



EXODUS 17

IN 5 MINUTES

When:

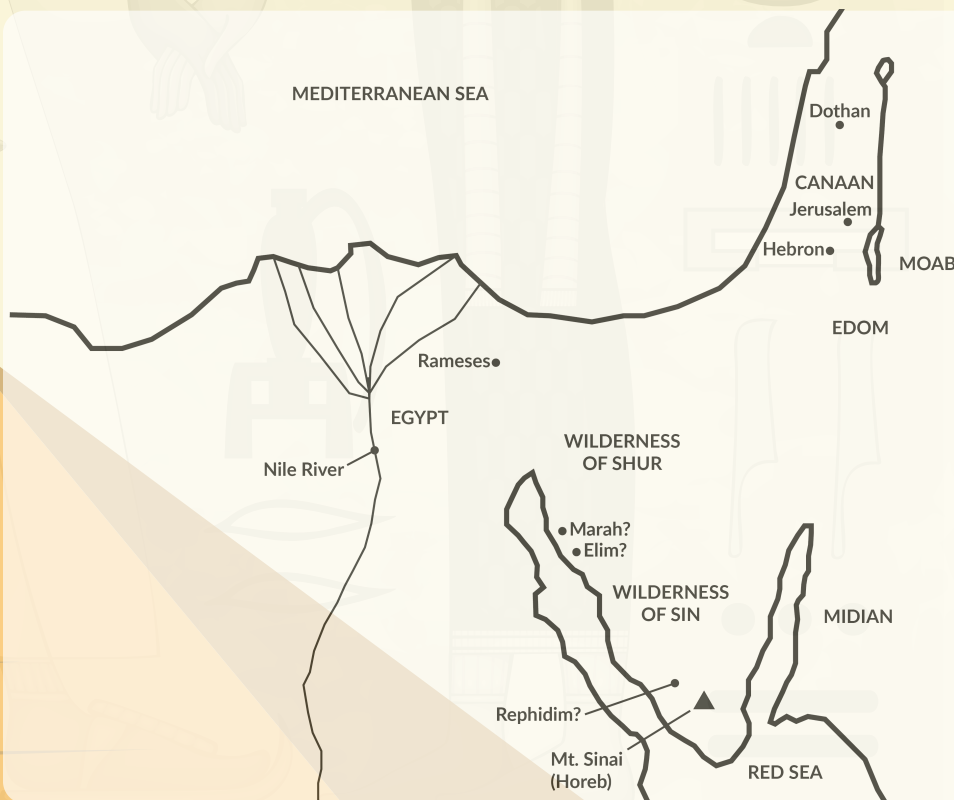
- God delivered the Israelites from slavery in approximately 1491 B.C.
- The events in Exodus 16 occurred 1 month after the Exodus (16:1). The events in Exodus 17 followed shortly after.

Characters:

- **Israelites (Hebrews)** – They were the descendants of Jacob’s family that grew into a large nation while enslaved in Egypt.
- **Moses** – A Hebrew who grew up in the house of Pharaoh. He fled Egypt in Exodus 2 and went to live in Midian. God called him back to Egypt to deliver the Israelites from slavery.
- **Aaron** – Moses’ brother who God selected to help him lead the Hebrews.
- **Amalekites** – A nation of people that made war with the Hebrews when they were camped in Rephidim.

Where:

- God led the Hebrews from the Red Sea to Marah and then on to Elim.
- In Exodus 16, the Israelites went from Elim to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai (16:1).
- In chapter 17, they left the wilderness and camped in Rephidim (17:1).



Outline:

- GOD BRINGS WATER FROM A ROCK (17:1-7):

- + After gradually travelling out of the Wilderness of Sin, the Israelites camped at Rephidim and immediately began complaining because there was no water.
- + They grumbled against Moses and God, and began questioning whether God was actually with them or not.
- + God told Moses to take the elders of the people and the staff he used when he worked miracles before Pharaoh, and to stand on the rock of Horeb.
- + Moses was told to strike the rock with his staff and water would come out.
- + Moses did as the Lord commanded and all the people drank.
- + Moses called the place Massah and Meribah because of the quarreling of the people and "because they tested the Lord."

- WAR WITH AMALEK (17:8-16):

- + The Amalekites came to Rephidim and fought with the Israelites.
- + Moses commissioned a man named Joshua to lead a select group of warriors to fight against Amalek.
- + He told Joshua he would stand on a hill above the battle with the "staff of God" in hand.
- + Joshua went to battle and Moses, Aaron, and Hur climbed to the top of the hill.
- + Whenever Moses held up his hands, the Israelites would prevail, but whenever he put his hands down, Amalek would start winning.
- + When Moses got tired, Aaron and Hur held his arms up.
- + Joshua defeated the Amalekites.
- + Moses built an altar and called it "The Lord is My Banner."

Application:

- Why did Moses have to hold up his hands and the staff to win the battle?
- The staff represented the power of God.
- It was to be understood that the victory belonged to God.
- The Israelites had been freed by the power of God, fed by the power of God, and had defended by the power of God.
- This repeating pattern should teach us our dependence on God.
- This is why Jesus taught His disciples to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread" and "deliver us from evil" (Matthew 6:11-13).
- Those prayers are constant reminders of our need for God.

