

# The Rock and Steady Hands

## Exodus Chapter 17

### Exd 17:1 1) The Rock is Smitten vs 1 - 7

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.

- *The Sons of Israel moved out following the Pillar of God. (fire by night and Cloud by day)*
  - Exodus 13:21-22
  - Exodus 40:34-38
  - Numbers 14:14
  - Nehemiah 9:19
- *Our Leading*
  - Psalm 119:105 "Thy word [is] a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."
  - John 14:16-17
  - Galatians 5:18
- *They came to Rephidim and thirsted but there was no water. The Lord led them to this place. In the will of God but thirsting.*
- *Rephidim means resting place. BUT HERE IS A RESTING PLACE WITH NO WATER.*

### Exd 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?"

- *The people quarreled w/ Moses even though they were following the Lord's leading. Isn't that so like us that we are happy Christians at our churches for the Lord has brought us here. Then something isn't the way you want it or it doesn't go your way and then we grumble about people. We tend to forget that the Lord brought us here.*
- *Our first response shouldn't be to quarrel or complain but to seek God to find out why He has brought us here.*

### Exd 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?"

- *This is the fifth time.*
  - *As slaves in Egypt. Possibly forced hard labor with not readily available provisions Ch 2:23-24*
  - *At Red Sea before the crossing Ch 14:11-13*
  - *Waters of Mara Ch 15:24*
  - *In the wilderness becoming hungry Ch 16:2+3*
  - *Now at Rephidim Ch 17:3*
- *Their complaint is that they were tricked. To be lead out to be killed.*

### Exd 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."

- *Moses feels that the people may be at their breaking point.*
- *But God knows what we are able to handle.*
- *Physical Therapy - left to us we would never push past the pain. But a therapist knows what we can bear. He pushes us for our healing, strengthening,*

### Exd 17:5 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.

### Exd 17:6 "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.

- *1 Corinthians 10:4 "And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." The rock is Jesus*
- *John 7:37-39 "In the last day, that great [day] of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet [given]; because that Jesus was not yet*

glorified.)”

- *A Picture of Christ* - *The Rock must be struck before the blessing will flow.*
- *Numbers 20:2-12* *The Children of Israel complain again. God says to speak to the rock for water. But Moses struck the rock a second time. For this disobedience God prohibited Moses from entering the Promised Land.*
- *The Rock Jesus is only sacrificed once. After His sacrifice we only need to speak to the Rock believing in faith. There is only one sacrifice. Jesus is only struck once.*

Exd 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?"

- *The promise of the Lords presence is assured for us.*
- *Hebrews 13:5-6* "for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord [is] my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."
- *John 14:16-18* "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; [Even] the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless:"
- *Proverbs 18:24* "there is a friend [that] sticketh closer than a brother."

Exd 17:8 2) Steady Hands of Prayer vs 8 - 16

Then Amalek came and fought against Israel at Rephidim.

- *Amalek was a descendent of Esau. He is a representation of the flesh*
- *Esau was a carnal man. Natural things took precedence over the things of God. The desire of his flesh was satisfied at the expense of his spirit. (his birthright and blessing)*
- *Israel will battle Amalek (the flesh) continually. So do we.*
- *Psalms 78:15+16* "He split the rocks in the wilderness, And gave [them] drink in abundance like the depths. He also brought streams out of the rock, And caused waters to run down like rivers."
- *Possibly, Amalek as desert people hearing of water came to the water and wanted the water and came to take it from Israel. Remember in Genesis there were often conflicts over wells that were dug in the desert.*

Exd 17:9 So Moses said to Joshua, "Choose men for us and go out, fight against Amalek. Tomorrow I will station myself on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand."

- *This is the first time they are told to fight.*
- *God didn't want them going by way of the Philistines because they would encounter war.*
- *Back at the Passover, Exodus and the Red Sea God said through Moses Stand back and see the salvation of our God. And the Lord did the battle.*
- *That is Salvation. God does that battle.*
- *But with fleshly desires it is different. We are to put to death the deeds of the flesh. Romans 8:13 "For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live."*

Exd 17:10 Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought against Amalek; and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

Exd 17:11 So it came about when Moses held his hand up, that Israel prevailed, and when he let his hand down, Amalek prevailed.

- *The question is where is the battle won in this battle? On the hill top.*
- *Hands raised is a picture is of prayer. Psalm 28:2 "Hear the voice of my supplications, when I cry unto thee, when I lift up my hands toward thy holy oracle."*
- *The next question is where is our battle over the flesh won? Same answer.*
- *Galatians 5:13-18* "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only [use] not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, [even] in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. [This] I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the

lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. "

- *We are in a battle against the fleshly desires. The flesh is not dead. The flesh is not reformed. It is still there and if you give way to it, it will rise up and you will walk contrary to the Spirit.*
- *The victory comes in Walking according to the Spirit and considering your self dead to the desires of the flesh. This is a battle.*
- *Deuteronomy 25:17+18 shows us we are to be strong in the Lord, Walking in the Spirit, for if we are weak the flesh will pick us off "Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt; How he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, [even] all [that were] feeble behind thee, when thou [wast] faint and weary; and he feared not God. "*

Exd 17:12 But Moses' hands were heavy. Then they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it; and Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other. Thus his hands were steady until the sun set.

- *This is such a good picture of our prayer. We get tired in prayer. We need others to join us in prayer.*
- *Ministry of Helps - 1 Corinthians 13:28*

Exd 17:13 So Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

- *This is such a good picture of the Word of God in our life. Our fleshly weakness are overcome by the edge of the two edged sword. The Word of God.*
- *Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God [is] quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. "*
- *Ephesians 6:17 "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: "*
- *Revelations 1:13-17 "And in the midst of the seven candlesticks [one] like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and [his] hairs [were] white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes [were] as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two edged sword: and his countenance [was] as the sun shineth in his strength. And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. "*

Exd 17:14 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this in a book as a memorial and recite it to Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven."

- *Moses already seems to know that Joshua will be a leader in the Lord's plans.*
- *Moses knows he will need reminding.*

Exd 17:15 Moses built an altar and named it The LORD is My Banner;

- *Jehova Nessi / Nessi is a Flag or Banner flown in Battle that brings assurance and strength in the battle.*
- *Song of Songs 2:4 "He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me [was] love. "*
- *Isaiah 11:10 "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious. "*

Exd 17:16 and he said, "The LORD has sworn; the LORD will have war against Amalek from generation to generation."

- *The war continues.*
- *King Saul had to fight Amalek in 1 Samuel 15:2-9 and 1 Samuel 28:18*

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