

Lesson 7 Exodus Chapters 17-19

PART A: EXODUS 17, 18:1-12

FIRST READING: EXODUS 17:1-7

A1. a. Do you think the children of Israel sinned in asking for water to drink? Give reasons.

b. What was the fault in the children of Israel's interactions with Moses in these verses?

A2. a) What exactly was Moses instructed to do so that the people would have water?

b) Did this make any sense? _____ What do you think gave Moses the confidence he needed to lead the people in this critical situation?

A3. In what ways is Christ our Rock represented in the following verses:

Psalm 18:1-3 _____

1 Samuel 2:2 _____

Psalm 61:1-2 _____

Isaiah 8:13-15 _____

Helaman 5:12 _____

A4. What verse or phrase do you think shows the root of the children of Israel's problem? Explain your answer.

SECOND READING: EXODUS 17:8-16

Reading Note: The Amalekites were descendants of Amalek, a grandson of Esau, (Gen. 36:12) the covenant-rejecting brother of Jacob who sold his birthright for a bowl of lentil soup. Amalek was perpetually bent on destroying Israel. (see Genesis 27:41-42; Deut. 25:17-19) They are a type of all those who fight against and want to destroy Zion—God's people. Haman, the villain in the Book of Esther, is thought to be an Amalekite.

A5. Read Deuteronomy 25:17-19. In both Exodus 17 and Deuteronomy 25, who attacked first and what seems to have been the motive?

A6. What does the story of Aaron and Hur and Moses in this battle teach us about the importance of leadership? What does a good leader do?

A7. a. Do we sometimes expect our leaders to be superhuman, for their arms never to tire? Comment.

b. How does God make up for the natural human limitations of the leaders He has called? Name ways you see in this text, and also ways you have seen in your experience.

A8. What prophecy is made about the nation of Amalek in verses 14-16?

THIRD READING: EXODUS 18:1-12

A9. Underline or circle the phrase “father-in-law” in the first 12 verses. How many times is it used?

A10. a) Do you remember how many years Moses lived with Jethro’s family in Midian? (If you can’t remember, check out Acts 7:29-30)

b) What might Moses have learned during his years with Jethro in Midian that would serve him well during the time he leads the Israelites in the wilderness of Sinai? No wrong answers. Think about their lifestyles.

A11. The relationship between Moses and Jethro appears to have been a great blessing in Moses’ life. What phrases in verses 7-12 indicate that the two men loved one another?

A12. PERSONAL: The “in-law” relationship is much maligned and made fun of in our culture. Is there an in-law relationship in your life that has been a source of great blessing to you?

PART B: EXODUS 18:13-27, EXODUS 19

FIRST READING: EXODUS 18:13-27

B1. From Jethro's reaction to the situation in the camp of Israel, what excellent qualities of character do you see in this man?

B2. a. Leadership necessarily puts one "up in front." What motives are in the heart of a good leader? What motives are in the heart of a bad leader?

b. Read the incident from Numbers 11:26-30. How does this incident show Moses' heart?

B3. What three things in verse 20 should a good leader teach and show the people he/she leads?

B4. What qualities of character does Jethro tell Moses to look for in the men he chooses for leadership roles?

B5. What good things came from delegation in the camp of Israel?

SECOND READING: EXODUS 19:1-15

Reading Note: The events of Exodus 19 and 20 are often referred to as the Sinaitic covenant, meaning the covenant God's people made with Him at Mount Sinai. Look up Deuteronomy 5 and put a bookmark there so you can refer to this chapter later, which recapitulates what happens in Exodus 19 and 20.

B6. The Lord begins His instruction to the people through Moses by reminding them in verse 4 of three things he has already done for them.

a. What are the three things?

b. Pick one of the three things and describe it in more detail or tell what you think it means.

B7. What advantages and blessings await the people if they will enter wholeheartedly into a covenant—or binding agreement—with God?

B8. Name as many ways as you can find that the people were to prepare to come before God at the mount? Include ways of both personal sanctification and protection against offending a holy God.

b. How do you think cleanliness contributes to holiness?

THIRD READING: EXODUS 19:16-25

B9. The Lord used every possible one of the senses of the children of Israel. What did they:

See:

Hear:

Smell:

Feel:

Taste:

B10. Who was allowed to come to the top of the mount?

B11. Read Deuteronomy 5:22-24, a summary of this experience. What lessons about God did the people learn from this awesome mountain "sound and light show"?

B12. Why do you think these people needed such spectacular displays of God's power and presence and we do not? What are some differences between what we know and what they knew?