

Exodus 15:22-18:27: Beginning of the Journey



“Israel journeys from Egypt to Rephidim and responds to difficulties like the need for water (15:22-27; 17:1-7) and food (16:1-36). The narrative also includes two different situations the people face while encamped at Rephidim: the external attack by another nation (17:8) and the internal question of how to help the people make decisions according to the Lord’s statues (18:1-27). From Rephidim Israel will make their final short journey to the wilderness of Sinai.” (map and paragraph adopted from *ESV Study Bible*).

I. Bitter Water Made Sweet (15:22-27)

1. What is the first location the people of Israel journeyed to after the Red Sea?
2. Why couldn't they drink the water at Marah?
3. What did they do in response?
4. What was the Lord's solution?
5. The purpose of this event is made clear in 15:25-26. What is it?
6. Where did they go after Marah?

II. Bread from Heaven (16:1-36)

7. Where did they go after Elim?
8. What did the people of Israel again do there?
9. What did the Lord say he would rain down from heaven?
10. What are the instructions given in 16:4-5?
11. What came up and covered the camp in the evening?

12. What are Moses' clear instructions in 16:19?
13. What happened according to 16:20?
14. Why were they instructed to gather twice as much on the sixth day?

III. Water from the Rock (17:1-7)

- “Israel grumbles against Moses a third time out of concern for physical provision. The events of this quarrel are similar to those that will take place at the same location and through which Moses will not be allowed to enter Canaan (Num. 20:2-13) (*ESV Study Bible*, p. 172).”
15. Where do the people of Israel go from the wilderness of Sin?

IV. Israel Defeats Amalek (17:8-16)

16. Who is mentioned by name in 17:8? (first mention)
- “The focus on Moses' hand(s) manifests two things that the people of Israel need to take to heart: (1) Moses is the one whom the Lord has chosen to lead Israel (notice that Moses' hands relate to who prevailed); and (2) the Lord is responsible for working their deliverance through Moses (signified by the staff of God in Moses' hand and the fact that his hands grew weary, showing human weakness)” (*ESV Study Bible*, p. 172).

V. Jethro's Advises Moses (18:1-27)

17. What is Jethro's advice to Moses?