

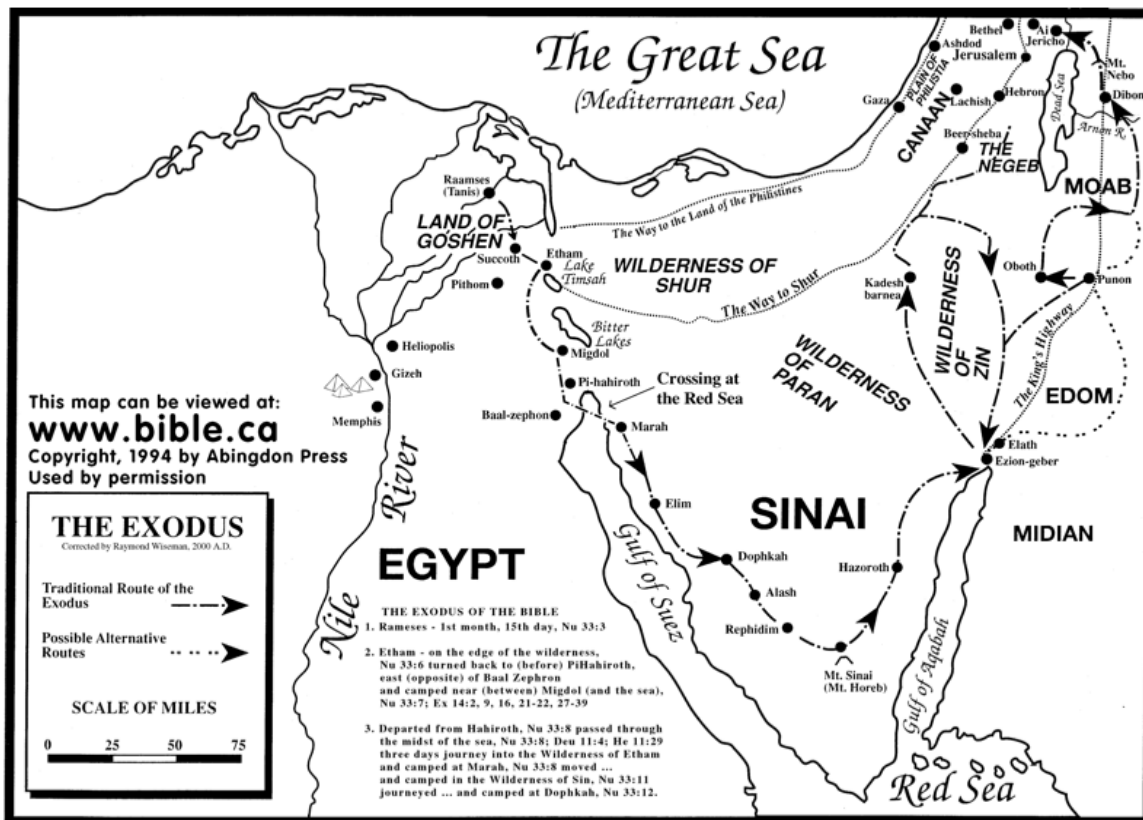
Exodus

Lesson #7, Chapters 16-17

God intended Israel's story to be instructive and redemptive for us (1 Corinthians 10:6, 11-13), so hang onto your hat because these chapters contain much for us to consider in our own lives. Prepare to study this lesson by going to the Lord in prayer, asking Him to help and guide you.

1. Where was Israel camped at the end of chapter 15? What is unique about that particular spot? See Exodus 15:27 for your answer.

2. Chapter 16 begins with Israel setting out from camp. List all the specific details given in Exodus 16:1. Locate where these events take place on the map below.



3. According to Exodus 16:2, what happens next? What accusations are made and who is the target of this sinful response according to Exodus 16:2-3?

4. Exodus 16:2-3 doesn't say how long it took after departing Elim before Israel fell into this troubling response. Unfortunately, a pattern seems to be emerging. Three days after the Israelites were *miraculously* delivered from Egypt, what happened in Exodus 15:22-24?
 - a. It's quite possible these events (from Exodus 15:22-24 and 16:2-3) take place within a week of each other, yet we see the Lord compassionately responding to the Israelites' faintheartedness by providing for them. God's provision also has a purpose. What is it and how does He intend to accomplish this purpose according to Exodus 16:4-5?

5. Though the Israelites had seen miracles galore and had been on the receiving end of God's mercies, that didn't protect them from wrong thinking. In spite of these many manifestations of God's grace and power, their own hearts remained unchanged. The same can be true of us as well. Look up the following verses and consider what they teach you about responding well when the Lord works on your behalf. See Psalm 19:14; 103:2; 107:43; 119:59; 1 Corinthians 10:6-13; James 1:2-4.

6. The Israelites blame Moses and Aaron for their hunger, yet their anger is misplaced. Who are they really attacking? See Exodus 16:6-8.

Have you no words? Ah, think again,
Words flow apace when you complain;
And fill your fellow creature's ear
With the sad tale of all your care.

Were half the breath thus vainly spent,
To Heav'n in supplication sent;
Your cheerful song would oftener be,
Hear what the Lord has done for me!
~William Cowper¹

7. What was the Lord's answer to the Israelite's needs and wants? See Exodus 16:9-12. What reason does He give for providing for them in this way?

8. The first time manna makes its appearance in the Scriptures is in Exodus 16, although it's certainly not the last time. What particulars about manna do you learn from Exodus 16:13-15?
 - a. What specific instruction did the Lord give them concerning the manna in Exodus 16:16-19, 22-26, 29-30?

 - b. While God's instructions were clear, what did Israel still need to learn? See Exodus 16:20-21, 27-28.

 - c. What else do we learn about manna from Exodus 16:31-36?

¹William Cowper, "What Various Hindrances We Meet," <http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/w/v/h/wvhwmeet.htm>

9. Like the Red Sea crossing, God intended the daily provision of manna to impact Israel beyond physical sustenance. What do we learn from the following Scriptures about manna's spiritual role? See Deuteronomy 8:3, 16; John 6:26-36; Hebrews 3:7-19.

10. What happens after Joshua takes the nation into the long-awaited Promised Land? Read Joshua 5:10-12.

11. There's something striking about the brief mention given to the end of that daily provision. What attributes of God do you see demonstrated through God's daily giving of food for the nation of Israel for 40 years?

12. The Pillar of Cloud moved, so Israel moved. What do you learn about their new locale from Exodus 17:1?

13. What need presented itself in Exodus 17:2-3? Yet, how did the Israelites respond to this new test of their faith?

14. What was Moses concerned about and what was God's solution? See Exodus 17:4-7.

15. Just like the Red Sea crossing and the giving of manna, the incident at Rephidim remained part of Israel's history and spiritual training. What did God want to remind the

people whenever the names *Massah* and *Meribah* were used? See Deuteronomy 6:16-19; Psalm 95:1-11; Hebrews 3:7-11.

16. Just as things quiet down after the water episode, then another difficulty comes their way. What happens next? See Exodus 17:8-10.

17. Who were the Amalekites and what was their relationship with Israel? See Genesis 36:12, 15-16; Numbers 13:25-29; 14:42-45; Deuteronomy 25:17-19; 1 Samuel 15:1-3.

18. What was unique about God's deliverance in this case (Exodus 17:9-13)?

19. In Romans 8:37 we read, "But *in* all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us." Notice that little word "in." We may be victors *in* the battle, yet the battle must still be fought—and it is our lot to fight it. What principles and insights for faith and life can you glean from Moses in Exodus 17:9-13?

20. What does God want Joshua to know according to Exodus 17:14? Why would this have been important to Joshua based on what he had just been through? See also Deuteronomy 25:17-19.

21. To commemorate God’s intervention, what does Moses do? See Exodus 17:15. Look up the following verses to explain the significance of Moses’ declaration about God: Numbers 2:2; Psalm 20:5; 60:4; Song of Solomon 2:4; 6:4, 10.
22. *Eager Beaver*: The first mention of Joshua is here in this text—Exodus 17:9 and following! What do you learn about Joshua in this passage (Exodus 17:8-16)? The next time Joshua is mentioned is in Exodus 24:13-14. How has his role expanded since the battle against the Amalekites?
23. What did God want the Israelites to learn about Him in Exodus chapters 16 and 17? What similarities do you see about God’s dealings with you? What is the answer for us whenever we’re struggling to trust the Lord? See Exodus 6:6-8; 15:1-18; Hebrews 11:6.

“My little fellow, about four years old, whom I brought with me, gave himself no trouble amid the boats, omnibuses, and railway coaches, on sea, land, and in dark tunnels; his father was at his side, and never a care or fear or doubt or anxiety had he. May we have grace to be led by the hand, and trust to the care and kindness of a reconciled God and Father.” ~Thomas Guthrie²

“Commit yourself then to God! He will be your guide. He Himself will travel with you, as we are told He did with the Israelites, to bring them step by step across the desert to the promised land. Ah! What will be our blessedness, if you will but surrender yourself into the hands of God, permitting Him to do whatever He will, not according to your desires, but according to His own good pleasure?” ~Francis Fenelon³

“Toward the future let us look calmly, cheerfully, trustfully. The Lord is in it, and if we are His, we need fear no evil.” ~Unknown⁴

² Thomas Guthrie, Josiah H. Gilbert, editor, *Dictionary of Burning Words of Brilliant Writers* (New York: Wilbur B. Ketcham, 1895), 598.

³ Francis Fenelon, Josiah H. Gilbert, editor, *Dictionary of Burning Words of Brilliant Writers* (New York: Wilbur B. Ketcham, 1895), 601.

⁴ Unknown, Josiah H. Gilbert, editor, *Dictionary of Burning Words of Brilliant Writers* (New York: Wilbur B. Ketcham, 1895), 600.