

Moses – part 15
Israel defeats the Amalekites
by Victor Torres

In our last study, we saw the Lord raining down bread from heaven to the Israelites. We learned this is but a symbol of the true bread from heaven, His words, that God provide to His people.

Joh 6:32 (ESV) Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.

Joh 6:33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

Joh 6:34 They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

Joh 6:35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

The Lord also commanded Israel to gather only what they need for that day.

Exo 16:16 (CEV) And he orders you to gather about two quarts for each person in your family--that should be more than enough."

Exo 16:17 They did as they were told. Some gathered more and some gathered less,

Exo 16:18 according to their needs, and none was left over.

Exo 16:19 Moses told them not to keep any overnight.

We must trust the Lord to provide for our needs. This doesn't mean we don't need to work or save for future needs. The command for the Israelites is to test them whether they will trust God to provide them food the next day. Some of them displayed their lack of faith:

Exo 16:20 (CEV) Some of them disobeyed, but the next morning what they kept was stinking and full of worms, and Moses was angry.

Those who gathered more than what they needed no doubt did it in secret. This shows us that we can't keep any secrets from God, He knows our very thoughts.

Exo 16:21 (CEV) Each morning everyone gathered as much as they needed, and in the heat of the day the rest melted.

Exo 16:22 However, on the sixth day of the week, everyone gathered enough to have four quarts, instead of two. When the leaders reported this to Moses,

Exo 16:23 he told them that the LORD had said, "Tomorrow is the Sabbath, a sacred day of rest in honor of me. So gather all you want to bake or boil, and make sure you save enough for tomorrow."

Exo 16:24 The people obeyed, and the next morning the food smelled fine and had no worms.

Exo 16:25 "You may eat the food," Moses said. "Today is the Sabbath in honor of the LORD, and there won't be any of this food on the ground today.

Exo 16:26 You will find it there for the first six days of the week, **but not on the Sabbath."**

The Sabbath, or the day of rest, is also a symbol of our "rest" or stopping from our own works. These works of the flesh is not limited to obvious ones like killing or stealing. They also include all our works under the false churches of this world. People think they are worshiping God when they observe holidays, including the physical observation of the Sabbath, but God has blinded them to His truths. We also need to recognize that He is the one who is doing the good works in us.

Heb 4:10 (CEV) For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God *did* from his.

Heb 4:11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, **lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.**

Who are those "example of unbelief" Paul is talking about here who did not enter into God's rest?

Heb 3:16 (CEV) Who were those people that heard God's voice and rebelled? **Weren't they the same ones that came out of Egypt with Moses?**

Heb 3:17 Who were the people that made God angry for forty years? Weren't they the ones that sinned and died in the desert?

Heb 3:18 And who did God say would never enter his place of rest? Weren't they the ones that disobeyed him?

Heb 3:19 **We see that those people did not enter the place of rest because they did not have faith.**

It is the people of Israel who came out of Egypt with Moses that did not enter into God's true rest. It was the Israelites who ate physical bread from heaven, but did not eat the true bread of heaven. Yet many Christian ministers teach that the physical Jews remain the chosen people of God.

In the next verses, we again see an example of the Israelite's unbelief. Moses told them they will not find any bread on the Sabbath day, but what did they do?

Exo 16:27 (CEV) A few of the Israelites did go out to look for some, but there was none.

Exo 16:28 Then the LORD said, "Moses, how long will you people keep disobeying my laws and teachings?"

Exo 16:29 Remember that I was the one who gave you the Sabbath. That's why on the sixth day I provide enough bread for two days. Everyone is to stay home and rest on the Sabbath."

Exo 16:30 And so they rested on the Sabbath.

Exo 16:31 The Israelites called the bread manna. It was white like coriander seed and delicious as wafers made with honey.

Moses also instructed Aaron and the people to store up some manna for future generations to see.

Exo 16:32 (CEV) Moses told the people that the LORD had said, "Store up two quarts of this manna, because I want future generations to see the food I gave you during the time you were in the desert after I rescued you from Egypt."

Exo 16:33 Then Moses told Aaron, "Put some manna in a jar and store it in the place of worship for future generations to see."

We are indeed instructed to teach our faith to our kids. This is not only for those who have physical kids, but for those who have spiritual kids. The elders in the church are tasked to teach those who are spiritually younger.

Exo 16:34 (ESV) Aaron followed the LORD's instructions and put the manna in front of the sacred chest for safekeeping.

Exo 16:35 The Israelites ate manna for forty years, before they came to the border of Canaan that was a settled land.

Despite these miracles, the people of Israel continued to complain and test the Lord.

Exo 17:1 (CEV) The Israelites left the desert and moved from one place to another each time the LORD ordered them to. Once they camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for them to drink.

Exo 17:2 The people started complaining to Moses, "Give us some water!" Moses replied, "Why are you complaining to me and trying to put the LORD to the test?"

Exo 17:3 **But the people were thirsty and kept on complaining,** "Moses, did you bring us out of Egypt just to let us and our families and our animals die of thirst?"

Exo 17:4 Then Moses prayed to the LORD, "What am I going to do with these people? They are about to stone me to death!"

Exo 17:5 The LORD answered, "Take some of the leaders with you and go ahead of the rest of the people. Also take along the walking stick you used to strike the Nile River,

Exo 17:6 and when you get to the rock at Mount Sinai, I will be there with you. Strike the rock with the stick, and water will pour out for the people to drink." Moses did this while the leaders watched.

Exo 17:7 **The people had complained and tested the LORD by asking, "Is the LORD really with us?"** So Moses named that place Massah, which means "testing" and Meribah, which means "complaining."

There is a big difference between asking and complaining. When you need something from your parents, ask. Don't complain or argue. God will not be pleased with you when you disrespect your parents by complaining or arguing with them.

Php 2:14 (GNB) **Do everything without complaining or arguing,**

Php 2:15 so that you may be innocent and pure as God's perfect children, who live in a world of corrupt and sinful people. You must shine among them like stars lighting up the sky,

Israel angered God when they complained to or argued with Moses.

Exo 17:8 (CEV) The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim.

Exo 17:9 Moses said to Joshua, "Pick out some men to go and fight the Amalekites tomorrow. I will stand on top of the hill holding the stick that God told me to carry."

The Amalekites and other nations who fought Israel are symbols of false teachings which we believe. We fight and kill these false teachings using the

words of God which is symbolized by Moses' staff.

Exo 17:10 (GNB) Joshua did as Moses commanded him and went out to fight the Amalekites, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

Exo 17:11 As long as Moses held up his arms, the Israelites won, but when he put his arms down, the Amalekites started winning.

Exo 17:12 When Moses' arms grew tired, Aaron and Hur brought a stone for him to sit on, while they stood beside him and held up his arms, holding them steady until the sun went down.

Moses is not alone in this fight as we are not alone in our spiritual fight. This stone is a symbol of Christ who will strengthen us in our fight against evil inside us. Aaron and Hur are the symbols of the body who will uphold us with prayers, teachings and encouragement.

Exo 17:13 (GNB) In this way Joshua totally defeated the Amalekites.

Exo 17:14 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write an account of this victory, so that it will be remembered. Tell Joshua that I will completely destroy the Amalekites."

Exo 17:15 Moses built an altar and named it "The LORD is my Banner."

Exo 17:16 He said, "Hold high the banner of the LORD! The LORD will continue to fight against the Amalekites forever!"

Even as children, you can hold high the banner of the Lord by being a good example to other kids around you. Show respect to your parents in private and in public. Never complain or argue with them, but ask them politely if you need