



# Bible Expositor and Illuminator

**FALL QUARTER**

**September, October, November 2020**

**Large-Print Edition**



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# LOOKING AHEAD

The book of Exodus recounts many miraculous works and dramatic events. Essentially, however, the story is about God, His chosen people, and His chosen leader for His people. It is also a story that in many ways mirrors our own. As He did for Israel, God provides for us, instructs us in His ways, and corrects us when we stray from the path of righteousness.

God's provision for Israel is the theme of the first four lessons of the quarter. The Israelites had been freed from Egyptian slavery, but when difficulty came, they did not recall God's goodness to them in the past and complained about what they lacked. Despite their attitude, God graciously and continually provided food that would sustain them.

The Lord also miraculously provided water for his thirsting people and victory over a superior enemy. And through the man Jethro, He gave Moses wise advice in governing the people.

The second unit of lessons focuses on God's instructions for His people. If they were to fulfill God's plan for them and enjoy His blessings, they would need to know and obey His commands. The people of Israel expressed their commitment to obey all of God's words, and the Lord set forth for them His law, which is summarized in the Ten Commandments.

God's commands were presented to the people, and they entered into a formal covenant with the Lord to obey Him and be His people. As Israel's representative, Moses met with the Lord on Mount Sinai to receive further instructions, including the Ten Commandments engraved in stone.

Unit 3 details the grievous sin of the people in turning to idolatry in Moses' absence, reminding us of how easy it is to allow present circumstances to crowd out God's promises. Moses returned to confront the sin of the people and carry out God's judgment, but he also interceded with the Lord on behalf of his people. He reflected God's glory physically as well as His mercy and grace in selflessly seeking pardon for Israel and the renewal of God's covenant with them.

The book of Exodus is not merely history. It is a spiritual history that through Israel and God's dealings with them teaches us much about ourselves, God, and our responsibility to love, honor, and faithfully serve Him.

*—Jarl K. Waggoner.*

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**PLEASE NOTE:** Fundamental, sound doctrine is the objective of The Incorporated Trustees of the Gospel Worker Society, Union Gospel Press Division. The writers are prayerfully selected for their Bible knowledge and yieldedness to the Spirit of Truth, each writing in his own style as enlightened by the Holy Spirit. At best we know in part only. "They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).

# God Is Our Keeper and Provider

Jeffery J. VanGoethem

Much is being made today of the so-called prosperity gospel. It is really nothing new. For many decades there have been teachers and preachers within the broader church seeking to convince people that true Christians (those who have enough faith) should never be poor, unhealthy, or unsuccessful in whatever they seek to do. All we have to do is think rightly, pray rightly, and exercise faith rightly, and we will have success, health, and wealth like we have never known before. This false doctrine has spread widely and is doing a lot of damage in the church all over the world.

Still, as we encounter this teaching, we must face the fact that God did bless and prosper some of His servants in the Bible. God blessed the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Gen. 13:2; 24:1; 26:12-14; 30:43). He also blessed others like Solomon.

But many of God's servants suffered greatly, such as Jeremiah and the Apostle Paul, who were both continually persecuted. Job also suffered greatly even though God made special note of his righteousness. God blessed the Lord Jesus with unprecedented spiritual power when He lived on earth, yet He was always poor in material things and never experienced worldly success.

What, then, can we make of this teaching of material prosperity? Has God promised to materially prosper us or not? We do see some believers who are prosperous and successful, but there are many more who are suffering, or who are poor and in difficulty. We need sharper, deeper thinking about this subject.

It is certainly important to have the right attitude toward our station in life.

If prosperity comes to us, we need to be humble and thankful, recognizing God's grace and help and using that prosperity to spread the gospel and to help others in need. When we are in more trying circumstances, we must seek contentment and deeper faith. Paul told the rich not to be proud of their status (I Tim. 6:17), and he declared to the Philippians, "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: . . . to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need" (Phil. 4:12).

How should we view the idea of prosperity and God's blessing? In what way is God our Keeper and Provider? What we need to realize is that God's care and provision for His own is both broader and more profound than mere material prosperity.

Perhaps we can properly understand this question by reviewing some of the aspects of what God has promised us in Scripture. God is sovereign, and as we learn to walk with Him, we see the various ways that He is indeed our Keeper and Provider.

First, we can trust that God is always with us. The believer understands that God is present in his or her life. In Exodus 33 Moses prays, "If thy presence go not with me, carry us [the Israelites] not up hence" (vs. 15). Moses knew that he could not succeed at anything unless God was with him.

Jesus also told the disciples (and us) in His Great Commission that He would be with them (Matt. 28:20). God is our Keeper and Provider. This does not mean He always grants us prosperity without any troubles, but it does

*(Editorials continued on page 186)*

# SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT

**EX. 16:2** And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness:

**3** And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, *and* when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.

4 Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.

**5** And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare *that* which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.

6 And Moses and Aaron said unto all the children of Israel, At even, then ye shall know that the LORD hath brought you out from the land of Egypt:

**7** And in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of the LORD; for that he heareth your murmurings against the LORD: and what *are* we, that ye murmur against us?

8 And Moses said, *This shall be*, when the LORD shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; for that the LORD

heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what *are* we? your murmurings *are* not against us, but against the LORD.

**9** And Moses spake unto Aaron, Say unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, Come near before the LORD: for he hath heard your murmurings.

10 And it came to pass, as Aaron spake unto the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and, behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

**11** And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

12 I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel: speak unto them, saying, At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD your God.

**13** And it came to pass, that at even the quails came up, and covered the camp: and in the morning the dew lay round about the host.

14 And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness *there lay* a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground.

**15** And when the children of Israel saw *it*, they said one to another, *It is* manna: for they wist not what it *was*. And Moses said unto them, *This is* the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat.

# God Provides Manna and Quail

Lesson Text: Exodus 16:2-15

Related Scriptures: I Corinthians 10:1-10; Exodus 6:1-8;  
John 6:30-58; Numbers 11:4-34

TIME: 1445 B.C.

PLACE: Wilderness of Sin

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**GOLDEN TEXT**—“Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst” (John 6:35).

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## *Introduction*

Years ago, my young son complained to me about the fact that it was raining when he wanted to play outside. In fact, to hear him say it, it always rained when he was free to go outside. I asked him, “Who are you complaining to?” I suggested that if anyone was responsible, it was God. At that point his complaining stopped—at least until the next time it rained!

Adults are often just as childish in their responses to difficulties. How many times do we hear others, even ourselves, complain about the cost of different products, the long line at the DMV, or even the weather?

The truth is, we all tend to respond automatically to circumstances with-

out thinking. All we see is the problem rather than the God who is greater than our problem. Much less do we trust that He is using the problem to achieve His purposes.

We can fault the Israelites for their constant complaining, but we should consider that they are a mirror to us.

## LESSON OUTLINE

- I. **THE PEOPLE’S COMPLAINT—  
Ex. 16:2-3**
- II. **THE LORD’S RESPONSE—  
Ex. 16:4-8**
- III. **THE LORD’S PROVISION—  
Ex. 16:9-15**

## *Exposition: Verse by Verse*

### THE PEOPLE’S COMPLAINT

**EX. 16:2** And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness:

**3** And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full;