

The Presence of the Provider is Greater than the Provision

- 16** And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt.
- 2** And the **whole congregation** of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness:
- 3** And the children of Israel said unto them, **Would to God we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.**
- 4** Then said the Lord unto Moses, **Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.**
- 5** **And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.**
- 6** And Moses and Aaron said unto all the children of Israel, At even, then **ye shall know that the Lord hath brought you out from the land of Egypt:**
- 7** And in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of the Lord; for that **he heareth your murmurings** against the Lord: and what are we, that ye murmur against us?
- 8** And Moses said, This shall be, when the Lord shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; **for that the Lord heareth your murmurings** which ye murmur against him: and what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against the Lord.
- 9** And Moses spake unto Aaron, Say unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, Come near before the Lord: **for he hath heard your murmurings.**
- 10** And it came to pass, as Aaron spake unto the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and, behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud.
- 11** And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,
- 12** **I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel:** speak unto them, saying, At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God.
- 13** And it came to pass, that at even the quails came up, and covered the camp: and in the morning the dew lay round about the host.
- 14** And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground.
- 15** And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, **This is the bread which the Lord hath given you to eat.**
- 16** This is the thing which the Lord hath commanded, Gather of it every man according to his eating, an omer for every man, according to the number of your persons; take ye every man for them which are in his tents.
- 17** And the children of Israel did so, and gathered, some more, some less.
- 18** And when they did mete it with an omer, he that gathered much had nothing over, and he that gathered little had no lack; they gathered every man according to his eating.
- 19** And Moses said, Let no man leave of it till the morning.

20 Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto Moses; but some of them left of it until the morning, and it bred worms, and stank: and Moses was wroth with them.

21 And they gathered it every morning, every man according to his eating: and when the sun waxed hot, it melted.

22 And it came to pass, that on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for one man: and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses.

23 And he said unto them, This is that which the Lord hath said, To morrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the Lord: bake that which ye will bake to day, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning.

24 And they laid it up till the morning, as Moses bade: and it did not stink, neither was there any worm therein.

25 And Moses said, Eat that to day; for to day is a sabbath unto the Lord: to day ye shall not find it in the field.

26 Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, which is the sabbath, in it there shall be none.

27 And it came to pass, that there went out some of the people on the seventh day for to gather, and they found none.

28 And the Lord said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws?

29 See, for that the Lord hath given you the sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.

30 So the people rested on the seventh day.

31 And the house of Israel called the name thereof Manna: and it was like coriander seed, white; and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.

32 And Moses said, This is the thing which the Lord commandeth, Fill an omer of it to be kept for your generations; that they may see the bread wherewith I have fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you forth from the land of Egypt.

33 And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a pot, and put an omer full of manna therein, and lay it up before the Lord, to be kept for your generations.

34 As the Lord commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept.

35 And the children of Israel did eat manna forty years, until they came to a land inhabited; they did eat manna, until they came unto the borders of the land of Canaan.

36 Now an omer is the tenth part of an ephah.

Review from Exodus 15

1. God's name represents His global reputation
2. Being redeemed should move us to praise! 15:1-6
3. Redemption should lead us to Worship & Loyalty v. 7-11
4. The Enemies' Plans are to Stop Our Praise
5. Redemption puts God's Glory on Display 19-21

Introduction:

Look at Moses tell them before going into the Promise Land.

- **Deut. 8: 11** Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day:
12 Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein;
13 And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; **14** Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;
- The prosperity of the promised land is so dangerous. The real testing ground of life is the promised land of prosperity. The wilderness is the boot camp, the land of milk and honey is where the battle for the heart is finally fought.
- God takes them on intentional detours. / [JK about Jeff taking Patrick all over Argentina to get to Uruguay.](#)
- God is training His children **Deut 8:5** Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the Lord thy God chasteneth thee.
- Numbers 14 story of the spies shows 2.5 years isn't enough. The whole class flunked their final exam of the wilderness training and was not allowed to graduate. And all the children are sent back to school.

Illustration: Most dangerous thing in the Christian life. Show an ungrateful heart.

1. **From Praise & Worship to Pitiful Whining 15:22** So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went **three days** in the wilderness, and found no water. **16:1-4** And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt. **2** And the **whole congregation** of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness: **3** And the children of Israel said unto them, **Would to God we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have**

brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger. 4 Then said the Lord unto Moses, **Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.**

- a. We so easily forget what God has done for us
- b. A little trouble and we are right back in the middle of our whining and complaining
- c. We must guard against being so quick to turn our back on what God has done in our lives **23** And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. **24** And the **people murmured against Moses**, saying, What shall we drink?
- d. Even while we are complaining God has a solution to our problems **25** And he cried unto the **Lord**; and the **Lord** shewed him a tree, *which* when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and **there he proved them**,
 - i. Did you ever think that God is allowing some of these things to happen in your life to see if you will remember Him
 - ii. Did you ever stop to consider that if He did great things before He can and will do them again
 - iii. Did you ever stop to wonder how He was going to solve this problem
 - iv. He is going to turn your bitter water sweet
 - v. Learn from your past that He loves to answer but often waits to see if we will trust
- e. God uses these experiences to let them know that He is going to continue doing great things **26** And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the **Lord thy God**, and **wilt do that which is right in his sight**, and wilt **give ear to his commandments**, and **keep all his statutes**, I will put **none of these diseases upon thee**, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for **I am the Lord** that healeth thee. **27** And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water, and threescore and ten palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters.
 - i. God will do right and we can be sure of that
 - ii. We are being tested to see if we will do right and if we will react correctly to what He is doing
 - iii. We can trust that God doesn't treat us like He does His enemies
 - iv. So be careful when you read Scripture to know who He is talking to
 - v. Doing right ensures that God will bless us in our pilgrimage
- f. What decision will you make right now that will help you control your thoughts and not turn from singing to complaining so quickly and so easily

2. God hears our complaining. v.7,8,9

7 And in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of the Lord; for that **he heareth your murmurings** against the Lord: and what are we, that ye murmur against us?

8 And Moses said, This shall be, when the Lord shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; **for that the Lord heareth your murmurings** which ye murmur against him: and what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against the Lord.

9 And Moses spake unto Aaron, Say unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, Come near before the Lord: **for he hath heard your murmurings.**

Illustration: Praying with kids I do not let them say goofy things or act up. Why because God is listening. I need to learn these as I pout at the kitchen table to my wife after they go to bed.

- a. Full blown rebellion. The whole congregation. v. 2
- b. Anatomy of the complaint.
 - i. **Misdirected.** Understand again that Israel's grumbling against her leaders was really a distrust of God's providence and wisdom.
 1. Students learning about authority structure. It only grows.
 2. Yes spiritual "submit those who are looking out for you".
 3. This applies to all areas of authority - it is from the Lord.
 - ii. **Changed perspective about the past.** They idealized their time in Egypt.
 - iii. **Question the motives of Moses.** They brought us here to kill us. Either intentionally or unintentionally.
- c. Six weeks in and this is at least their second occurrence of grumbling. v. 2

3. God's Gracious Response v. 4,5

4 Then said the Lord unto Moses, **Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.**

5 And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.

- a. Every time we see God respond in the Bible we should learn something about who He is! He is gracious!
 - i. So, here's how it goes: six days a week, three hundred and twelve or so days a year, for forty years, He's going to give them bread. Six days a week, three hundred and twelve or so days a year, for forty years, He is going to give them bread.
 - ii. He is going to supply their material need, and one day a week, fifty-two or so days a year, forever, He is going to supply their spiritual need, rest, and time with Him.
 - iii. He provides food and rest and in this He begins a plan of discipleship. **He provides what they need materially and spiritually.**
- b. He tells them He is going to rain..... BREAD down upon them!
 - i. Notice that God's plan in the wilderness will be to disciple them in His providence by providing daily bread.
 - ii. He'll teach them day after day to trust His providence by day after day raining on them this bread

- c. He will test them in the process.
 - i. "Will they obey Him in terms of the specific instructions of A, collecting only what they need for that day, and B, not collecting on the Sabbath day?"
 - ii. He establishes a plan to address the heart attitude of Israel and their situation.

4. Will the message be received. v.6-10

6 And Moses and Aaron said unto all the children of Israel, At even, then **ye shall know that the Lord hath brought you out from the land of Egypt:**

7 And in the morning, then ye shall **see the glory of the Lord**; for that **he heareth your murmurings** against the Lord: and what are we, that ye murmur against us?

8 And Moses said, This shall be, when the Lord shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; **for that the Lord heareth your murmurings** which ye murmur against him: and what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against the Lord.

9 And Moses spake unto Aaron, Say unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, Come near before the Lord: **for he hath heard your murmurings.**

10 And it came to pass, as Aaron spake unto the whole congregation of the children of Israel, **that they looked toward the wilderness**, and, behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud.

- a. States the purpose of doing this. v. 6
- b. God will display His provision for His people; He will display His glory in His provision for His people.
- c. God is revealing His essential nature and character in His actions in providing for His people. v.7 =
 - i. First Bible reference to "the glory of the Lord".
 - ii. It deals with daily provision.
- d. Calls them near to make sure they know they have been heard and He is the one who will answer their need. . **v.9**
- e. He lets them know that what they need is not just ultimately bread, they need Him.

- i. Deut 8:8 interprets these actions for us.
And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; **that he might** make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live.
- ii. Jesus is quoting Moses from Deuteronomy 8 when He confronts Satan who is tempting Him to make bread in order to provide for Himself in the wilderness.
 1. Even Jesus in the wilderness determines to rely upon the provision of the Lord rather than seeking it by His own means
 2. Showing His trust in the Lord and illustrating this principle: the Lord provides.

It's not just they need food and the food shows up, it's that God is the provider of that food.

5. God our provider!

11 And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,

12 I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel: speak unto them, saying, At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God.

13 And it came to pass, that at even the quails came up, and covered the camp: and in the morning the dew lay round about the host.

14 And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground.

15 And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, **This is the bread which the Lord hath given you to eat.**

16 This is the thing which the Lord hath commanded, Gather of it every man according to his eating, an omer for every man, according to the number of your persons; take ye every man for them which are in his tents.

17 And the children of Israel did so, and gathered, some more, some less.

18 And when they did mete it with an omer, he that gathered much had nothing over, and he that gathered little had no lack; they gathered every man according to his eating.

19 And Moses said, Let no man leave of it till the morning.

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21 And they gathered it every morning, every man according to his eating: and when the sun waxed hot, it melted.

- a. Let's take a close look at Him as the provider and not the provision sense that is at the heart of this story.

- b. The repetition of the phrase “hear the murmurings” not only serves to show God's provision, but also to show the danger of grumbling against the Lord. v. 12
- c. The bread of Heaven, as it is called later in the Bible, is provided. v. 13 &14
 - i. Manna means “what is it?”
 - ii. Moses had to tell them this was the food that God is providing. v. 15 b
 - iii. It is as if they were not on the lookout for God to provide. Moses had to fill in the gaps.
- d. Daily provision. v. 19-20
 - i. First test concerns “quantity control”.
 - 1. Will they take what they need or will they take more than they need?
 - 2. Remember this is about God dealing with an issue of the heart and not just the stomach.
 - ii. How do we do the “works of God”. **TURN WITH ME TO JOHN 6**
 - iii. The crowd that saw his miracles. **John 6:28 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?**
 - 1. They show they were not listening. **John 6:26 26** Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.
 - 2. He states it again in v. **29** Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.
 - a. You want to do the works of God, trust in Me. That's what you do. Trust in Me, you put your faith in Me as the Messiah.
 - b. I do not only meet physical needs I am the only one able to meet your spiritual needs.
 - 3. Silly crowd responds by saying Moses provided bread so we believe him, what are you going to do? **6:30** They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work? Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.
 - 4. Jesus responds **32** Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. This is the same way Moses interpreted it in Deut 8.
 - 5. Jesus continues with this. **33** For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.
 - 6. They respond and I hope you do as well. **34** Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore **give us this bread**. Say that with me “**give us this bread.**”
 - 7. PAY CLOSE ATTENTION. This is a life changing truth. Not to just those in the desert in Exodus or those around Jesus in the New Testament but today in Alpharetta! **35** And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

Can God provide a table in the wilderness? You answer to that will determine so much about your opportunity to "do the works of God"!

Psalm 78:6 That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: **7** That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments: **8** And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God.

9 The children of Ephraim, being armed, and carrying bows, turned back in the day of battle.

10 They kept not the covenant of God, and refused to walk in his law;

11 And forgot his works, and his wonders that he had shewed them.

12 Marvellous things did he in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

13 He divided the sea, and caused them to pass through; and he made the waters to stand as an heap.

14 In the daytime also he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a light of fire.

15 He clave the rocks in the wilderness, and gave them drink as out of the great depths.

16 He brought streams also out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers.

17 And they sinned yet more against him by provoking the most High in the wilderness.

18 And they tempted God in their heart by asking meat for their lust.

19 Yea, they spake against God; they said, Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?

Conclusion

- Let's come full circle unless you think I got off track about "complaining". We are on the opposite side of the track going in the other direction.
- Your complaining and grumbling is being heard by God. It is not against your circumstances but against the goodness of God. He is your provider. You need him more than you need anything else. **Believe on Him and be quiet!**
- Do you think the provision for them to eat was not coming? DO you think God took them out there to kill them? Their ungrateful hearts changed the way they received the gift.
- Don't complain just look up!! They should have been expecting it because God is good not because they earned something for their step of faith.