



BAND of BROTHERS

FALL SERIES 2023 – WEEK 6

### Exodus 13:17-17:16: World-Class Whiners

*Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!*

*Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

– Psalm 103:1-5 ESV

- **Bread, meat, water, and whine**
  - This section is filled with symbolic imagery
    - The Passover **Lamb** – 12:1-27
    - The unleavened **bread** – 13:3-10
    - The **water** of the Red Sea – 14:1-29
    - The **bitter water** made sweet – 15:22-27
    - The **bread** in the morning – 16:1-7
    - The **quail** in the evening – 16:8-26
    - The **water** from the rock – 17:1-7
  - He used a wooden staff...
    - ...to part the sea and produce dry ground
    - ...to part the dry rock and produce water
  - He used a piece of wood...
    - ...to make bitter water sweet
  - He caused bread to fall from heaven...
  - And quail to settle on the ground...
  - All in response to Israel's complaints
    - Grace in the face of ingratitude
    - Blessing in response to bitterness
    - Unmerited favor to undeserving sinners

*"Why did you bring us out here to die in the wilderness? Weren't there enough graves for us in Egypt? What have you done to us? Why did you make us leave Egypt? Didn't we tell you this would happen while we were still in Egypt? We said, 'Leave us alone! Let us be*

*slaves to the Egyptians. It's better to be a slave in Egypt than a corpse in the wilderness!"*  
 – Exodus 14:11-12 NLT

*When they came to the oasis of Marah, the water was too bitter to drink. So they called the place Marah (which means "bitter").*

*Then the people complained and turned against Moses. "What are we going to drink?"* – Exodus 15:23-24 NLT

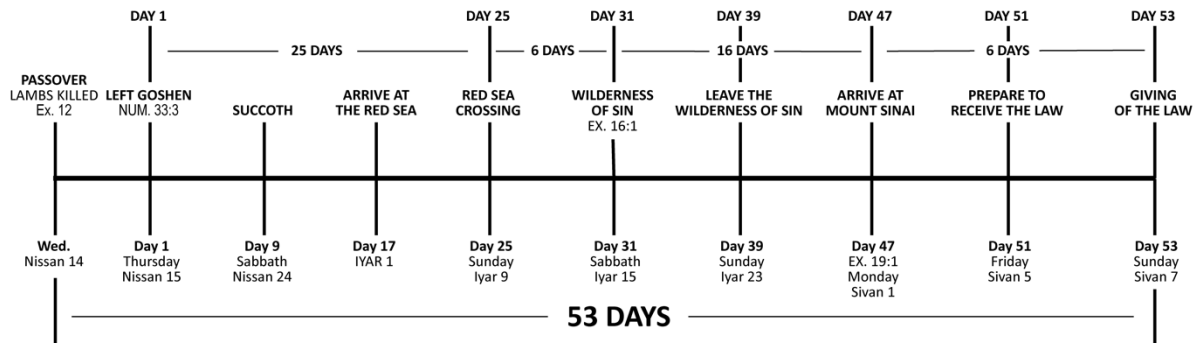
*...the whole community of Israel complained about Moses and Aaron. "If only the Lord had killed us back in Egypt," they moaned. "There we sat around pots filled with meat and ate all the bread we wanted. But now you have brought us into this wilderness to starve us all to death."* – Exodus 16:2-3 NLT

*...there was no water there for the people to drink. So once more the people complained against Moses. "Give us water to drink!" they demanded.* – Exodus 17:1-2 NLT

*...tormented by thirst, they continued to argue with Moses. "Why did you bring us out of Egypt? Are you trying to kill us, our children, and our livestock with thirst?"* – Exodus 17:3 NLT

- **Free – to complain**
  - God had redeemed them out of slavery
  - He had graciously spared their firstborn
  - He had blessed them with riches
  - He had miraculously delivered them
  - He had destroyed their enemy
  - And this is how they repaid Him
  - A timeline of grace and ingratitude

## TIMELINE FOR THE EXODUS



Adapted from Steven Rudd ([www.bible.ca/exodus](http://www.bible.ca/exodus))

- **Food for thought**

*Then Moses said to the people, "Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the LORD brought you out from this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten. – Exodus 13:3-4 ESV*

- God institutes an annual celebration:
  - The Feast of Unleavened Bread
    - Tied to the Feast of Passover
    - Designed to be a memorial
    - And the start to a new calendar year

"With the inauguration of the Passover, the Israelites began a new year. From that point forward, they would live their lives based on a different calendar than all the other nations of the earth. And that calendar would include sacred assemblies and holy days that no other people group on the planet were required to keep...

"This new holy calendar served as a constant reminder to the Israelites that time belonged to God and so did they. Every day, week, month, and year was a gift from God Almighty. God expected His people to live the entirety of their lives with a constant awareness of His law that permeated every second of their lives." – Ken Miller, Devotionary™ on the Book of Leviticus

- **Free – to remember**

- God provided them with annual reminders  
...of His **salvation** and their **sanctification**
- Passover recalled His **deliverance**
- The Feast of Unleavened Bread was meant to demonstrate their commitment to live **set-apart lives**

"**He had saved them to sanctify them.** Getting the Israelites out of Egypt had been easy. Getting Egypt out of Israel was another matter altogether." – Ken Miller, Devotionary™ on the Book of Leviticus

- **Divine presence, protection, and power**

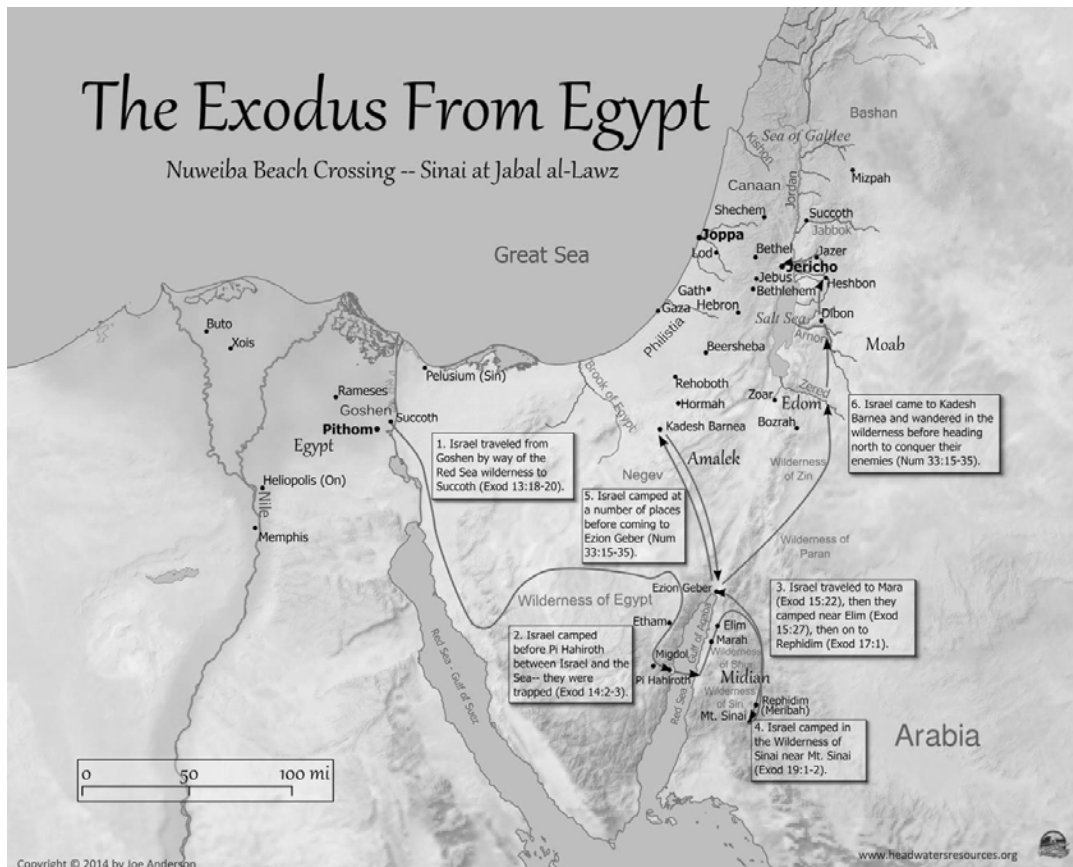
*When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near....But God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. – Exodus 13:17, 18 ESV*

*And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. – Exodus 13:21 ESV*

- Another theophany
- One sign, not two
  - During the day, the smoke was visible

- At night, the fire became apparent
- It was perpetual and mobile

*Then the LORD said to Moses, “Tell the people of Israel to turn back and encamp in front of Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, in front of Baal-zephon; you shall encamp facing it, by the sea”. – Exodus 14:1-2 ESV*



*King Solomon built a fleet of ships at Ezion-geber, which is near Elath on the shore of the Red Sea, in the land of Edom. And Hiram sent with the fleet his servants, seamen who were familiar with the sea, together with the servants of Solomon. And they went to Ophir and brought from there gold, 420 talents, and they brought it to King Solomon. – 1 Kings 9:26-27 ESV*

- **Free- to doubt**
  - The Israelites have walked for 18 days
  - Now they find themselves trapped
    - The sea is uncrossable
    - The Egyptians are unconquerable
  - But Yahweh is all-powerful
- **Free – to be amazed**
  - God had them right where He wanted them

- But they longed to be elsewhere
- They were out of options and hope
- Then Moses gave them wise counsel

*Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.” – Exodus 14:13-14 ESV*

Stop fearing – and start trusting  
 Stand firm – and don’t run  
 See God’s salvation – not your destruction

- God had them right where He wanted them
- They were now free and rich’
- And they had left Egypt confidently

*And the people of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. A mixed multitude also went up with them, and very much livestock, both flocks and herds. – Exodus 12:37-38 ESV*

*The LORD brought his people out of Egypt, loaded with silver and gold; and not one among the tribes of Israel even stumbled. – Psalm 105:37 NLT*

*...and the sons of Israel went up in martial array from the land of Egypt. – Exodus 13: NASB*

- They were cocky and over-confident
- They were surprisingly self-sufficient
- But they would soon discover their weakness

*But he [God] said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. – 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 ESV*

- **So great a salvation...**

*The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. – Exodus 14:28-29 ESV*

...yet so quick to forget  
 ...at Marah – they grumbled about thirst  
 ...in Sin – they complained about hunger  
 ...at Rephidim – they demanded water

- Remember the Feast of Unleavened Bread

*“Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a feast to the LORD. Unleavened bread shall be eaten for seven days; no leavened bread shall be seen with you, and no leaven shall be seen with you in all your territory. You shall tell your son on that day, ‘It is because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.’ And it shall be to you as a sign on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the law of the LORD may be in your mouth. For with a strong hand the LORD has brought you out of Egypt. You shall therefore keep this statute at its appointed time from year to year.” – Exodus 13:6-10 ESV*

- **That they may know...and remember**

- Forgetfulness leads to ungratefulness
- Ungratefulness is a sign of doubt
- Doubt produces disobedience
- Disobedience results in discipline

*Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name!  
Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and **forget not all his benefits,**  
who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
who satisfies you with good  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. – Psalm 103:1-5 ESV*

- **Discussion questions**

- Try to recall one thing God did for you this past week, and share it with the guys at your table.
- Why does forgetting what the Lord has done make trusting Him for the present and the future so difficult?
- Go back and look at Psalm 103:2-5. How can we live out these verses in our everyday lives? Close your time by “blessing the Lord” for all that He has done for you.



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FALL SERIES 2023 – WEEK 7 HOMEWORK

### **WEEK 7 – Exodus 18:1-24:18: Counsel, Commandments, & Covenant**

These chapters cover the wise counsel Moses received from his father-in-law, as well as law given to Moses by God. This section also contains the covenant confirmation ceremony. God calls His people to a life of willful obedience to His commands, promising to bless them if they will do so. The covenant He makes with them is conditional in nature, requiring not only their assent but their total compliance. From beginning to end, the Israelites commit themselves to living according to God's word, and God tells them that if they are faithful to Him, He will richly bless them when they enter the Promised Land. We will take a 36,000 approach to our exploration of the specific laws God ordained. The major emphasis will be on the holiness of God's laws and the need for the people to faithfully obey them.

- Read Exodus 18:1-24:18. What jumps out at you in these passages?
- Take time during the week to read through pages 173-252 in the Devotional™ reading.
- Chapter 19 records the arrival of Moses' father-in-law, Jethro. In an earlier chapter, we are told his name is Reuel. In Hebrew, the name Reuel translates into "friend of God." It may be that Reuel was his priestly name or title, while Jethro was his given name. But what evidence in this passage do you find that Jethro was a Yahweh follower? In what ways are his words to Moses godly counsel and not just good advice?
- According to verses 1-6 of chapter 19, what promises does God make to the people of Israel?

What were they required to do?

What do verses 7-25 teach about the holiness of God and how should that impact our conception of Him?

Why was it important that the people consecrate themselves? What would happen to them if they didn't?

What are some ways we might consecrate ourselves to God?

- When considering the Ten Commandments (see Exodus 20:1-21) that God gave to the people of Israel, in what ways are these practical laws for everyday life?

Why do you think God summarized all His laws with these simple ten commandments, and why are they still so relevant in our modern context?

- Exodus 20:22-23:19 contains what is known as the Book of the Covenant. When you consider all the various laws that God outlined in these chapters, what jumps out at you?

God covered a diverse range of topics with these laws. What does that tell us about His desire for His chosen people to allow His will to impact every area of their lives?

- What does God promise in chapter 23:20-33?

What does He require of the people of Israel?

- In chapter 24, verses 1-8, the people of Israel ratify their covenant with God. What is significant about verse 3? How well did the Israelites keep their commitment to the covenant?

What are your first impressions of the event described in verses 9-18?