

EXODUS

A MIGHTY HAND AND AN OUTSTRETCHED ARM

THE DELIVERER (Exodus 13:17-18:27)

As our walk through the Book of Exodus continues, we come back to a people emancipated, set free, but not without trouble.

Journeying together through the wilderness, God made it His mission to accompany them as a pillar of cloud by day and fire by night, never leaving them, always leading them.

More than a million people hit the road together with Moses.

Pharaoh, made aware of the Israelites' location, summoned troops and chariots and pursued them with a vengeance. The people, frightened and worried, cried out to Moses who answered them with a truth and a challenge: **The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.**

Then, God delivered them again:

First, He commanded Moses to stretch out his hand to divide the Red Sea

Then, He separated them by cloud.

Through the night, God drove the waters back and the Israelites passed through two walls of water on dry ground.

Then, with the trap set, God allowed Pharaoh and his troops to pursue the Israelites, before bringing the waters crashing down on them

The people celebrated. Moses and Miriam sang before the people.

Then they continued in their journey... and in their great need.

A thirsty people with nothing but bitter water to drink?

The LORD delivered a remedy as Jehovah Rophe, the God who heals.

A hungry people cried out for food.

The LORD delivered manna from Heaven, then quail as well.

Thirsty again with nothing to drink in the wilderness?

The LORD delivered water flowing from a rock at Meribah

At war with the Amalekites on their way to Mount Sinai?

The LORD delivered them in victory not by the strength of their hands lifted in battle, but by Moses's hands lifted in prayer

And then, an important shift took place in the story.

Moses was proving insufficient for the task of leading this multitude faithfully.

Too. Many. Needs.

So, at his father-in-law's direction, Moses moved to raise up and commission others to hear cases and help render judgments.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

More than a million people hit the road together as the Israelites move out of Egypt with their flocks and herds. What kind of logistical problems can you imagine an exodus like this would create for leadership?

How did God demonstrate His wisdom as he led His people?

What do God's decisions/actions suggest about His nature? What kind of God is He?

After setting His people free, how did God continue to demonstrate His love for them as they grumbled on their way in the wilderness?

Ever been on a long drive with complaining kiddos?

Does that give you a better appreciation for God's great love for His complaining people?

Moses's father in law spoke truth to power.

"What you're doing is not good."

After delivering the people from slavery and delivering them sustenance in the wilderness, the Exodus story invites us to come to an understanding Moses was insufficient, just like any one leader must be.

What do Aaron and Hur's help holding up Moses's arms and Jethro's advice together suggest about the nature of human leadership?

Have you ever put your faith in a leader who ended up disappointing you?

Have you ever been that leader, convinced you could manage it all only to discover we all fall short of the glory of God?

Another delivery was in order, the gift of the law, the wisdom of God, a special delivery.