

Moses Lesson 8 Article

Ex 15:22-27

The victory at the Red Sea was the climax-event of the exodus. But the full import and lasting value of that deliverance is yet to be interpreted. This is where Sinai comes into focus. Sinai will become “God’s School” for the explanation and implementation of the faith and theology of the exodus.

Special points.—On the way to Sinai the story turns not so much on historical events and details as on the meaning of history’s events. Both the geography and the history take on religious significance. The struggles in the wilderness come to illustrate the struggles of all men. Underlying the trials is the truth that God gives meaning and purpose to the struggle. This desert journey is therefore more than a trip. It is a pilgrimage with divine direction. With all its fears and problems it is a fulfilment of life and faith for all time. As such it becomes a trust, and Israel must live to share its lessons and make the more responsible contribution in history.

Many dangers yet surround the camp of Israel. Thirst and hunger and all kinds of other enemies are daily threats. The Bible does not gloss over these hardships. It honestly reports them. And God is portrayed as permitting them—for God is “testing” Israel to see if the Jews will really live under the faith which can give spiritual significance to their historical journey.

Truth for today.—The bitter waters of Marah proved to be one of God’s “testing” places. Still short on memory of God’s power and recent demonstrations, the people start to complain or murmur. Their fear and lack of faith is still very evident. But Moses does not rebuke them nor even show irritation (as he does in other places). As all through the Exodus God is here the central actor. It is He who “heals” the waters. And by direct spiritual applications the writer lifts up this God as the healer of all Israel.¹

The Manna Shows What We Must Do with Jesus Christ

- A. *We must feel the need.* There is a spiritual hunger within that can be satisfied only by Christ (John 6:35). It was when the Prodigal Son said, “I perish with hunger” that he decided to go back to the father and seek forgiveness (Luke 15:17–18). Much of the unrest and sin in the world today is the result of unsatisfied spiritual hunger. People are living on substitutes and rejecting the nourishment that God freely provides (Isa. 55:1–3).
- B. *We must stoop.* The manna did not fall on the tables or on the trees but on the ground, and the people had to stoop to pick it up. Many sinners will not humble themselves. They will not bend! They will not repent and turn to the Savior!
- C. *We must take for ourselves.* The hungry Jews were not fed by looking at the manna, admiring it, or watching others eat it; they had to pick it up and eat it themselves. Christ must be received inwardly by faith if the sinner is to be saved. This is what Christ meant in John 6:51–58 by “eating His flesh and drinking His blood.” John 6:63 makes it clear that Christ was not speaking about literal flesh and blood, and John 6:68 tells us that it was His Word that He was referring to. When we receive the Word inwardly, we are feeding on Christ, the Living Word.
- D. *We must do it early* (v. 21). “Seek the Lord while He may be found!” is the warning of Isa. 55:6 (NKJV). The manna disappeared when the sun became hot, and this suggests that the day of judgment will arrive when it will be too late to turn to Christ (Mal. 4). It also suggests that, as believers, we must get our spiritual nourishment from the Word early in the day as we meditate on it and pray.
- E. *We must continue to feed on Him.* Once we receive Christ as Savior, we are saved eternally (John 10:27–29). It is important, however, that we feed on Christ to have the strength for our pilgrim journey, just as the Jews fed on the Passover lamb (Ex. 12:11ff). How do believers feed on Christ? By reading, studying, and meditating on His Word. ²

¹ Langley, R. (1972). Exodus. In F. H. Paschall & H. H. Hobbs (Eds.), *The teacher's Bible commentary* (F. H. Paschall & H. H. Hobbs, Ed.) (64). Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers.

² Wiersbe, W. W. (1993). *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament* (Ex 16:1). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.