

The Book of Exodus

The Miracle of Water from the Rock

Text: Exodus 17:1-7

- I. Israel Complains (Exodus 17:1-4)
- A. The Israelites continued their journey from the wilderness of Sin to Rephidim.
 - 1. Numbers 33:12-14 mentions two stops along this path.
 - 2. This is indicated here by the phrase “after their journeys.”
 - 3. The two records are not contradictory, but complimentary.
 - B. By the time they arrived at Rephidim, they had run out of water and found none to drink at this location.
 - C. Thus, the children of Israel began to complain against Moses and God.
 - 1. Chide – “To strive or contend (verbally or physically); to hold a controversy”
 - 2. Tempt – “To test, try, or prove; to put to the test”
 - 3. In their murmuring, they were testing the Lord by asking, “Is Jehovah among us, or not.”
 - D. Their anger became so strong that Moses felt that they were ready to stone him to death.
 - E. Thus, he cried to the Lord, asking, “What shall I do to this people?”
- II. God Instructs (Exodus 17:5-7)
- A. God instructed Moses to take with him his rod and the elders of Israel to a rock near Horeb.
 - 1. Horeb is closely associated with Mount Sinai.
 - 2. The elders of Israel would witness the wonder that God would perform.
 - 3. Note that God would stand upon the rock – specifying and authorizing.
 - a. Consider the star above the child Jesus (Matt. 2:9).
 - b. Consider the Holy Spirit resting upon Jesus (John 1:32-34).
 - B. Moses was instructed to strike the rock and, upon his obeying, water would come forth.
 - 1. Note that he was not instructed to smite the people!
 - 2. Instead of judgment, God once again offered grace.
 - C. Thus, God provided water for His people – from a hardened rock in a barren wilderness.
 - D. This became typical of the provisions that God gave them throughout their journey in the wilderness (cf. 1 Cor. 10:4).