



FALL QUARTER
September, October,
November 2020

Intermediate Bible Teacher

For Teachers of Teens Ages 12 Through 14

Intermediate Bible Teacher

FALL QUARTER

September, October, November 2020

Editorials.....	2
-----------------	---

Preparation of a Nation

UNIT I: Provisions

Sept. 6—God Provides Manna and Quail—Ex. 16:2-15.....	5
Sept. 13—God provides Water from a Rock—Ex. 17:1-7.....	10
Sept. 20—God Gives Victory over the Amalekites—Ex. 17:8-16.....	15
Sept. 27—God Provides Judges to Help Moses—Ex. 18:13-26.....	20

UNIT II: Instructions

Oct. 4—God’s First Instructions to Israel—Ex. 19:1-9.....	25
Oct. 11—God Gives the Ten Commandments—Ex. 20:1-17.....	30
Oct. 18—God Confirms the Covenant—Ex. 24:1-11.....	35
Oct. 25—God Meets Moses Alone—Ex. 24:12-18.....	40

UNIT III: Correction

Nov. 1—The People Sin Against God—Ex. 32:1-14.....	44
Nov. 8—God Confronts the Sin—Ex. 32:15-24.....	48
Nov. 15—God Judges the Sin—Ex. 32:25-35.....	52
Nov. 22—Moses’ Audacious Request—Ex. 33:12-23.....	56
Nov. 29—Moses Reflects God’s Glory—Ex. 34:27-35.....	60
Daily Bible Readings.....	64

Editor in Chief: Todd Williams

Writer: Carter Corbrey



**Union
Gospel
Press**

Edited and published quarterly by
**THE INCORPORATED TRUSTEES OF THE
GOSPEL WORKER SOCIETY
UNION GOSPEL PRESS DIVISION**

Rev. W. B. Musselman, Founder

Price: \$3.50 per quarter*

\$14.00 per year*

**shipping and handling extra*

ISBN 978-1-64495-014-2

WRITER'S FORECAST

Our lessons this quarter examine critical events in the life of Israel as it emerges from its existence as a people in slavery to become a unique nation as God's holy people. The journey is difficult as we watch Israel's tragic failures, but it is uplifting when we see that God is patient and forgiving.

The subject of our quarter is "Preparation of a Nation." In the first unit, entitled "Provisions," four lessons cover God's provision for Israel in terms of the necessities of food, water, military confidence, and leadership.

In lesson 1, we will study how, after Israel complained about their lack of food, God provided both quail and manna for them. Lesson 2 is a look at how He provided water for them out of a rock. The third lesson studies how God gave victory to Israel when they were attacked by the Amalekites. Our fourth lesson looks at how God gave Moses counsel through Jethro over his need for judges.

In the second unit, entitled "Instructions," we will study the commands that made up God's covenant with Israel in preparation for their living out God's choice of them as His special nation. Lesson 5 looks at God's offer to make Israel a holy nation in covenant with Him. Lesson 6 studies God's giving of the Ten Commandments. This is followed in lesson 7 with a look at Israel's acceptance of the covenant. Lesson 8 is a study

of Moses' forty-day stay on Mount Sinai and his receiving the law and the stone tablets containing the Ten Commandments.

The final unit of five lessons is entitled "Correction." In this unit we will study the grave sin of Israel in breaking the covenant by worshipping the golden calf. We will see how God and Moses punished the people, and then we will see how Moses interceded for them as well as God's restoration of His covenant.

Lesson 9 takes a look at the details of Israel's sin with the golden calf, followed in lesson 10 by Moses' confrontation with Israel as he descended from Sinai, carrying the tablets. In lesson 11, we will see how Moses further punished the people followed by his intercession for Israel before God. His meeting with God leads to his request to see God's glory, which is the subject of lesson 12. In the final lesson, we will study Moses' return to Israel's camp with both a new set of tablets and a dramatic change in his appearance.

This important series of studies will help us to discover that the forming of Israel into God's special nation was filled with conflict, miracles, divine law, and the strong faith of Moses. We may be surprised by the people whose behavior was disappointing, but we will be encouraged by those who, under trial, remained strong in their faith.

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).

A Nation Under Construction

If you build a piece of furniture, you select the materials and cut and form them according to your plans. The same thing is true if you are building a house. Sometimes a warped board or faulty piece of hardware has to be discarded. When God was building the nation of Israel, the construction materials were people.

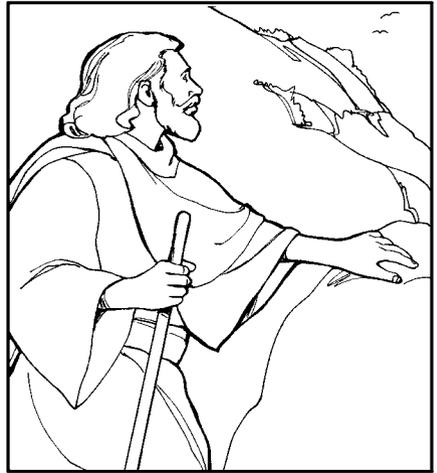
When God formed Israel, He did so with people who demonstrated a variety of temperaments and behaviors. Some of them embraced Him and the remarkable privilege of being His people. Others lacked faith and were defiant, and their sin forced Him to cast them away.

The book of Exodus is a record of God's love and commitment to His covenant people and of the fickleness and defiance of some who would not respond to Him in faith and obedience.

It is easy for Christians today to observe the Israelites of 1445 B.C. and criticize their failures. As we read the Bible, we sometimes try to imagine the people and flesh out their individual personalities and lives. Some of them who are faceless to us are deserving of our disdain when we read of them celebrating shamelessly around the golden calf only days after they had entered into covenant with God, and He had commanded them not to worship such things.

Others we admire and wish to emulate in their faithfulness and loyalty, such as Moses and Joshua. We see people in Exodus whose character traits we want to avoid with every fiber of our being, but in others we see virtues that we hope are reflected in our own lives.

There is a danger, however, that we



may become so critical of the Israelites that we fail to recognize our own weaknesses and sins. Maybe we are not as faithful as we think we are. Maybe we give too much traction to our doubts. Maybe our trust is not much stronger than some of those in the camp of Israel.

One of the benefits of studying Exodus is that we can see the dangers and consequences of sin and disobedience. We also find inspiration in the leadership and courage of people like Moses and Joshua.

In so many ways God demonstrated to Israel His power to care for them and His constant watchfulness and perfect timing. At the same time, we see Israel's impatience and lack of faith asserting itself in resistance against Moses and ultimately against God Himself. It is difficult to understand how God's miraculous and dynamic actions against Egypt in order to deliver Israel could be so easily and quickly overshadowed and forgotten because of rumbling stom-

achs. On the other hand, how cranky do we get on Sunday morning when the pastor seems to forget that other churches let out earlier and get to lunch sooner, making us wait longer because he had one last important point to make?

The Christian walk is a lifetime adventure and experience. We have to learn day by day that God does take care of us. The Israelites knew God could miraculously and dynamically deliver them from Egypt, but they began to learn that He could take care of their daily needs when He provided quail and manna. He also provided water from the last place they would have expected it. A lesson they needed to learn was that God seems to make it a practice to step in at just the right moment, usually the very last one, to rescue us when we need Him. He seems to want us to know that He is our last, best, and only hope. When we learn that lesson, we can skip the other stages and see that He is always our first and best hope.

God also needed to teach the Israelites how to deal with their enemies. The battle against the Amalekites showed them that capable leaders would arise from their midst and God would give them victory. They needed to know this and rely on it when they obeyed God's command to conquer Canaan.

God wanted Moses to learn this lesson: one person cannot do everything himself. God places qualified people in our midst who are capable of taking responsibility and need the opportunity to exercise and grow their skills.

The book of Exodus teaches us that while God makes covenants with His people, His people have a clear responsibility to keep those covenants. He made His covenant demands clear with the Ten Commandments, and Israel entered into covenant with

Him by promising to obey them. The addition of more detailed laws and regulations were based on those original Ten Commandments, necessary details Israel needed for life on a daily basis.

From Moses' continued interactions with God, we learn that God is absolutely holy but wants us to have a relationship with Him. Because He is holy and we are sinners, He sets the necessary guidelines for us to follow in finding that relationship.

The terrible apostasy of Israel at the base of Mount Sinai helps us to graphically see that people do have a sin nature. It only took a few days for the people to break the first three and most basic of the Ten Commandments. Most surprising of all was the part that Aaron played, even after his partnership with Moses in directly confronting Pharaoh and leading Israel out of polytheistic Egypt. We find then that God and His chosen leaders must confront and punish sin as it infects His holy people. Even after this, however, God does not abandon His people.

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of studying the experiences of Moses and Israel is when we realize how blessed we are today as believers. Moses climbed Sinai in order to have fellowship with God, yet as Christians we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. We know He cares for us and watches over us at all times. We do not look ahead to Canaan with its challenges. We anticipate an eternity in God's presence in surroundings far superior to Canaan.

Finally, the Angel of the Lord who led Israel is the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour. Just as He led Israel to safety, He will bring us safely to our destination. His Word declares, "Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him" (Ps. 91:14).

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

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).

Lesson and Its Truth

God had rescued Israel from Egyptian bondage by sending the ten plagues, studied in the previous quarter. The entire nation of Israel, as well as multitudes of foreigners who had joined with them in the escape, were delivered through the parting of the Red Sea (cf. Ex. 14). From the Red Sea they began their journey to Mount Sinai, where they were instructed to meet with God (3:11-12). It would take Israel three months to reach Mount Sinai (cf. 19:1).

THE PEOPLE COMPLAIN ABOUT HUNGER—Ex. 16:2-3

One month and two weeks into their journey, the Israelites came to the Wilderness of Sin (vs. 1). Apparently the provisions of food that they had brought with them were running out.

Hunger was perhaps the most common cause of complaints for the Israelites, and when one person complained, suddenly everyone else began to focus on food. We see from Numbers 11:4-6 how the mixed multitudes who left Egypt with Israel proved to be a negative influence

and later led the way in complaining about food. A month and a half after departing Egypt, the whole congregation of Israel complained. They focused their complaints against Moses and Aaron, holding them responsible for leading them into the wilderness. The human heroes of their deliverance now became the targets of their distress.

When the people complained directly to Moses and Aaron, they seemed to ignore them as being God’s spokesmen. They expressed their preference to have died by God’s hand back in Egypt where food was plentiful. In Egypt they sat by “flesh pots,” or pots of meat, and they had all the bread they could eat. A year later the people would again complain about food, remembering the fish, cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic they ate in Egypt (cf. vs. 5).

Now they accused Moses and Aaron, servants chosen by God, of bringing them into the wilderness to kill all of them by starvation. They had quickly forgotten their former hardships in Egypt and that they had pleaded with