But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."



- 3) We should go to the Rock who was once smitten that we might drink life giving water

■ **Numbers 20:11, 12**

Then Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came forth abundantly, and the congregation and their beasts drank. But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you have not believed Me, to treat Me as holy in the sight of the sons of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them."



- 3) We should go to the Rock who was once smitten that we might drink life giving water

■ **Isaiah 53:4**

Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.



- 3) We should go to the Rock who was once smitten that we might drink life giving water

■ **1Corinthians 10:1 - 4**

For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and all ate the same spiritual food; and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ.



- 3) We should go to the Rock who was once smitten that we might drink life giving water

■ **John 4:13, 14**

Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water shall thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."

3) We should go to the Rock who was once smitten that we might drink life giving water

■ **John 6:35**

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."

3) We should go to the Rock who was once smitten that we might drink life giving water

■ **John 7:37 – 39a**

Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.'" But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive . . .
