

A note from Kathy

One sure thing about a mountain top experience is that it won't last forever. One of the distinguishing factors of mountains is they are surrounded by valleys. The Christian life is one of highs and lows. Our location is not the issue; our heart is!

Observation

1. As you read this beautiful song, jot down God's character qualities as you see them, and what you learn about Him from their praise and worship.
2. What does Exodus 15:5, 7, 11, 12 say happened to those who stood in opposition to God?
3. What effect does Exodus 15:14-16 say just hearing of this event had on other nations?
4. Israel is a nation on the move once more; they have travelled three days and have found no water. This is a very dangerous thing in the desert. Can you imagine the joy as they saw water off in the distance? What would the sight of water in the distance have done to their moral? What devastating news did they get when they arrived at Marah?
5. What was the people's response to this disappointing news?
6. Who was in charge? Had Israel experienced amazing care at God's hand? What should they have been doing?
7. It would be wonderful if, after being tested, we all could see the error of our ways and with one simple commitment choose to trust God. Unfortunately this is rare; it is more likely two steps forward, one step back. What was the latest problem Israel had encountered in Exodus 16:1-3?
8. How long had they been traveling?

9. Notice verse 2; the negativism of some had spread and was now a full blown epidemic.
10. God blessed the Israelites with food from heaven. He rained down provision, but even in this provision was an opportunity for them to learn to obey. What were the provisions and the instructions given in Exodus 16:4-22?
11. It would seem to me that these instructions were pretty clear and relatively easy to follow. Did they all follow God's instructions carefully? Verse 20. How did that work out for them?
12. First's in the Bible are always very important. Exodus 16:23 was a very important first; what was it?
13. What instructions were given concerning this sacred day?
14. Describe manna?
15. What instructions did God give Moses and Aaron about the manna in verses 32-34? What was the reason for this?
16. For how long did God faithfully provide manna?
17. It would be easy to throw stones at the Israelites if it weren't for the fact that we too grumble and complain when things are not as we think they should be. What sad chain of events do we see in the first seven verses of this chapter?
18. The Israelites grumbled against their God-appointed leadership. This grumbling against Moses then turned to questioning God's plan and ability. Look at verse 4; to what point has the situation escalated?
19. In Exodus 17:5-6, God instructed Moses to go on ahead and to be sure to have his staff in his hand. He was to take some of the elders with him. He was told to stand at the rock at Horeb and strike it, and that water would come out. Why do you think God had

Moses do things this way? Why not simply open the rock and have water pour out?
How was this helpful to Moses and the elders of Israel?

20. Exodus 17:8-16 is the story of the first battle Israel was personally involved in as a nation. What other nations were involved in this battle?
21. Who was the appointed leader of the Israelite fighting forces?
22. What did the staff symbolize as Moses held it up for all to see?
23. What happened when Moses' staff was lifted high? What happened if it was lowered?
24. Could Moses possibly hold the staff up for hours on end?
25. What did Aaron and Hur do to help Moses?
26. Moses was instructed to write down this battle so that it would be remembered. He also built an altar. What did he name this altar? This place of worship?

Application

1. Exodus 15 begins with a beautiful song of praise and worship. The people could not contain their joy and praise for God's wondrous care. Have you ever just had to sing, declaring the goodness and mercy of God?
2. It is important that we notice who was instrumental in leading this time of praise and worship. We will hear about her again later, but it won't be in such a good light. What did you do the last time God miraculously delivered you? Were you moved to sing?
3. It is easy to get frustrated as we read the events of God's miraculous deliverance over and over, and Israel's continual grumbling and complaining. But we are not the ones in a hot and dry desert, we are not the parents listening to our thirsty children and watching our animals pant for water. How do you handle disappointment? What is

your response when what you thought would be your help turns out to be your “Marah”?

4. What habit are you beginning to see forming?

Israel’s attitude of negativity and lack of trust in times of difficulty and disappointment is not one we should follow. Romans 15:4, *For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*

5. If you are at a dry place and in need of some life-giving water, why not cry out to the one who is able to change even bitter waters into pools of refreshment.

6. Are you able to see God’s provision today? Why not jot down some of the “Marah” times of your past and how he turned them into something used for his glory.

7. What is God speaking to you about today? Read Exodus 15:26; are you listening to his voice, are you committed to doing what is right, are you mindful of his commands and careful to obey them?

8. In Exodus 16, we see the children of Israel in need of provision again. Once again God provides in amazing ways to meet their needs. Their obedience is tested. In what way can you apply this lesson to your daily life? What need is God supplying for you today? Do you know what God requires of you? Are you following his commands?

9. Tests like those Israel experienced are not merely “pass or fail” tests. They are opportunities to experience God’s supreme provision and loving care. In what ways are you experiencing something similar?

10. Moses and Aaron put up a jar of manna for a testimony for generations to come. When future generations asked about it, they could tell the story of God’s amazing provision and care. Are you putting anything up as a testimony? I write dated notes in my Bible, and when my children and grandchildren see them, I can share the stories of God’s care.

11. Israel was treating God and his man shamelessly with their words of criticism. We should be very careful how we speak to God’s man. God is able to correct his own leaders if he thinks they need correcting. When people are complaining and blaming others, is your response to cry out to God?

12. What would you have said to the Israelites if you had been there that day?

13. Aaron and Hur held up Moses' hands while Joshua and the army of Israel fought the Amalekites. As long as his staff was held high, Israel was victorious. Do you have an Aaron and Hur in your arsenal of friends? Do you have friends who will stand with you throughout an entire battle in order to ensure victory?

14. It is a valuable gift for us to know the names of God. Proverbs 18:10, *The name of the LORD is a strong tower; (a mighty fortress) the righteous run to it and are safe.*

Moses recognized that the Lord was Israel's banner under which they defeated the Amalekites. What enemy have you defeated in his name? In John 16:26-27, Jesus instructs those who place their trust in Him "to ask in My name," on the basis of His merit and His righteousness.