

Exodus 15:22–27

“Paradise with God or Perish without Him”

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²² So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. And they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. ²³ Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore the name of it was called Marah. ²⁴ And the people complained against Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?” ²⁵ So he cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree. When he cast *it* into the waters, the waters were made sweet.

There He made a statute and an ordinance for them, and there He tested them, ²⁶ and said, “If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I *am* the LORD who heals you.”

²⁷ Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees; so they camped there by the waters.

Main Idea: God offers them Egypt or Elim/Eden, Perishing or Paradise—and the choice hinges upon whether they are willing to desire Him above all.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Exodus 15 verses 22 through 27. These are God's words. So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea than they went out into the wilderness of shore and then they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. Now, when they came tomorrow, they could not drink the waters of Mara for, they were bitter.

Therefore the name of it was called Mara and the people complained against Moses saying, what shall we drink? So he cried out to Yahweh and Yahweh showed him a tree. When he casted into the waters, the waters were made. Sweet there. He made a statute, in an ordinance for them.

And there he tested them and said, if you diligently heed the voice of Yahweh, your God and do what is right in his sight. Give ear to His commandments and keep all his statutes. I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians for I am.

Yahweh heals you then they came to Eileen where there were 12 wells of water and 70 palm trees so they camped there by the waters. So, for the reading of God's inspired and inherent worked, Well, as we sing God's Word in the public worship, as we sing God's Word, and our family worship.

As we sing God's Word and our church family were worship on the Lord's day. Afternoons was from this passage to be crying out with our hearts. That he would make that word to dwell richly in us and to fill us with his spirit because the echoes of Miriam and the women and verse 21 having begun to sing and response to the congregation as a whole and the kind of antiphonal singing that you enjoy.

And I know you enjoy it because we have to sing, 119, W and 375 in the red over and over and over again. And one of the wonderful things that they antiphonal Singing did. Was it showed that each of us should appropriate for ourselves by assigning to particular people?

They're parts and you should appropriate for yourself. The Word of God. Well, that is still bringing in our ears. When three days later, they, they complain against Moses and Moses cries out to Yahweh and Yahweh. Showed him a tree. Now there is and ancient early church. Father wave interpreting scripture that every single twig and stick and tree in the Old Testament, they make into a reference to the cross of Jesus Christ.

Now, the tree itself may not be a reference to the cross of Jesus Christ, but that tree was certainly purchased by the cross of Jesus Christ. Because these people deserved everything that Egypt to just gotten, They already knew that right. God had communicated it to them by the Passover.

God had communicated it to them by the consecration of the firstborn. And then God, basically he gives them the sweet water but it comes at a price or it comes with a test. He says, if you diligently heed the voice of Yahweh, your God and do what is right in his sight.

Give ear to His commandments and keep all his statutes. Then I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. You hear what he's saying? He's saying, I just gave you sweet water in the wilderness. He does use a tree to do it, so you can be, You can be excused If you want to see the cross in that particular tree.

There's the theological shape of the text to do that there because he intentionally uses a tree. Now, the tree might be related more to Moses's rod and and it might be better all in. But the idea is that God heals his people instead of exterminating his people. We deserve

Egypt.

We deserve hell. We deserve the wrath of God and even after God saves us We keep doing things that deserve his wrath and we must be the sworn enemies of that sin that deserves the wrath of God. In fact, if we aren't the sworn enemies of that sin, we'll find that we're actually the sworn enemies of God.

However, accurately, we learned our catechism or however, much a part of his church. We had been In fact the vast majority of these people against him, God made this threat. Although they were baptized with Moses and the Red Sea and ate the same spiritual food that were about to hear about and bred from heaven and drank the same spiritual drink from the rock that we're going to hear about in a little bit.

And that rock was priced. You could say on the authority of the Holy Spirit Yet God said of that generation. Generally speaking, They will not enter my rest in the scripture tells us he wasn't talking about the promised land. He was talking about his eternal rest and with the vast majority of them so that he can speak of that generation as a whole.

The hearing was not mixed with faith. And when they fell in the wilderness, they sunk lower. Then they're sandy graves. But God offers us himself or our pleasures. And he offers us as it were Egypt or Elim, or we can even say, Egypt or Eden because he takes them from this place.

As the first place, they'd seen any water at all, in three days. And the water was poisonous until they threw a tree into it and don't go and try and you know, write a book you know, like they write the Ezekiel bread books which you know that green combination was so awful that God gave it to Ezekiel as a sign of judgment feminine death.

And then, American Christians, write diet books out of it. You know, you wouldn't go and write a water purification. According to the Bible plan and well, just throw a tree in it.

But water was scarce and what they found had been poisonous. And then Suddenly the Lord brings them to a place where there are 12 wells And then they're not to fight anybody for those wells. You remember Isaac In Genesis 26 where was miraculous that he had one, and they fought over that miraculous that even another and they fought over that.

And then he fed, you know, they dug a third and he called it Rehoboth because there was room for them and then the end of the passage. They they re-dig bare Sheba and marvelous for wells. But here are 12 in the middle of the wilderness that they didn't have to dig and they didn't have to fight over and it just happens to correspond to the number of tribes And the 70 palm trees, just happened of correspond to the number of Israel who came down to Egypt to meet Joseph and his family.

As we're going to be hearing repeated again in Steven's sermon, but palm trees and abundant water. The first time you read about fruitful trees and abundant water in scripture. It's literally paradise. The Lord is offering them himself. First and foremost, But with himself, you have his paradise And so he's setting before them as it were Egypt or Eden, perishing or paradise.

The only trick is you have to have him because without him, there's nothing but what the Egyptians received without him, there's nothing. But perishing, When you and I think of what would be heavenly, We need God to conform our hearts to Christ's. So that his joy would be in us and we would count him as the heavenliness of heaven.

And I'm sure the new heavens and the new earth and there is a new earth and it's very earthy and you have to have a resurrection body to serve God in it and enjoy him in it. It's not some. Yeah. Disembodied, you know, vaporous state, although vapors is substance but new physics.

People will forgive me in order to whatever else is in. It will be marvelous, we'll be glorious and you will enjoy it, but you'll enjoy it. Because it's with him. And from him, he will be your enjoyment in it because you and I Lord by his grace, completes the work that he's begun and brings us there.

We will be holy and we should seek from him to give us those. Holy affections now And if we don't have them, then we're not going there. If heaven to you is fishing with your grandpa again or, you know, being able to have all you can eat and maintain your figure getting the golf and God help you.

If you think golfing is heaven, I've heard it. Whatever else you think heaven is, whatever else you think deliverance is? If it's not the Lord Himself, then you ain't going there. God had saved Israel from Egypt for himself and they said all the Lord's fine. But if we can't have water The next week it'll be if we can't have pots of meat and all you can eat bread, buffet as if that's what they actually had needed than having, the Lord isn't good enough for us.

We need God and God save us from ourselves and our flesh and such thinking congrant to us to be satisfied with him. So that our delight in every other good gift, he gives us will be that he gave it and that it was his goodness that we have found in it.

Let's pray.

Lord, we read this passage. And we perhaps are unfairly quick to shake our heads at these Israelites. But we confess that it takes a lot

less than three days without water for our hearts to grumble and complain against you. And so we come to you through Christ asking for more of that reorientation that reordering that we heard that you give us in the repentance.

That is a saving grace. An act of your saving grace And so we pray that you would give it to us and that we would more and more enjoy you. And that when we are in difficult circumstances, we would find our pleasure in you and put our hope in you and know that it must end with your giving us all that Christ has earned for us to give us such a confidence and such a hope.

Make us to find our pleasure this way we ask in Jesus name, Amen.