



For Teachers of Teens
Ages 15 Through 17

SENIOR HIGH
Bible Teacher

FALL QUARTER
September, October, November 2020

Senior High Bible Teacher

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The Weeks Ahead

God desired to produce a holy nation, a people who would listen to His word and obey His commandments. He wanted them to know that He was able to provide for their every need. That was the first lesson the people of Israel needed to learn in the wilderness.

The first unit of lessons this quarter describes the provision God made for His people Israel. This great multitude that had left Egypt had no way to produce food for themselves in the wilderness, so God provided them with manna for their daily sustenance and quail when they needed meat. In lesson 2, we will see how God provided water in a miraculous fashion from solid rock.

Protection from their enemies could not come from their own hands. They were not warriors. So God provided that protection by giving them a victory in battle over the Amalekites. Everyone knew God had provided the victory because they could see how they succeeded when Moses prayed. Most of all, the people needed spiritual leadership. Lesson 4 describes how God provided a group of seventy men to help Moses lead the people in the ways of the Lord.

Unit II describes the means God chose to teach the people how to please Him. He would give them His law and require them to obey it, and through the law, they would learn what it meant to live in holiness.

The people had experienced God's deliverance from slavery in Egypt. They had seen His provision of food, water, protection, and leadership in the wilderness. In lesson 5, we see

how quickly they agreed to accept God's law and live according to His standards. Once they had agreed to the covenant with Him, God gave them the Ten Commandments and then invited the entire nation to confirm the covenant with Him through sacrifice.

Israel's leaders were also invited into His presence for a meal that celebrated the nation's acceptance of God's law. After that, God met with Moses alone on the mountain in order to communicate to him all the instructions by which the people were to order their lives. God revealed Himself to the entire nation in lesson 8 in the form of a cloud filled with fire. The cloud engulfed the top of Mount Sinai, where Moses met with Him.

The choice to obey God meant that disobedience to Him would be punished. While Moses was on the mountain for forty days, the people convinced Aaron that he was dead and would never return. Lesson 9 explains how Aaron made a god for them in the form of a golden calf. God threatened to destroy the entire nation, but Moses interceded for them. After returning from the mountain, he broke the tablets of stone, confronted the people with their sin, and announced the judgment of God in the form of the execution of those who had led the rebellion.

In contrast with the sin of the people, Moses grew even closer to God. Lesson 12 describes how the Lord promised to allow Moses to see just a small part of His glory. As a result, Moses reflected that divine glory when he came down from the mountain.

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The Attributes of God

The recounting of Israel's wilderness wandering is much more than just a Bible story. It is, above all, a story of how God revealed Himself to His people. Throughout all the events recorded in Exodus, the emphasis remains on the demonstration God gave of His attributes. He wanted people to know Him, and that meant that they needed to understand who He is in His essential nature. And that they would learn by observing what He did on their behalf.

Some of God's attributes are clearly stated, even announced by God Himself. For example, when He allowed Moses to see a small portion of His glory, He proclaimed Himself as good, gracious, and merciful (Ex. 34:6). At other times the demonstration of His attributes came in a visual form, as it did when His power was displayed by the thunder, lightning, fire, and earthquake on Mount Sinai (19:16-18). The holiness of God was revealed in the words of the Ten Commandments and the holy law He gave to the people through Moses (chap. 20).

All this revelation of God's attributes served the purpose of showing the people of Israel that He could provide for them both physically and spiritually. Obeying Him was the very best course (in truth, the only viable course) for them as a nation because they were totally dependent on Him for life, health, and strength. Moses learned this lesson well and came to treasure God, desiring to spend time in His presence and become more and more like Him each day. The lessons God taught him about His attributes should cause us to react as Moses did

and learn to treasure, desire, and imitate God.

God is immaterial; He cannot be seen. Although He allowed Moses to catch a glimpse of His glory (Ex. 33:19-23; 34:5-8), he did not see the face or form of God. That is because God is spirit without physical form. Any description of God's face or hands must be understood as a way of describing in human terms something otherwise incomprehensible to the human mind.

God is omniscient. He has a perfect and complete knowledge of all things past, present, and future. When Moses was on top of the mountain with the Lord, God knew exactly what the people below were doing in the incident with the golden calf, something Moses could not know (cf. 32:7). He was not surprised by the action of the people, although He was grieved by it. He knew what was best for them, and He knew what would happen if they continued in sin.

God is faithful. This is the attribute to which Moses appealed when he interceded for the preservation of the nation after their sin with the golden calf (cf. 32:13). The Lord had made promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and Moses knew He would be faithful to keep those promises.

Faithfulness is closely associated with God's attribute of immutability, the fact that He never changes. Nothing can ever change the fact that He has promised to forgive those who come to Him by faith. His love toward those who love Him will never change. He never fails to protect His people from the attacks of Satan. As a nation, Israel proved to be unfaithful to God

many times, but He was always faithful to them, even in the matter of judging their sin. Faithfulness is part of His very nature.

What follows is a summary of the major attributes of God that we will encounter in our walk through Exodus.

God is good. This is one of the attributes He proclaimed to Moses when he asked to see His glory (33:19). God was good to the nation of Israel by giving them food and water in the wilderness. But He was also good when He disciplined them for their sin. As long as we associate divine goodness with material prosperity, we will arrive at improper conclusions. God is good when things are going well for us, and He is good when we face difficult situations. His goodness does not depend on our satisfaction or our distress. Everything He does is good, and we can trust that everything He does will accomplish His good purposes in our lives.

God is just. His justice fits perfectly with His holiness and righteousness. It also merges perfectly with His love and mercy. He condemns the sinner because He is just, as seen in the deaths of those who worshipped the golden calf. At the same time, He shows mercy to those who repent because of His love.

The sacrificial system established by the law demonstrated this attribute. Justice required a punishment for sin. But justice also allowed for a blood sacrifice to bear the punishment for the sinner. Each of those blood sacrifices pointed to the coming of the perfect Lamb of God who took away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. Thus, God is both just and the Justifier (cf. Rom. 3:26).

God is merciful. He did not tolerate sin on the part of the nation of Israel, but He did choose to act in mercy toward sinners. Mercy recognizes the suffering and guilt brought upon

the human race by sin and offers a loving-kindness undeserved by sinful man. God in His mercy demonstrates the very destructiveness of sin by offering to the human race a solution to sin that is completely unavailable through any effort or work of man himself.

To the nation of Israel, God showed His compassion when He had the absolute power and right to punish them. He does not owe mercy to anyone. Sin has earned us condemnation; mercy comes from the loving-kindness of God and is never deserved.

God is holy. Holiness exists simply because God is holy. Everything He does is holy because He sets the standard for holiness. Morality does not depend on community standards or cultural preferences or evolving opinions. Holy behavior comes from being like a holy God. The sacrifices offered as a covering for sin under the Law had to be holy sacrifices in order to satisfy a holy God.

Ultimately, Christ could provide the only perfect, once-for-all sacrifice for sin because He was perfectly holy. His holiness assures us the greatest joy in life, the means of living holy lives, the ultimate pleasure for all eternity, and the supreme satisfaction of enjoying fellowship with Him.

God is sovereign. He rules over all. God was teaching the nation of Israel to recognize His sovereignty over their lives. But He also demonstrated His rule over Egypt by redeeming Israel from slavery and His rule over the Amalekites by giving an untrained army of Israelites victory in battle. God's sovereignty includes His rule over both the spiritual and material realms. As believers, we sometimes try to rule our own lives and make our own decisions. Like Israel, we need to bow the knee to the absolute sovereignty and rule of Almighty God.

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).

Studying the Text

In the Exodus, God had led the people of Israel out of Egypt and demonstrated His power. They were on their way to the Promised Land, but they were not yet ready to become a nation. There were lessons to be learned in the wilderness. The people needed to know that God would provide for them.

GOD PROVIDES TESTING— EX. 16:2-5

God had given the responsibility of leadership over the people of Israel to Moses and Aaron, so they were the ones the people approached when hunger began to overtake them as they traveled through the wilderness. In fact, all the people began to complain against Moses and Aaron. What they did not realize was that they were actually murmuring against God. Moses and Aaron had not rescued them from Egypt and led them into the wilderness; God had.

God was willing to provide for the people's physical needs, but He also wanted them to trust Him for their spiritual needs. He wanted them to know that murmuring against Moses and

Aaron would not accomplish anything. They needed to learn to trust Him and obey His commands. The lack of food was a test of their spiritual temperament.

The complaint of the people to Moses and Aaron revealed a complete lack of spiritual understanding. They wished that they had died “by the hand of the Lord” in Egypt (vs. 3). However, the real problem in Egypt was not the hand of the Lord; it was the cruelty of Pharaoh. He was the one who was killing them. Yet they remembered eating “bread to the full” when in reality they had been suffering as slaves under Egyptian taskmasters. They complained that they had been brought into the wilderness to die from hunger when God had really led them there to bring them into a land of plenty. They were on their way to a land that flowed with milk and honey.

The test God provided for them was quite simple. Bread from heaven would be provided daily. They were to collect just enough for their family for that day. On the day before the Sabbath, they were to gather twice as much. In that way they would not have