

THE CROSSING: WHEN THINGS TURN SOUR (PT3) EXODUS 15

The EXPERIENCE Bible Study
November 16, 2021
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Pastor



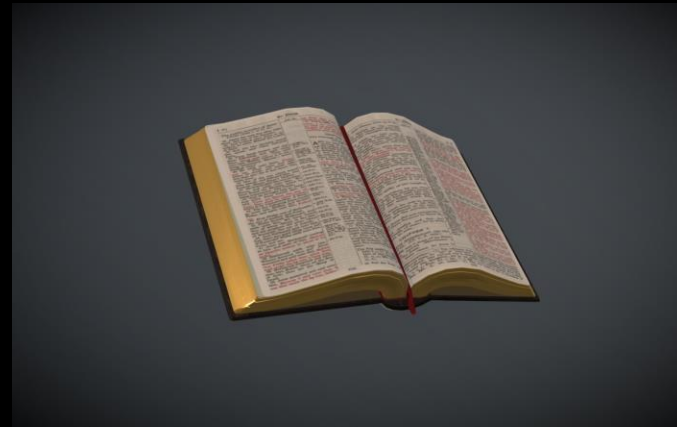
OVERARCHING THEMES

1. Liberation

2. Laws

3. Covenant

4. Presence



QUICK OBSERVATIONS (CHAP. 15)

1. The crossing of the Red Sea has been completed.
2. The people are beginning their travels through the wilderness – the wilderness provides a way to move action from one place to another, or to indicate the passage of time.
3. The wilderness journey becomes a metaphor for a **zone of life not properly ordered and without the usual, reliable life-support systems**. (Chap 15:22-18:27)

TEXTUAL CONTEXT (VS. 22-27)

1. The people are now in the wilderness – a territory not under the control of Pharaoh. It is however ***a place where there is no ordered, reliable life-support system.***
2. Surviving in the wilderness is life at **risk!!** This section informs us of Israel at "two watering" holes; Marah (vs. 23-25a) & Elim (vs. 27) They arrive at this place, in the desert, after having traveled 3-days without water. ***This is not strange for there is NO water in deserts.***

THE TURNING POINT (VS. 24)

1. The absence of water quickly turned the situational celebration into a situational crisis – ***the only thing that changed over the course of the 3-days was their situation.***
2. The "complaints" by the people are indicative of the of restlessness and discontentment in the hearts of the people. The trust they had placed in Moses (14:31) had now eroded all because **God led** them to a water-shortage.

THE TURNING POINT (CONT.)

3. The "sour taste" in their mouths appeared as a result of not having what they "needed", when they "needed" it (vs.23). ***Some situations are outside of the realm of human resolution, therefore care must be taken when assessing the moment.***

4. Water could not be invented, devised or manufactured!! It can only be given and received and ***what we see here is a case of utter dependence.*** Water is required for life and is urgent in the wilderness.

TEXTUAL TAKEAWAYS #1

1. During the moments of transition it's important to keep a check on our level of restlessness and discontentment. They verbalized their discontent with Moses but in essence, God was the "object" of their issue. ***They were in the situation because of God!***

2. The "complaint-assurance" structure (vs. 24-25) is similar to 14:11-14 but instead of receiving a "word" to bring them comfort, God acts. ***God responds to their complaints with a "wonder" to assure them of God's sovereign fidelity.***

TEXTUAL TAKEAWAYS #2

1. God, who presides over all life-processes, exercises God's sovereignty by issuing an "***If-Then***" statement into the lives of God's people. ***This statement clearly reflects the conditionality that exists within the relationship*** (vs. 26-27)
2. The situational change in the lives of the people brought them into an awareness of the ***conditionality*** that exists between God and God's people.
3. The liberation from Egypt ***does not lead to autonomy for Israel***, but rather to an alternative sovereignty that imposes an alternative control on the liberated slaves.

TEXTUAL TAKEAWAYS #3


1. God provides the people with a declaration of self-disclosure and self-identity - "**for I am the LORD who heals you**" - God is assuring them that this is not Pharoah. A god of burdensome, obedience or a power that generates disease but a genuine alterative power.

2. God's therapeutic concern for the overall well-being of the people is introduced – their situation allowed them to gain an awareness of God's radical reconstrual of reality. This is evident by the water at Elim (vs. 27) - a luxurious "watering-hole" that was the complete opposite of Marah (vs.23)


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PRAYER

LORD God, we have **experienced** the power of Your might, on numerous occasions, in our lives. There have been times when our discontentment has gotten the best of however. ***In those times when our situations turn sour, help us to keep Your "sweet" taste in our mouths.*** You have revealed to us that You are our God in many ways so forgive us when we acted as though You didn't care. As we continue in this journey, ***let us not fall victim to our emotions when we find ourselves in moments of utter dependence on You.*** In Jesus name, Amen!

Let's
Pray!