

Exodus 17:1-7 – Water From The Rock.

The Israelites were guided by the cloud and the fire, the will of God, but there were tests and trials along the way. Being in the will of God is not immunity from trials.

“Thirst is the more eager appetite, so they are more eager and earnest for water than they were for bread.” (Trapp)

Their need was genuine, but their contending with Moses was not right.

“When we have a problem it is much easier to blame someone than to think through the problem carefully and spiritually. In this situation Israel could have thought, “We are in a desert; it’s not surprising there isn’t much water here. We need to look to God to meet this need.” Instead they accused Moses of plotting to kill them.

The lack of water wasn’t Moses’ fault. Yet as the leader of Israel, he had to lead them to the answer – and crying out to the Lord was the right way to lead them to the solution.

God directed Moses to get out **before the people**, to bring other leaders with him and to use what God had used before. This gave confidence to Moses, because he saw God use that same **rod** to do great miracles before.

Moses was commanded, in the presence of the Lord, to strike the rock with his rod, and water would gush forth to satisfy the thirst of God’s people. Moses did what God told him to do and water came from the rock. This was a great miracle of God’s provision and a rebuke to unbelieving and rebellious Israel.

He called the name of the place Massah and Meribah: “Is the Lord among us or not?” God remembered the way Israel tested Him at Massah and Meribah, recalling it in several passages.

[Deuteronomy 6:16](#) - *You shall not tempt the Lord your God as you tempted Him in Massah.*

This attitude among the Israelites was their great sin. In this time of difficulty, the children of Israel – directly or indirectly – doubted the loving presence and care of God among them. “Under the stress of an immediate lack, these people doubted the one fact of which they had overwhelming evidence.” (Morgan)

[Jeremiah 2:13](#) - *“For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water.*

John 4:13-14 - *Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."*

Later, Israel celebrate God's provision in the wilderness with The Feast of Tabernacles, they had a specific ceremony where they recalled this miracle of water from a rock.

John 7:37-38 - *On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."*

John 19:28 - *After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!"*

Jesus was struck with the rod of Moses –and from Him flowed water to satisfy our spiritual thirst. The living water Jesus spoke of was the Holy Spirit.

Luke 11:13 - *"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"*

1 Corinthians 10:1-6 - *Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and did all eat the same spiritual meat; and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.*