



Exodus Chapter 17

During our study into the 16th chapter of the book of Exodus just a couple of weeks ago, we compared what took place in Exodus chapter 16 with numbers chapter 11. And we talked about what caused this uprising from the house of Israel concerning not having enough meat to eat. And as we read through the book of Numbers chapter 11, we made note of the fact that there was a small group among them called “*the rabble*”... or in Hebrew “*the aspesuph*”... who were people that were causing division within the house of Israel. And according to Numbers chapter 11 verse four, it was this group of people that began to complain, and to grumble, and to bellyache that the manna that Yah, had given them simply wasn’t good enough to please them.

And we talked a lot about dissension within the assembly and those who love to cause dissension and what it leads to. And we even talked about this same group of people that were alive and well in Paul’s time. The apostle Paul himself was constantly doing battle with “*the rabble*” or the “*aspesuph*”... who are constantly wanting to bellyache, and to grumble about wanting more. They always want more. They always want something different. And I would submit to you that “*the rabble*” is alive and well in our assemblies to this very day, and we need to be on the lookout for them, and we need to be able to identify them when we see them and hear them. Because they will indeed divide the flock which is always their main motive and objective.

And so, as we move into the 17th chapter of the book of Exodus, we’re going to see even more trouble that arises from “*the rabble*”. This time it won’t be because of meat... it will be because of water. Even though the house of Israel failed the test of our Father in heaven miserably that he gave them in Exodus chapter 16 verse four... they will now have the audacity to think that they are able to test the Elohim of Israel himself.

There is so much to see in this very short chapter of Exodus chapter 17, and I want us to really dive into what is playing out before our very eyes. But in order to do that, we must first read Exodus chapter 17 so that we can know exactly what it says, and just as importantly... what it does not say. And so, let’s begin by reading **Exodus chapter 17: E1**

Exo 17:1 *All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin **by stages**, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.*

Exo 17:2 *Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to*

drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you **test the LORD?**”

Exo 17:3 But the people thirsted there for water, and **the people grumbled** against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?”

Exo 17:4 So Moses cried to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.”

Exo 17:5 And the LORD said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.

Exo 17:6 Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

Exo 17:7 And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

Exo 17:8 Then Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim.

Exo 17:9 So Moses said to Joshua, “Choose for us men, and go out and fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.”

Exo 17:10 So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

Exo 17:11 Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed.

Exo 17:12 But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

Exo 17:13 And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword.

Exo 17:14 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Write this as a memorial in a book and recite it in the ears of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.”

Exo 17:15 And Moses built an altar and called the name of it, The LORD Is My Banner,

Exo 17:16 saying, “A hand upon the throne of the LORD! The LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.”

Right away here in the first verse of Exodus chapter 17, we're told that Israel moved on from the wilderness of sin by stages. The actual path that the Israelites took is listed in the book of Numbers chapter 33. Let's good take a look at Numbers chapter 33 versus 12 through 14 because this is where we are in the timeline here in Exodus chapter 17. **Numbers chapter 33**

versus 12 through 14: E2

Num 33:12 And they set out from the wilderness of Sin and camped at Dophkah.

Num 33:13 And they set out from Dophkah and camped at Alush.

Num 33:14 And they set out from Alush and camped at Rephidim, where there was no water for the people to drink.

Now... I know that we have only highlighted Numbers chapter 33 versus 12 through 14 but, if you read through Numbers chapter 33, you will see a complete list of the path and timeline of the Exodus. The journey out of Egypt starts in Numbers chapter 33 verse five where we are told that Israel set out from Ramses encamped at Succoth. This was the beginning of the journey.

As you continue through Numbers chapter 33 you see each place that they went to and camped. And then you see the next place that they went to and camped, all in succession. And so once again, they started out in the first month, on the 15th day of the first month... (Which was once again at night... and we've already covered that in our previous teachings... so both night and day is considered a day here in Numbers chapter 33 verse three), and according to Numbers 33 verse five, Israel set out from Ramses and camped at Succoth. This is the first place that they camped at. And then it goes down a long laundry list of places that they went to next until you finally get down to Numbers chapter 33 verse 51, and you finally see the house of Israel crossing over the Jordan into the land of Cannon, which is modern-day Israel. And so, if you want to trace the actual path that they took, all you have to do is turn to Numbers chapter 33, and here in Numbers chapter 33 versus 12 through 14 is where we find ourselves in the book of Exodus chapter 17.

And so, here they are encamped at a place called "*Rephidim*"... but there was no water for the people to drink. At least no water that they could see with their human eyes. **E1**

In Exodus chapter 17 versus two, the people begin to quarrel with Moses and to once again begin to grumble about not having water and Moses asks the people "*why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test Yahovah?*"

And I want us to think about this for just a moment. The house of Israel was just tested by Yah in the last chapter, in chapter 16 verse four. And I want us to go back and read that so that we can remember how it was that our Father had tested them. **Exodus chapter 16 verse four E3:**

Exo 16:4 Then the LORD said to Moses, "*Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not.*"

And of course, this testing had to do with his seventh day Sabbath when they were supposed to gather bread for six days and then on the seventh day, they were not allowed to gather bread because it was his seventh day Sabbath, which of course... they broke.

And so, the house of Israel had been tested by Yah and failed miserably. And yet... here we find them in Exodus chapter 17 trying to test Yah himself. And in verse three we see once again find that the people thirsted there for water and the people grumbled... (Remember that word grumbled) against Moses, and I want us to think about this for just a moment.

Here we have the house of Israel who was being led by a cloud through the wilderness. They have food that is being rained down from heaven. They have all the riches of Egypt within their possession. When they grumble for meat Yah gives them meat to eat. What we need to understand is that this grumbling never seems to end. We see it in Exodus chapter 16 verse two... we see it again in Exodus chapter 17 versus three... we see it again in Numbers chapter 14 verse two... we see it again in Numbers chapter 16 verse 11... we see it again in Numbers chapter 16 verse 41... and the house of Israel just never seems to stop grumbling even though each and every one of their needs is being met by the Elohim of Israel who was leading them across the wilderness in a cloud.

And this is so ironic, because I cannot tell you how many times that I have heard people say *“well I would believe in God if I could just see God”, or “if I could just see an Angel then I would believe in angels”, or “if Jesus would just show himself to me then I would believe that he was resurrected”*.

Those who say such things ought to know better but because they are ignorant and unstudied... they don't know better. Here is the house of Israel who is being given everything that they need to survive by their Father in heaven while carrying gold and silver from a nation that openly gave them everything that they had because of the fear of their Father in heaven, and yet... even though Yah is leading them by night in a cloud that they can all see above them... they still have no faith.

What does it take to have faith? I want us to turn to the red-letter words of our Messiah found in **Luke chapter 16 verses 20 through 31: E4**

Luk 16:20 *And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores,*

Luk 16:21 *who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores.*

Luk 16:22 *The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried,*

Luk 16:23 *and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.*

Luk 16:24 *And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’*

Luk 16:25 *But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received*

your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish.

Luk 16:26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.'

Luk 16:27 And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house—

Luk 16:28 for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.'

Luk 16:29 But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.'

Luk 16:30 And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'

Luk 16:31 He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

Once again, it's not about what we can see with our human eyeballs. It's about what the spirit reveals to us. This is something that most of the house of Israel did not understand while in the wilderness. Even though they had Yah right there with them, they still had no faith. And I want us to remember what our Messiah said to doubting Thomas. We can find that in **John chapter 20 verses 26 through 29 (scrn 1)**

Joh 20:26 Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

Joh 20:27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe."

Joh 20:28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

Joh 20:29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."



Once again, it's not about the flesh. It's not about what the flesh wants or what the flesh sees. It's about the spirit and the heart. It's about what the spirit sees, and the heart understands. And this is exactly why many will be called and yet only few will be chosen. **E1**

Moving back to Exodus chapter 17 versus six... Yah tells Moses to take the same staff that he struck the Nile with, and to go stand before the rock at Horeb and to strike the rock so that water would come out of it. How many of us already have a picture of our Messiah hanging on the cross while they drove a spear to his side and watched as water and blood came from his side? Even the apostle Paul directly calls our Messiah and I quote, "*the rock*". **First Corinthians chapter 10 verses one through six: (scrn 2)**

1Co 10:1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea,

1Co 10:2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,

1Co 10:3 and all ate the same spiritual food,

1Co 10:4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the **spiritual Rock** that followed them, and the **Rock was Christ.**

1Co 10:5 Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

1Co 10:6 Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.



This spiritual rock that followed with them was indeed the hope of the coming Messiah who is Yeshua Hamashiach, Jesus the Messiah. Those who were part of the house of Israel and remembered the Elohim of Israel remembered what was written in **Genesis chapter 3 verses 14 and 15: (scrn 3)**

Gen 3:14 The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

Gen 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."



You see, they knew that a Messiah was indeed coming. They knew that they had fallen in the garden during the time of Adam and Eve. And they knew that someone else like Adam... a prophet... the seed of a woman... would indeed come to undo what the serpent had done to them. And it was the hope of this spiritual rock that followed with them through the wilderness. And it was the hope of this spiritual rock that gave some of them... faith. Just as the hope of the return of that spiritual rock gives us faith today.

To get a more intimate look at this grumbling that we are reading about and the dangers of grumbling for us today... I'd like us to turn to **Psalms chapter 78 verses 12 through 72 E5:**

Psa 78:12 *In the sight of their fathers he performed wonders in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.*

Psa 78:13 *He divided the sea and let them pass through it, and made the waters stand like a heap.*

Psa 78:14 *In the daytime he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a fiery light.*

Psa 78:15 *He split rocks in the wilderness and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.*

Psa 78:16 *He made streams come out of the rock and caused waters to flow down like rivers.*

Psa 78:17 *Yet they sinned still more against him, rebelling against the Most High in the desert.*

Psa 78:18 *They tested God in their heart by demanding the food they craved.*

Psa 78:19 *They spoke against God, saying, "Can God spread a table in the*

wilderness?

Psa 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?"

Psa 78:21 Therefore, when the LORD heard, he was full of wrath; a fire was kindled against Jacob; his anger rose against Israel,

Psa 78:22 because they did not believe in God and did not trust his saving power.

Psa 78:23 Yet he commanded the skies above and opened the doors of heaven,

Psa 78:24 and he rained down on them manna to eat and gave them the grain of heaven.

Psa 78:25 Man ate of the bread of the angels; he sent them food in abundance.

Psa 78:26 He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens, and by his power he led out the south wind;

Psa 78:27 he rained meat on them like dust, winged birds like the sand of the seas;

Psa 78:28 he let them fall in the midst of their camp, all around their dwellings.

Psa 78:29 And they ate and were well filled, for he gave them what they craved.

Psa 78:30 But before they had satisfied their craving, while the food was still in their mouths,

Psa 78:31 the anger of God rose against them, and he killed the strongest of them and laid low the young men of Israel.

Psa 78:32 In spite of all this, they still sinned; despite his wonders, they did not believe.

Psa 78:33 So he made their days vanish like a breath, and their years in terror.

Psa 78:34 When he killed them, they sought him; they repented and sought God earnestly.

Psa 78:35 They remembered that God was their rock, the Most High God their redeemer.

Psa 78:36 But they flattered him with their mouths; they lied to him with their tongues.

Psa 78:37 Their heart was not steadfast toward him; they were not faithful to his covenant.

Psa 78:38 Yet he, being compassionate, atoned for their iniquity and did not destroy them; he restrained his anger often and did not stir up all his wrath.

Psa 78:39 He remembered that they were but flesh, a wind that passes and comes not again.

Psa 78:40 How often they rebelled against him in the wilderness and grieved him in the desert!

Psa 78:41 They tested God again and again and provoked the Holy One of Israel.

Psa 78:42 They did not remember his power or the day when he redeemed them from

the foe,

Psa 78:43 when he performed his signs in Egypt and his marvels in the fields of Zoan.

Psa 78:44 He turned their rivers to blood, so that they could not drink of their streams.

Psa 78:45 He sent among them swarms of flies, which devoured them, and frogs, which destroyed them.

Psa 78:46 He gave their crops to the destroying locust and the fruit of their labor to the locust.

Psa 78:47 He destroyed their vines with hail and their sycamores with frost.

Psa 78:48 He gave over their cattle to the hail and their flocks to thunderbolts.

Psa 78:49 He let loose on them his burning anger, wrath, indignation, and distress, a company of destroying angels.

Psa 78:50 He made a path for his anger; he did not spare them from death, but gave their lives over to the plague.

Psa 78:51 He struck down every firstborn in Egypt, the firstfruits of their strength in the tents of Ham.

Psa 78:52 Then he led out his people like sheep and guided them in the wilderness like a flock.

Psa 78:53 He led them in safety, so that they were not afraid, but the sea overwhelmed their enemies.

Psa 78:54 And he brought them to his holy land, to the mountain which his right hand had won.

Psa 78:55 He drove out nations before them; he apportioned them for a possession and settled the tribes of Israel in their tents.

Psa 78:56 Yet they tested and rebelled against the Most High God and did not keep his testimonies,

Psa 78:57 but turned away and acted treacherously like their fathers; they twisted like a deceitful bow.

Psa 78:58 For they provoked him to anger with their high places; they moved him to jealousy with their idols.

Psa 78:59 When God heard, he was full of wrath, and he utterly rejected Israel.

Psa 78:60 He forsook his dwelling at Shiloh, the tent where he dwelt among mankind,

Psa 78:61 and delivered his power to captivity, his glory to the hand of the foe.

Psa 78:62 He gave his people over to the sword and vented his wrath on his heritage.

Psa 78:63 Fire devoured their young men, and their young women had no marriage song.

Psa 78:64 Their priests fell by the sword, and their widows made no lamentation.

Psa 78:65 Then the Lord awoke as from sleep, like a strong man shouting because of wine.

Psa 78:66 And he put his adversaries to rout; he put them to everlasting shame.

Psa 78:67 He rejected the tent of Joseph; he did not choose the tribe of Ephraim,

Psa 78:68 but he chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion, which he loves.

Psa 78:69 He built his sanctuary like the high heavens, like the earth, which he has founded forever.

Psa 78:70 He chose David his servant and took him from the sheepfolds;

Psa 78:71 from following the nursing ewes he brought him to shepherd Jacob his people, Israel his inheritance.

Psa 78:72 With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand.

We can speed read through the book of Exodus if we choose to. But by speed-reading through the Bible we will never, and I repeat never... understand his God breathed Scripture if we don't study to show ourselves approved. There are great lessons to be learned here about not trusting our Father in heaven. It is written even in the New Testament that we should not be anxious about anything. **Philippians chapter 4 verses four through six: (scrn 4)**

Php 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

Php 4:5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;

Php 4:6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.



You see the house of Israel was anxious about everything. And the reason that the house of Israel was anxious about everything is because they had no faith even though their Father was right there walking with them and providing everything that they needed. And this is extremely

important for us to realize because nothing has changed to this very day. How many of us are anxious about what we will need tomorrow, or what we will drink or what we will wear? How many of us are anxious about our lives today? Our Messiah tells us to not be anxious about tomorrow for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. **Matthew chapter 6 versus 25 through 34: E6**

Mat 6:25 “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?”

Mat 6:26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

Mat 6:27 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?

Mat 6:28 And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin,

Mat 6:29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Mat 6:30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

Mat 6:31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’

Mat 6:32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.

Mat 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Mat 6:34 “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

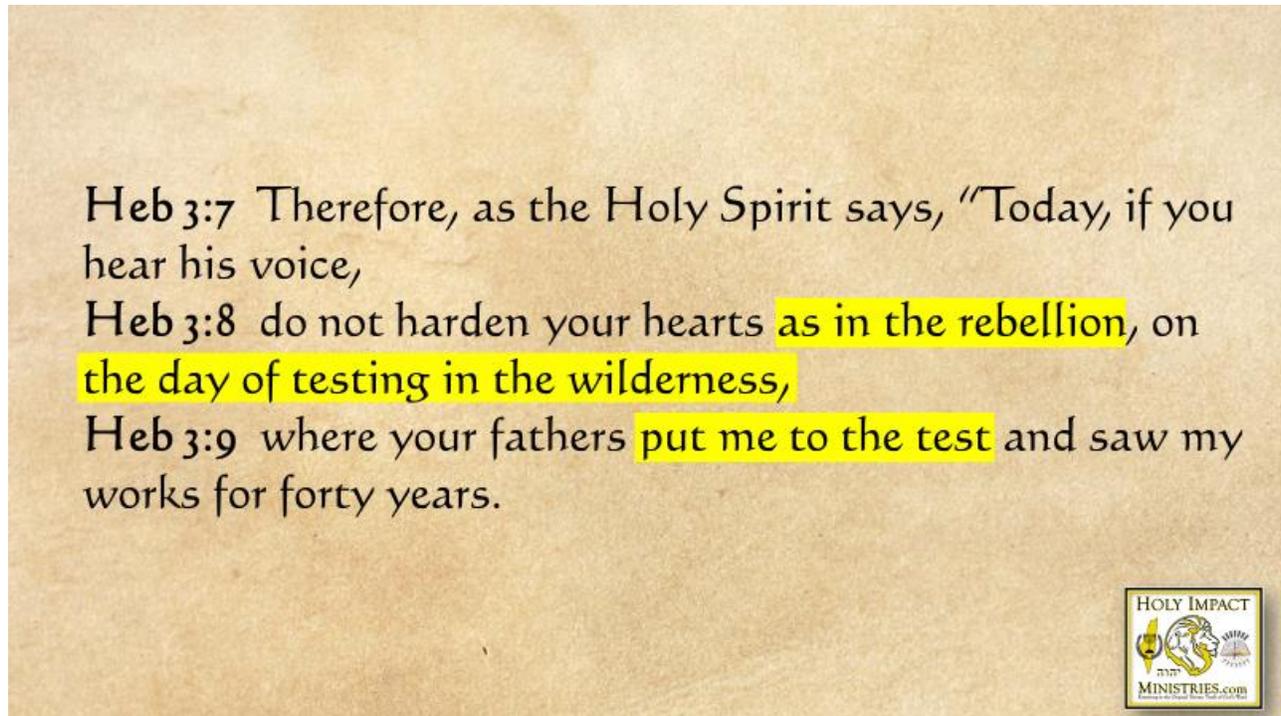
And so, when we read about the house of Israel in the wilderness traveling from Egypt to the promise land... we ought to be able to realize that there really is no difference between us and them. There really is no difference between their culture and our culture. Everything that they fell for in the wilderness... we have fallen for in our time... and much more I might add.

And so, as we continue to read through the book of Exodus, I want us to understand that what we are actually looking at is a mirror. A mirror of ourselves. As painful as it might be to admit... there is no difference between the house of Israel back in the wilderness... and the house of Israel today. The devil was sifting them then... and the devil is still sifting us today.

And this is exactly why Paul tells us in the sixth chapter of the book of Ephesians that we do not

wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in heavenly places. The full armor of God is no joke my friends. The house of Israel needed it during the time of Moses, and we need it right now during the time of our Messiah. **E1**

If we turn back to Exodus chapter 17 verse seven, we are told that he called the name of the place “*Massah, and Meribah*” because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested Yahovah by saying “*is Yahovah among us or not?*”. And we today in our time are commanded not to do these things as well. **Hebrews chapter 3 versus seven through nine: (scrn 5)**



I’d like us to also turn to **Psalms chapter 95 verses seven through nine: (scrn 6)**

Psa 95:7 For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. **Today, if you hear his voice,**

Psa 95:8 do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,

Psa 95:9 when your fathers put me to the test and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.



You know it is absolutely amazing when you think about how it is that people can see things written in both the Old Testament and the New Testament... and yet... proudly, and yet so shamefully proclaim that the Old Testament is all done away with and nailed to some tree somewhere. **E1**

As we continue on in Exodus chapter 17 verse eight, we see that Amalek once again rears up his ugly head, and comes to fight against Israel at Rephidim. How many of you remember the Amalekites from our study into the book of Genesis? Back in Genesis chapter 14 if we remember correctly the four Kings of Shinar, Ellasar, Elam, and Goiim had made war with the other five Kings and had defeated the Amalekites. When these four Kings took over Sodom and Gomorrah, they also took Abrahams nephew Lot. And so, this is where we've heard about the Amalekites previously in the book of Genesis.

The very name "Amorites" comes from an Akkadian word meaning "*Westerner*", and that would be West from the Babylonian perspective. The Amorites lived in the hill country of Canaan at the time of the Israelite conquest and of course this is who the Amalekites were.

The Amalekites were the first people to attack Israel after their redemption from Egypt. We'll soon find out that Amalek represents that force which opposes God's people and Yah's plan that is to be worked out through his people. And this is not the last time that will hear of Amalek as we journey through the Scripture. Saul who was the first King of Israel will be commanded by Yah to destroy Amalek as a punishment for their attempt to stop the advance of Israel during Moses days as their leader... (even though Saul never actually accomplishes that task).

Something else very interesting to know is that centuries later the evil Haman, of Esther's time

that has to do with the story of Purim... is said to have been a descendent of Amalek. Many modern-day Arabs today are from the family of Amalek which is the tribe of Esau. The Jordanians are people whose ancestors are a mix of Ishmael and Esau. And so, that should give you a little bit of insight as to who this Amalek is and how he is known throughout history and where it comes from.

With all of that being said there is still more to go through concerning the 17th chapter of the book of Exodus and will get into the last half of Exodus chapter 17 next Wednesday evening at 7 PM Eastern standard time. But as for now, it's time to close the books as I once again ask you to please... please take the time to take what you've heard here today to your own prayer closet. Bow your head and bend your knee, and face the holy promised land of Jerusalem, and ask in the name of Yeshua Hamashiach if what you've heard here today be true... or not.

Ask, seek, and knock and the door will be opened to you. And if you will do that, and if you will stay the course to the end... You and I will surely walk through the Gates of his soon coming kingdom together.

I'm pastor Scott Velain with Holy Impact Ministries and I'd like to thank each and every one within the sound of my voice for sharing your time with us here today to comb through our Fathers God breathed Scripture.