

## Exodus 14-18

Less material than Josh took us through – I’m going to take a few minutes at the onset to give you some overarching thoughts about the book of Exodus

Who is the Author? Moses is commonly accepted

What are the historic book ends in the book? Exodus takes Israel from the death of Joseph to the erection of the tabernacle

Big Idea: Deliverance or “Exodus” is the obvious action that happens, but there appear to be at least a couple additional areas in which we can learn.

- I. Yes, God is Delivering His People and He is using Moses to accomplish that. That’s what we see when we simply read the story. But what have we learned about studying the Bible? **GO**
  - a. There is often more behind the story. We can read for reading sake, but we often can see more if we put in the time to discover more.
- II. Rabbi David Fohrman points out something key in his book, The Exodus you almost passed over:
  - a. Someone read Exodus 4:21.23 - The LORD said to Moses, “When you return to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders I have given you the power to do. But I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go. <sup>22</sup> Then say to Pharaoh, ‘This is what the LORD says: Israel is my firstborn son, <sup>23</sup> and I told you, “Let my son go, so he may worship me.” But you refused to let him go; so I will kill your firstborn son **GO**
  - b. God wasn’t kidding, He was to be taken literally. In looking back at it, How do we know? **GO**
    - i. Because God literally takes their firstborn son. So..If God literally takes their own son, what else does he literally mean? **GO**
    - ii. That Israel is his firstborn son.
  - c. So this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> big idea, Exodus tells us who We are and why we are here. **GO, GO**
- III. The third that I see is that God is pointing us and giving us pictures of what the future will look like by showing us foreshadows of salvation.

We’ll unpack each of these as we go through the book.

Quick Breakdown of the Book that I found helpful.

Summary of these Four Periods of History **GO**

- I. The period of Bondage
  - a. The oppression in Egypt 1:7-22
  - b. The events in the early life of Moses
    - i. His birth and adoption 2:1-10
    - ii. His attempt to aid his brothers 2:11-14
    - iii. His escape to Midian 2:15
    - iv. His marriage 2:21 - 40 years pass according to Acts 7:30 **GO**
- II. The Period of Deliverance
  - a. The call of Moses at the burning bush 3:1-10
  - b. Moses’ divine commission and empowering 3:12-22; 4:1-9
  - c. Moses’ excuses 3:11; 4:10-13
  - d. Aaron associated with Moses in demanding that Pharaoh liberate Israel 4:27-31, 5:1-3
  - e. The bondage made more severe 5:5-23
  - f. The diving instructions to Moses and Aaron Ch 6-7 **GO**

- g. The contest with Pharaoh and the infliction of the ten plagues, Ch 7-11

### III. The Period of Discipline

- a. The Exodus 12:31-51
- b. Experiences along the way to Mt Sinai, Ch 13-18
  - Similar to the the Christian Life – What is a Type?
    - A representative by one thing of another
    - A symbol of something current, looking ahead towards something in the future
    - A rough draft, or less accurate model from which a more perfect image is made **GO**
  - 1. ~~Egyptian bondage, a Type of the bondage of sin~~
  - a. ~~Moses is a Type of Christ to deliver~~
  - 2. ~~The Exodus is a Type of the forsaking of the sinful life~~
  - 3. ~~The Passover lamb, a Type of Christ, the Lamb of God~~
  - 4. ~~Pharaoh's pursuit of Israel 14:8-9, a Type of the evil forces that pursue believers~~
  - 5. ~~The opening of the red sea 14:21, a Type of spiritual hindrances removed~~
  - 6. ~~The pillar of cloud and fire 14:19-20, A Type of the divine presence of God~~
  - 7. ~~The song of Moses 15:1-9, a Type of the songs of spiritual victory~~
  - 8. ~~The mixed multitude 12:28. A Type of the worldly people within the church~~
  - 9. ~~Mara and Elim 15:23-27. A type of the bitter and sweet experiences in Christian life~~
  - 10. ~~The pots of a meal 16:3 a Type of the sensual pleasures of the old life~~
  - 11. ~~The manna 16:4. A Type of Christ, the bread of life~~
  - 12. ~~The Water from the rock 17:6. A Type of Christ, the Living Water (1 Cor 10:4)~~
  - 13. ~~The upholding of Moses' hands 17:12. A Type of the need of cooperation among leaders~~
  - 14. ~~In the structure of the tabernacle, its furniture, ordinances, the garments of the priesthood, the ark of the covenant. Are found many Types of Christ and the church~~

### IV. The Period of Legislation and Organization

- a. The arrival at Sinai 19:1-2
- b. The appearance of the Lord on the mount Ch 19
- c. The giving of the 10 commandments Ch 20
- d. Other laws proclaimed Ch 21-24
- e. Directions concerning the building of the tabernacle Ch 25-27
- f. The appointment of the high priest Ch 28
- g. The worship of the golden calf Ch 32
- h. The preparation for and erection of the tabernacle Ch 35-40 **GO**

## Sidebar- Types - a type in Scripture is a person or thing in the Old Testament that foreshadows a person or thing in the New Testament

Throughout the Bible, we see objects or stories that look simply like an illustration or we take it at face value.

**GO**

An example during The Passover, Chapter 12:

Ex 12:5 - The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats.

Later – in scripture we see that Sheep and goats are actually representative of Jews and Gentiles.

So when we see here that Israel can use the blood of either, what could that mean?

John 1:29 – we see John the Baptist say something strange about Jesus. He says <sup>29</sup>The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

A perfect, spotless lamb without defect is often throughout the Bible a Type of Jesus Christ **GO**

**In Exodus, there are several Old Testament Types (or comparisons not only to the new testament, but to the life of a Christian **GO****

1. Egypt was in bondage and Moses is used by God to deliver Israel
  - a. What is the Type, the comparison we can draw? Jesus is used to deliver us from bondage
2. The Passover Lamb.
  - a. What is the Type? Jesus, the Lamb of God
3. Pharaoh pursuing Israel after their deliverance.
  - a. What is the Type? We are delivered, but the enemy doesn't want us to stay delivered!
4. Opening of the Red Sea
  - a. What is the Type? God makes a way!
5. Pillar of Cloud and Fire
  - a. What is the Type? God is always with us, before us and behind us
6. Israel Grumbling and as we'll see later, they fall back into sin
  - a. What is the Type? God delivered Israel out of Egypt but He wants to get the Egypt out of Israel!

Are we not the same way? God delivers us from the penalty of sin, but sin is always calling to us and we are so drawn to it. Like moth to the flame.

Last week Josh took us from

Ch 1 – Joseph's reign in Egypt and how God's people came to Egypt, but that they were oppressed.

Ch 2 – The identification of Moses, his birth, being saved by Pharaoh's daughter, being raised in both Hebrew and Egyptian ways. His calling to free Israel, Him fleeing after killing an Egyptian to Midian where he meets his wife Zipporah who is the daughter of Reuel who we learned was a pagan priest. We learned that Moses may have had some additional growing up to do in the area of humility during his 40 years of herding sheep for his FIL. During that time Zipporah came to faith in God and became a Righteous woman.

Ch 3 We see Moses encounter God at the burning bush and we are introduced to the idea that where God's presence has been is Holy Ground.

Ch 4 – We see Moses argue with God and I found the 4 objections and concessions that God gave to him very helpful.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. M: I'm a nobody  | G: I'll go with you                                      |
| 2. M: I have no name  | G: Go in my name, I will be as I will be, or I AM        |
| 3. M: What if they don't listen?                                    | G: I'll give you powers to perform miracles to show them |
| Nacho Libre – Eagle egg has no powers. This time there were powers! |  |
| 4. M: Send Someone else   | G: I'll send Aaron to be your prophet                    |

Prophet speaks what God has spoken, not a future teller

Ch 4 we also see Zipporah saving Moses' life by cutting off Eliab's foreskin. Moses had neglected to honor his side of the covenant God made with Israel and the punishment was death.

Ch 5 – We see Moses and Aaron initiating their conversation with Pharaoh which just makes things worse and Israel not only has to make bricks, but now they have to get their own materials. And we see Moses going back to God in v 22 asking God, what's up? Look, everything is worse than before and now the people probably hate me!

Ch 6 – we see God responding to Moses and telling him that he was a Covenant Maker with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob but he wasn't fully known by them. Moses and Israel are about to see God as The Covenant Keeping God

We then take a brief hiatus from the story to get a quick lineage which sets up Aaron as God's mouthpiece, alongside the miracle performing acts of Moses.

Because of his powers, Moses is like a god to Pharaoh, early part of Ch 7

Ch 7 Aaron is commanded to throw his staff down and it becomes a crocodile which eats up the magicians crocodiles.

We enter into the plagues.

The Plagues: We see Pharaoh harden his heart 7 times, then God hardens Pharaoh's heart afterwards

Each Plague was specific and strategic by God to undermine and show that HE was more powerful than the gods that Egypt worshipped. Egypt had a lot of gods to worship.

Quickly we see:

1. Plague of blood – Nile, God turned its water to blood.
  - a. Khnum creator of water and life
  - b. Ha'pi, the Nile God
  - c. Osiris, god of the afterlife, whose bloodstream flowed as the Nile
2. Frogs –
  - a. Heqit the goddess of fruitfulness and childbirth
3. Lice & Fleas (Gnats) – brought defilement on them, they were not clean to go worship their gods (Begin tracking where the Lord is making a Distinction between His people and the people of Egypt) Someone read 8:22 'But on that day I will deal differently with the land of Goshen, where my people live; no swarms of flies will be there, so that you will know that I, the LORD, am in this land. <sup>23</sup>I will make a distinction<sup>(b)</sup> between my people and your people.
4. Flies (Josh taught us this may actually have been wild animals, hornets or mosquitos) do some study, debate over a mix of insects or a mix of wild animals. (Evil animals, snakes and scorpions, wolves, lions, bears and leopards)- didn't hit Israel

Ch 9 5. Livestock – Hathor the cow goddess – livestock was sacred.

- a. Hathor and Apis, the cow gods

Someone read Ch 9:4

But the LORD will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and that of Egypt, so that no animal belonging to the Israelites will die.”

- 6 Boils which made it impossible for the magicians to even try to duplicate

7 Hail – separation not only between Israel, but within Egypt as many Egyptians became followers of God and they heeded the warning, that God will do what He says he will do. Their livestock and lives were saved.

- a. Nut, the god of heavens
- b. Set, the god of wind and storms
- c. We didn't see this in the regular text, but Josh described that in Hebrew, this was hail and fire falling (lightning).

Ch 10 8 Locusts –

- a. Min, the god who protected vegetation and crops
- b. Isis, the goddess of life responsible for grain crops

during this plague Pharaoh's officials start turning on him and we start to see a negotiation begin with Pharaoh and Moses.

Moses says I want to take everyone and all animals and possessions. Pharaoh says no

9 Darkness

- a. Amun-Ra the sun god is diminished

Negotiation -Pharaoh concedes on people leaving, but no animals. Moses says no

-The power has shifted

Ch 11 10 Firstborn – all firstborn including sons and animals. See distinction again

Read 11:6-7 There will be loud wailing throughout Egypt—worse than there has ever been or ever will be again. <sup>7</sup>But among the Israelites not a dog will bark at any person or animal.' Then you will know that the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel

Ch 12 During the 10<sup>th</sup> plague we are introduced to The Passover – Becomes a new Sacred Holiday – God gives clear instructions on how meat, bread are to be prepared and in v14 we see that God commands Israel to commemorate this for generations. This is the Seder Meal, The Chosen shows us this and Jesus taking the Seder meal with Israel

V29 – all firstborn were killed except those that the angel passed over

V31 – in the middle of the night Pharaoh calls Moses and Aaron

Read 31:32 - <sup>31</sup>During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the LORD as you have requested. <sup>32</sup>Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go. And also bless me."

Pharaoh concedes to the deal –

V36-36 we see Israel who had gained favor during the plagues with Egyptians, basically plundered them of their wealth and left.

V37 tells us there were 600k men, estimates are that this was over 2.4m people (Idaho)

That ends the plagues and we enter into the next phase of the story – The Exodus

Ch 13 tees up another holiday where the firstborn is consecrated and we also see a picture into the importance of the first born (who is God's firstborn? Israel).

Israel is to eat unleaven bread for 7 days. Look at v8: Tell your sons “I do this because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt

V9 - This observance will be for you like a sign on your hand and a reminder on your forehead that this law of the LORD is to be on your lips. (Tefillin) box on forehead during daily weekday prayers)

This commemoration would often be in that box on a mini scroll

V13 – firstborn male of all livestock.

See a lamb being used as the chosen animal. Not as a sacrifice but as a celebration

If you didn't have a lamb, you could sell your donkey to buy a lamb. Donkey is distinguished as being unclean. If you don't sell it, you break its neck. Josh eluded to something last week which I hope we'll get back to about the significance here.

Abraham bound his son Isaac to a donkey

Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey

V14 – repeats this command to remind our children of Israel's deliverance and to write it on your hand and a symbol on your forehead

V17 we get into where Josh wrapped us up.

Israel was throughout Goshen. Some had to come North out of Rameses, others came south to the converging point **(IMAGE)**

Now we get to Chapter 14 **GO**

The Crossing of the Sea

13 Recap – Middle of the night all the firstborn sons die – In Pharaoh's distress he concedes to all of Moses' demands and Israel begins to leave.

13:17 – God knew that if they continued on the shorter road, the road through Phillistine country, Israel would be afraid of facing war, so they were led by God to the dessert road, the way of the Red Sea

13:19 – Going through Succoth and camped at Etham (top of Red Sea), God lead them (in front of them) in a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire by night.

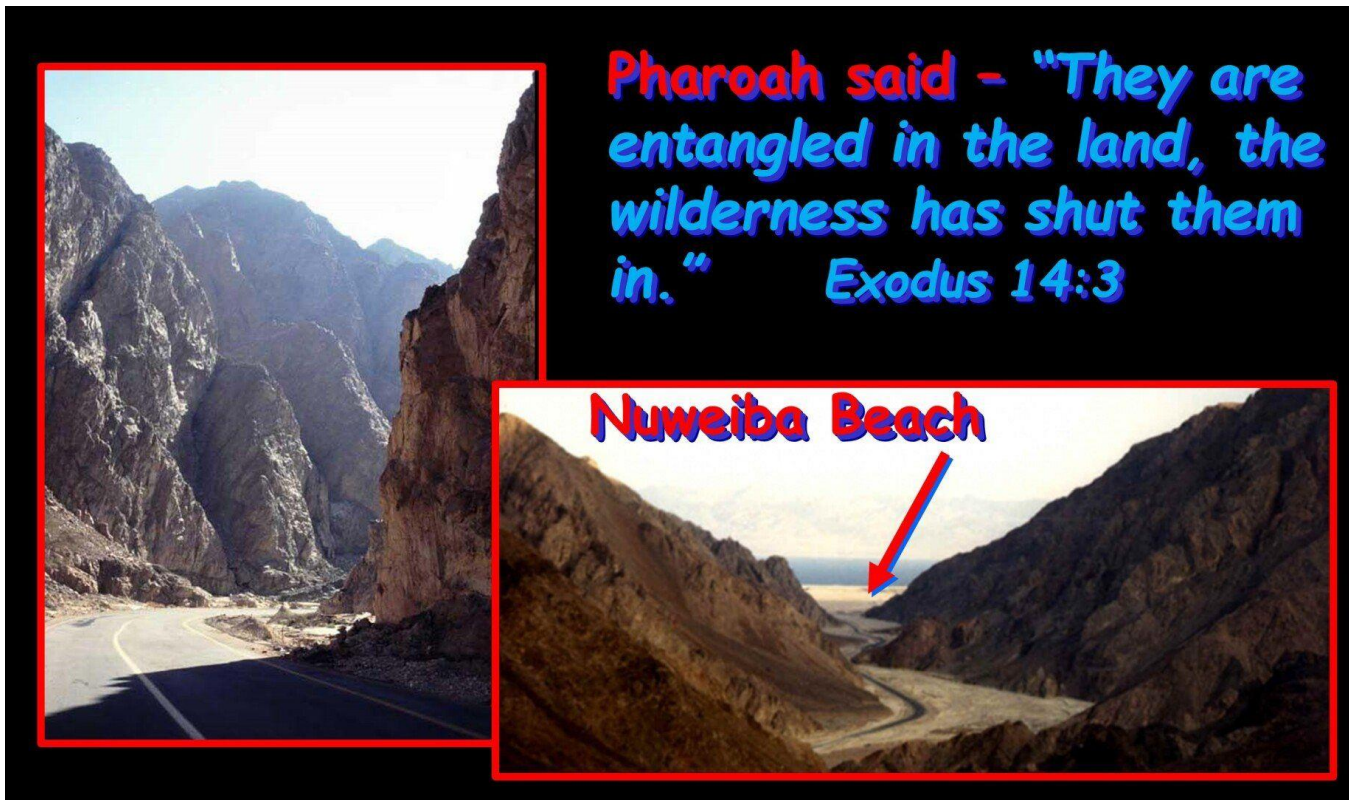
-God could lead them as long as they followed the cloud and fire and they could travel day and night

-We also know that there was an angel accompanying this which we see in 14:19

“Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel’s army”

## **Chapter 14 – Crossing the Sea**

V1-4 – God tells Moses to get Israel off of their direct path and turn south towards Pi-Hahiroth. In doing so, Pharaoh’s scouts would think they were lost and would want to pursue them because they were heading into a dead end. Down a channel called the Wadi Watir







I think about so many movies where someone is running away from the bad guys and they make one wrong turn and it's a dead end. The ominous'ness of that.

But this wasn't a wrong turn or a bad guess. Israel was told to go that way AND there was an angel of God and a Cloud/Pillar ahead of them. This was following the GPS **GO**

V 5 – Tells us that Pharoah and his officials changing their minds and concerned with losing their substantial workforce, mounting up a whole lot of chariots and an army to pursue them.

The Bible says Pharoah took six hundred of his Best chariots. The Torah says it slightly different that he took six hundred of his picked chariots, and the rest of the chariots of Egypt with officers in them. From what I found, this number was around 20,000

I would imagine that 2.4m people would be a lot slower than horses and chariots!

V10 tells us that Israel saw the army coming and were terrified and feared for their lives

What did Israel do? **GO** They grumbled

What did Moses do? He reassured them and spoke life into them, re-directed their hearts. It doesn't say that he consulted the Lord, he in faith and confidence....

V13 Moses tells them 3 things: What were they? **GO**

1. Do not be afraid
2. Stand Firm
3. The Lord will fight for you

**GO** And THEN God tells Moses, what are you standing around for? Tell the people to keep moving! Raise your staff over the water.

In my words:



-You just spoke with confidence to the people, now get going

-I've prepared you for this moment. I've trained you to use your staff, use what I've given you. Your faith partnered with my power is unstoppable. **GO**

V19 – Tells us that the angel and the Pillar moved from the front to the back, between Pharaoh's army and Israel while they crossed. **GO**

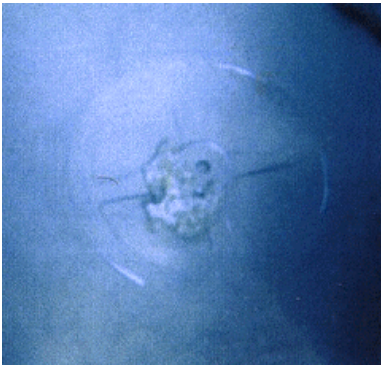
Israel passed through the Sea as if on dry ground. No mud, just a regular road. God didn't forget the details in his deliverance **GO**

As the army pursued them into the Sea, YHVH (the name that should not be spoken) looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud and threw them into panic. Army tried to get away but it was too late. **GO**

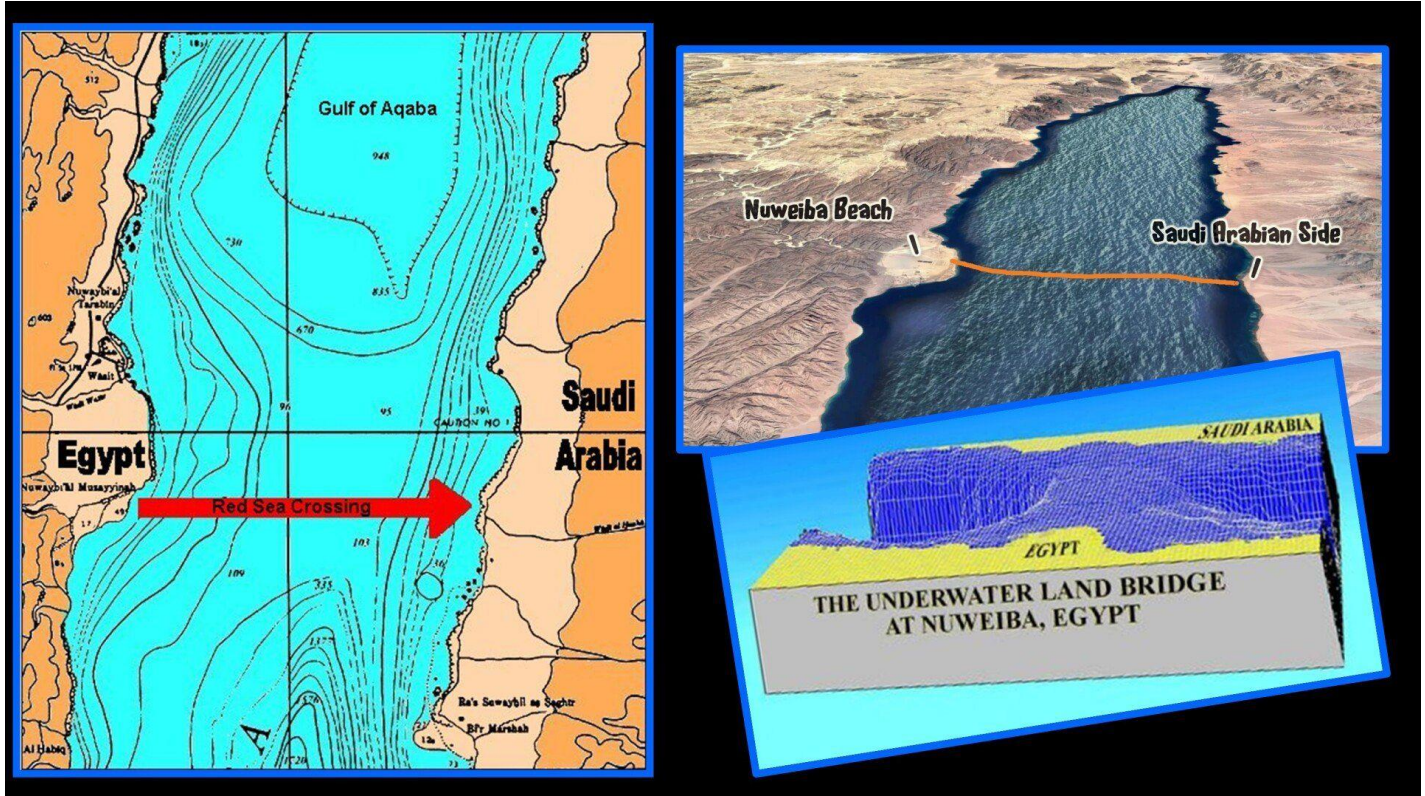
God told Moses to stretch out his hand or Arm over the sea so that the waters may come back into place. **GO**

Israel looked back and saw the vast army lying dead on the shore.

I was curious about the # of chariots that were used and I did some research about the chariots. If there were really that many, wouldn't there be evidence of such? Egyptian government has banned the removal of artifacts from Neweiba Beach, but before that happened John Wyatt of Wyatt Archeological research conducted an expedition and indeed found chariot boxes, wheels and axles as well as human skeletons on the sea floor! One particular wheel was identified to have been used during the time of the Exodus. There have been further explorations all confirming an underwater scrapyard. **GO**



Also discovered a land bridge between Nuweiba Beach and Saudi Arabia. Reported that the walls of the water would have been 900' tall and the land bridge still exists today.



## Chapter 15 – The song of Moses and Miriam (Moses' sister) GO

SONG – I will Sing unto the Lord – 1<sup>st</sup> recorded song in the Bible

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sW7PH8Csg0U>

The song exalts God for His victory. The Lord is referred to 45 times in these verses. The Focus is clearly on God and His act of power.

One verse that I love is V 9 The enemy boasted, 'I will pursue, I will overtake them. I will divide the spoils; I will gorge myself on them. I will draw my sword and my hand will destroy them.'  
Such BIG words from them.

<sup>10</sup> But you blew with your breath (great wind) and the sea covered them. They sank like lead in the mighty waters.

**GO** Chapter 15:22 – Israel traveled into the Desert of Shur and traveled 3 days without water  
How many days can a human survive without water? Pretty desperate unless they had carried water with them? **GO**

They arrive at Marah and found water, but what was wrong? **GO** It was bitter **GO**

What did Israel do? **GO** They grumbled

What did Moses do? This time, he consulted God first. I wonder why?

Was Moses also discouraged, thirsty, confused, scared?

-Do we ever get to a place in life where life is just bitter? Hard to take?

How do we react? Do we remember God's provision and deliverance or do we grumble?

So important to note that just days before this, they were singing an incredible song about the incredible works of God. They are truly human here aren't they?

But God remains God and He does what He does. He remained committed to His people

God directed Moses to a specific piece of wood and tossed it into the water and the water became sweet.

Moses, after the miracle directs their hearts back to God. They travel a few more days and come to Elim, this place that sounds like the best place ever.

## **GO Chapter 16 – The Manna and Quail**

Read 16:2-3

“In the desert the whole community **grumbled** against Moses and Aaron. <sup>3</sup>The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.”

God provides Manna and Quail for 40 years! Every morning they got Manna and every night they got Quail.

**GO** Some obvious observations **GO**

1. The obvious literal provision of food
  - a. Amount: Read 16:16
    - i. over 3 pounds per person in your tent – EVERY DAY  
I think of it like snowfall. With 3 million people (and growing), how much of this there must have been. And it only fell where Israel was.
  - b. What was it and what did it taste like? Read 16:31 It was like Coriander seed and tasted sweet like wafers with honey
  - c. They could eat it like it was, or process it like flour and make bread. But they could never make it better than its original form. Numbers 11 **GO**
2. With the food, God provides a lesson. Remember how God feels about Israel. They are his son, He is constantly reminding them of who He is and trying to teach them. (Illustration with Blake this week).
3. Israel's propensity to disobey provides God with another lesson in obedience
  - a. Gather for 6 days and don't on the 7<sup>th</sup>
    - i. Remember what happens? Israel tries to ignore the instructions and they  
One, go to gather on the 7<sup>th</sup> and there is nothing  
Two, try to save it up for the next day – its rotten and full of maggots.
    - ii. God gives instruction to gather on the 6<sup>th</sup> day, enough for the 7<sup>th</sup> day and only on the 7<sup>th</sup> day does the food not rot. It stays fresh.

Some less obvious Types in this chapter – What is a Type?

a type in Scripture is a person or thing in the Old Testament that foreshadows a person or thing in the New Testament or today.

———— Manna was called the Bread of Heaven for obvious reasons. What is the Type?

~~John 6:32-35 – Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.”<sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”~~

~~<sup>34</sup>“Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”~~

~~<sup>35</sup>Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”<sup>36</sup> But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe.~~

**IF YOU HAVE TIME – SLIDE 27 A few quick thoughts on how Jesus is like Manna**

1. Manna was small – Jesus came in humility as a baby
2. Manna was white – White is a reminder of Jesus’ purity and sinlessness
3. Manna was sweet like honey and perfect in its natural form – we cannot improve on Jesus
4. Manna nourished – all we need is Jesus. Jesus himself said that man cannot live on bread alone, but by the very words of God
5. Manna came from heaven – like a gift from heaven, Jesus also came as a gift from heaven
6. Manna came on the dew – the dew on the ground kept the manna from being defiled by the earth. Had Jesus not been born of the Spirit through a virgin, he would not be undefiled
7. Manna came in the wilderness – to the world, the wilderness is awesome, it is the destination. For the Christ follower, the wilderness is the place we pass through to get to the destination. Jesus came to us in our wilderness and now leads us to our final destination
8. Manna came to people who were forgetful, unthankful and grumbled. God had just delivered them from slavery and instead of being grateful, they grumbled. God could have punished them but instead he blessed them and provided for them. Jesus in the same way looks past our sin and forgetfulness and blesses us. We need to be reminded often and we ourselves are responsible for that.
9. Manna fell where they were. They didn’t have to go search for it. Jesus is never far away from us. He is always where we are
10. Manna shows us what to do with Jesus
  - a. We must feel the need – experience the hunger
  - b. We must stoop down – humble ourselves and receive it
  - c. We must do it early – The Manna disappeared when the sun got hot.
    - i. Isaiah 55:6 “Seek the Lord while He may be found”. There will come a day where it will be too late to turn to Jesus.
  - d. We must continue to be nourished by Him daily. We must read the Word everyday!

## **Chapter 17 – Water From the Rock** GO

GO People Grumbled – they were thirsty. Moses goes to God who gives him direction. He takes the same staff that he used to turn the water in the Nile to blood and he struck a rock and water came out.

There are rocks that shepherds know about. Maybe this is where that began? Moses was guiding Israel, like a shepherd guiding sheep and he knew (thanks to God) how to make that happen. GO

We have a couple of observations here: GO

1. Moses going to God for instruction illustrates what the Christian needs to do in the hour of trial. We turn to God for guidance. GO
2. We have a TYPE here – what is a type? The Rock here is a Type of Christ. Christ is the Rock. Unpack that briefly.
  - a. The hitting of the rock represents Christ’s death on the cross. It was this same staff that Moses used that turned into a serpent and helped bring the plagues on Egypt. Moses’ staff represents the curses of the law. In Jesus’ death, He took on the curses of the law GO
  - b. There is a really amazing chronology here
    - i. GO We have Manna coming to earth – which can represent when Jesus came to earth
    - ii. GO We have the striking of the rock, which can represent the cross
    - iii. GO We have water flowing – which water is often the symbol of the Holy Spirit who was given to Christ after raising from the dead and was glorified

We’re going to see this striking of a rock later in Numbers, with a totally different outcome. In this chapter, Moses is to strike the rock. In Numbers, Moses is to speak to the rock. That is significant if we think about the rock being Jesus. He wouldn’t be struck twice. He can only die once. Perhaps there is a lesson inside the story here once again!

### Verses 8-16 – The Amalekites Defeated

#### **GO Observations**

First mention of Joshua – he was a soldier for Israel. He was a great warrior.

V 13 – So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword

But what does the story tell us that victory relied on? Was it Joshua’s strength and skill?

Nope, we see that it was the authority given to Moses who was giving honor to God, directing people’s eyes to HIM with his hands raised. That was the lesson!

Couple of lessons here.

1. God needs to be elevated and our eyes kept on him when we face battles. We cannot rely on our own strength.
2. Often we need the help of others. How do we see that? Aaron and Hur held up Moses’ arms
3. Moses built an altar which meant “The Lord will always be at war against the Amalekites.” Similarly we will win battles and I believe many battles will be battles that we face our entire



lifetime. But what do we learn from those battles? Back to lesson 1, We cannot rely on our own strength and where our eyes turn is where our strength comes from.

## **Chapter 18 – Jethro visits Moses**

Who was Jethro? Moses' Father In Law.

What do you remember about Jethro?

Was he God fearing? He was a priest for false gods!

Who was Moses' wife? Zipporah

18:1 Jethro hears of all of Moses' conquests in delivering Israel and defeating the Amalekites.

18:2-4 Moses had sent his wife and 2 sons Gershom and Eliezer home to Jethro (Exodus 4:19-20) and here we see that Jethro is bringing them all to see him.

18:5-8 They reunite and Moses shows honor to his FIL and bows to him.

-to me this shows that Moses has not yet taken too much pride in what has happened thus far) Moses goes into the tent with Jethro and gives him a first hand account of everything that had happened.

-I like this accounting because it reassures me that Moses had been keeping track and at least mentally logging all that had happened so the stories are first hand

-I also like this because Moses was clearly demonstrating for his FIL that Moses' God was THE God. I'm sure he told him of the burning bush experience, the plagues which cast doubt over all of the Egyptian gods and the separation of Israel being protected in so many ways, the Passover, the pursuit of Pharaoh's army and the defeat in the Red Sea, all by God's hand and about the war with the Amalekites and as long as God was honored, they were winning. All this was to point Jethro to God!

18:9-10 Jethro rejoices – One comment from the Midrash says that Jethro's skin prickled. He got the goose bumps! Either in excitement or in horror over all that had happened to Egypt.

18:11 Jethro says "Now I know that the Lord is greater than all other gods. After hearing everything Jethro acknowledges that the God of Moses is greater than all other gods and made a sacrifice to God.

-Many Midrash commentators point out that Jethro knew God, or he knew OF God. That he indeed had worshipped ALL of the gods. But he is acknowledging now that there is no God like the God of Moses

18:12 Aaron and the elders of Israel came to Jethro to eat bread together in the presence of God.

Where was Moses?

18:13-15 The next day Moses took his place as a judge for the people and started hearing case after case and making judgements. Some study here on the actual day, day after the Day of Atonement. Day Moses goes

up to Mt Sinai and meets with God (whenever Moses meets with God, he has the Mo-Glow and we're going to see a lot more of this next week

Jethro notices that Moses is ruling alone and tells Moses that he's going to wear himself out doing this. So Jethro establishes a leadership pipeline. Here's what it looks like:

1. Jethro first he acknowledges Moses' authority and reassures him that he alone is qualified

Read: 18:19 Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you. You must be the people's representative before God and bring their disputes to him

2. Then he gives his suggestion for Moses to train up others.

Read 18:21 But select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.

3. Then he gives guidance on how to pick the right people

Read 18:21-22 But select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. <sup>22</sup> Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves. That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you

4. Then he gives him the "why"

Read 18:23 If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied."