

Evening Worship August 14, 2016
"Test Two, Failed Too; But Jesus Saves!"
Exodus 17:1-7

I. *What we are by our sin-nature: thirsty and ready to kill –*

1. *It was sin that got our first parents kicked out of Eden, and sin made this world a wilderness –*

A. *Adam's first place was a well-watered garden –*

but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.⁷ And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.⁸ The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.¹⁰ Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads. (Genesis 2:6-10 NKJ)

B. *Sin brought forth thorns, thistles and death –*

Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed *is* the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.¹⁸ Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field.¹⁹ In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you *are*, And to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:17-19 NKJ)

C. *Sin resulted in Adam and Eve being kicked out of Paradise –*

So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life. (Genesis 3:24 NKJ)

D. *Rephidim – meant "resting place" but in a sin-filled world even resting places can be without water!*

2. *It was sin which made the first child, and many after him, into murderers –*

4:1 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain... (Genesis 4:1 NKJ)

not as Cain *who* was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. (1 John 3:12 NKJ)

The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. (Genesis 6:11 NKJ)

3. *Note this was the way of even the people of Israel –*

A. *God tested them again with no water –*

Then all the congregation of the children of Israel set out on their journey from the Wilderness of Sin, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped in Rephidim; but *there was no water* for the people to drink. (Exodus 17:1 NKJ)

B. *Note, they contended with Moses and tempted God –*

Therefore the people contended with Moses, and said, "Give us water, that we may drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt the LORD?" (Exodus 17:2 NKJ)

- *The word "contended" here represents a higher level of hostility than before, though it was God's intention to sanctify His people, they were getting worse, not better!*

- *Give us water is a demand not a prayer, and it is brought to Moses when it should have been brought to God!*

C. *They accused Moses of trying to murder them –*

And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, "Why *is* it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" (Exodus 17:3 NKJ)

- *Were they safer in Egypt? They were sinning by doubting God's providential care!*

- *Did they really believe it was Moses' or God's intention to kill them?*

D. *Moses thought they may be ready to stone him –*

So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me!" (Exodus 17:4 NKJ)

E. Note, they also had questioned God's presence –
... because they tempted the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?" (Exodus 17:7 NKJ)

"God's people were suffering from a kind of spiritual amnesia. Their memory trouble made them forget the provision, the protection, and the presence of God. In the words of the psalmist, "they soon forgot what he had done" Philip Ryken

They soon forgot His works; They did not wait for His counsel,¹⁴ But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, And tested God in the desert. (Psalm 106:13-14 NKJ)

F. God's people were tempting, testing or trying the LORD –
Exodus 15:2 & 7

"You tested him at Massah; you contended with him at the waters of Meribah" (Deut. 33:8). The Hebrew word used in these verses (*rib*) is the term for a covenant lawsuit. We also know that this was a trial because the people presented a list of their grievances, which were really accusations. As we have seen, they charged God with neglecting to provide for them, refusing to protect them, and failing to be present with them." Philip Ryken

II. Moses did what we all need to do: PRAY –
So Moses cried out to the LORD, ... (Exodus 17:4 NKJ)

1. This is what Jesus tells us to do –
"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.¹⁰ "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.¹¹ "If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish?¹² "Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?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!" (Luke 11:9-13 NKJ)

2. Paul teaches the same –
pray without ceasing, (1 Thessalonians 5:17 NKJ)

3. We NEED to PRAY because everything good is external (not natural) to us –
(Galatians 5:16-23 NKJ)

III. God's answer to prayer and instruction, strike the
ROCK –

And the LORD said to Moses, "Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river, and go.⁶ "Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink." And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.⁷ So he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the contention of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?" (Exodus 17:5-7 NKJ)

Paul tells us what this means –
and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.⁵ But with most of them God was not well pleased, for *their bodies* were scattered in the wilderness. (1 Corinthians 10:4-5 NKJ)

What the Rock / Christ did for God's people –

1. Protected them from destruction by taking the judgment they deserved upon Himself –
⁶ "Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock
At Horeb where the law will be given, the Rock is struck, and Christ is judged for our sins!

2. Provided life giving, sustaining water, Christ does the same –
John 7:37-39
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.³⁸ "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."³⁹ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (John 7:37-39 NKJ)

3. Proved God's presence with them –
For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.
And He is with us -
... and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.
(Matthew 28:20 NKJ)

Arnold Brevick