

Christ the Rock

Exodus 17:1-7, Numbers 20:1-13

Introduction



Water is essential for life

- Average daily water need per person: 3 liters
- Population: 2,000,000 people
- Duration: 40 years
- Calculation:
 - Daily water need for 2 million people = $2,000,000 \times 3 \text{ liters} = 6,000,000 \text{ liters}$ per day. Or 1,585,032.314 gallons per day
 - Annual water need = $6,000,000 \text{ liters/day} \times 365 \text{ days} = 2,190,000,000 \text{ liters/year}$. Or 578,536,794 gallons per year
 - Over 40 years = $2,190,000,000 \text{ liters/year} \times 40 \text{ years} = 87,600,000,000 \text{ liters}$ (87.6 billion liters). 23,141,471,786 gallons (23 Billion gallons)

Background to Exodus 17

Exodus 13: Consecration and Guidance

- Consecration of the Firstborn
- Pillar of Cloud and Fire

Exodus 14: The Red Sea Crossing

- Pursuit by Pharaoh
- God's Deliverance thru the Red Sea

Exodus 15: The Song of Moses and Early Grumbling about Water

- The Song of Moses: Israel responds with praise, celebrating God's salvation and His sovereign reign.
- Bitter Waters at Marah: Verse 22 - 26

Exodus 16: Manna and Quail in the Wilderness

- Provision of Manna and Quail
- Testing and Obedience: The daily gathering of manna tests Israel's obedience and trust in God's word.

I. Testing of God on the People and the People Testing God by Doubting Him (Exodus 17:1-3)

- A. (:1) God Testing His People – Repeating a Prior Failed Test
- B. (:2) God's People wrongly Testing God
 - Trying to Control God – Making Demands on Our Terms
 - *Trying to Judge God – Making God Accountable to Our Demands*
 - *Irrational Arguments – Denying God's Protection and goodness*

The Goodness of God

- Exodus 34:6:
 - And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.
- Romans 8:28 –28
 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who[a] have been called according to his purpose.
- Psalm 100:5:
 - For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.
- Psalm 34:8:
 - Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.
- Psalm 119:68:
 - You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees.
- Nahum 1:7:
 - The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him".
- Psalm 23 :6
 - Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

II. TESTING GOD NEVER NULLIFIES THE GRACIOUS PROVISION FROM GOD'S POWERFUL PRESENCE (Exodus 17:4-7)

- A. (:4) Priority of Prayer and Dependence on the Lord in Desperate Times
- B. (:5-6) Gracious Provision from God from a Surprising Source
- C. (:6) Performing the Miracle of Christ's Gracious Provision (1 Cor 10:1-4)



CHRIST IS THE ROCK (1 Cor 10:1-5)

- (:6) – Jesus is the source of living water – (John 4, John 7:37-39, 1 Cor. 10:1-5)
 - The Spirit gives life
 - The Spirit is active
 - The Spirit points to Christ

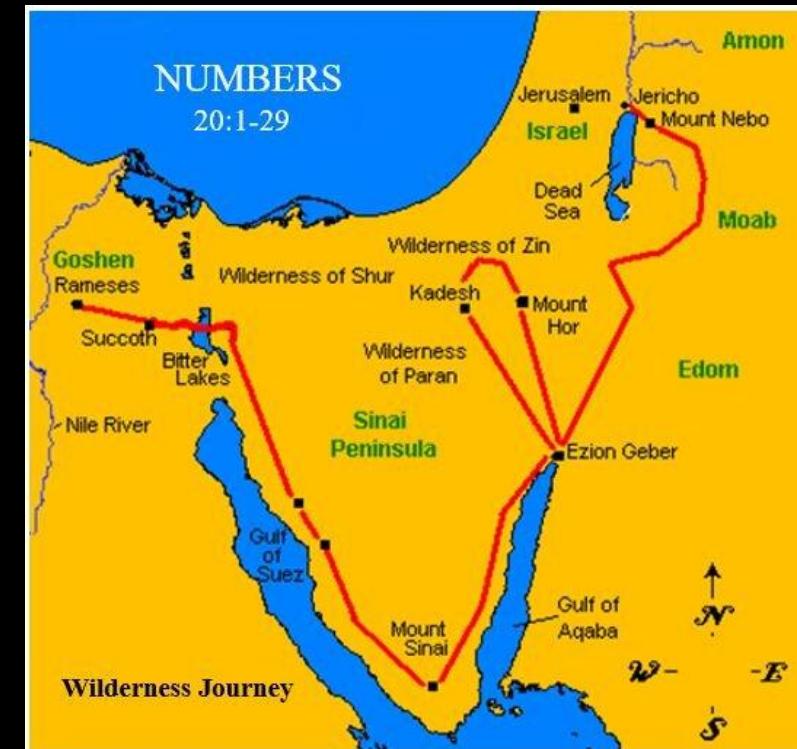


OT God Provided through the Rock References

- Isaiah 48:21
 - They did not thirst when he led them through the deserts; he made water flow for them from the rock ; he split the rock and the water gushed out.
- Psalm 78:15
 - He split rocks in the wilderness and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.
- Psalm 78:16
 - He made streams come out of the rock and caused waters to flow down like rivers.
- Psalm 78:20
 - He struck the rock so that water gushed out and streams overflowed. Can he also give bread or provide meat for his people?
- Psalm 78:35
 - They remembered that God was their rock, the Most High God their redeemer.
- Psalm 81:16
 - But he would feed you with the finest of the wheat, and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.
- Psalm 105:41
 - He opened the rock, and water gushed out; it flowed through the desert like a river.
- Psalm 114:8
 - ... who turns the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a spring of water.”
- Job 29:6
 - “... when my steps were washed with butter, and the rock poured out for me streams of oil!”

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- D. (:7) Warning for all believers – Massah and Meribah



III. GRUMBLING AND GLORY-GRABBING AT THE WATERS OF MERIBAH (Numbers 20:1-13)

- The death of Miriam (1)
- The distress of Israel for want of Water (2)
- Discontent and murmuring (3-5)
- Gods Pity on them (6-9)
- Moses Disobedience and anger displayed (9-11)
- Gods gracious supply of the water coming from the rock (11)
- Gods displeasure expressed on Moses and Aaron(12,13)

III. GRUMBLING AND GLORY-GRABBING AT THE WATERS OF MERIBAH (Numbers 20:1-13)

- A. (:2-5) Grumbling by the People in Questioning the Goodness and Faithfulness of God's Provision
- B. (:6-11) Glory-Grabbing by Moses Out of Frustration for Persistent Contention
- C. (:12-13) Judgment by the Lord to Exalt His Holiness

Applications

1. Do not grumble and complain about your circumstances
2. Turn and Pray in times of Trials
3. Study and memorize Gods word
4. God in His Love always wills what is best for you, In His wisdom He always knows what is best and, in His sovereignty, He has the power to bring it about.
5. Christ is our gracious provider for all our needs
6. Christ the Rock provides the living waters that we need for our spiritual growth through the Holy Spirit
7. Honor God for his Holiness
8. Obey His word