

Lest we think times are bleak spiritually in our generation:

Abraham Lincoln observed about his own generation, "We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven. We have grown in numbers, wealth, and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and which multiplied, and enriched, and strengthened us."

Places where Moses wrote:

Ex. 17:14 *the Lord: "Write this in a book..."*

Ex. 24:4-7 *Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord...*

Ex. 34:7 *the Lord: "Write down these words..."*

Num. 33:1-2 *Moses recorded...*

Deu. 31:9 *Moses wrote...*

Deu. 31:24: *Moses finished writing...*

When the Lord tells you to write something in a book, it's serious.

"The Lord is my banner":

Queen Elizabeth has 3 royal residences and two private ones. Anyone with eyes can tell which one she is in.

Thought for us: Is it obvious to others that Jesus is in residence in our life?

The ending of It Happened on the way to Sinai:

What does God want them to learn from this attack?

What does He want us to learn from the 4-part series of their trek from the Red Sea to Mt. Sinai?

Series: The Life And Times Of Moses

Title: It Happened On The Way To Sinai

Topic: Teaching Grace (part 4...the 4th crisis)

Review: As we left off last time, the people grumbled against Moses and God because they had no water at Rephidim. For the 3rd time God was patient and merciful. He provided water by having Moses strike a rock with the staff.

So far on their post-Red Sea travels they have needed water, then food, then water. God has very clearly been the One who has provided for their needs. God is attempting to train the people to depend on Him.

Lesson:

1. Exodus 17:8-10: The _____ of the Amalekites. (God's wise Providence.)

Who is Amalek?



Points:

A. This story has all the makings of a national and spiritual disaster. Israel has been discouraged in the wilderness. The trials of lack of food and water have already taken their toll on the Israelites. Their morale is already low and now they are attacked.

B. The rest of the story... Deuteronomy 25:17-18: The weakest, the most vulnerable part of the train of the Israelite people is swarmed upon by this tribe of desert dwellers.

C. The first appearance of Joshua. Moses chooses him to respond to the attack. We know nothing of this man...yet.

Joshua (Things we learn later):

- He is the son of Nun.
- He is a tribal chieftain.
- He is Moses' right hand man.
- He will be Moses' successor.
- He will be the chief captain of Israel's army.

D. Unlike the other side of the Red Sea when Pharaoh attacked, here God calls for His people to take an _____ role in their own defense. Back then the people were to stand still and watch the salvation of the Lord. Here at Rephidim the people are to have an appointed army to defend themselves against the attacking force.

Pause for us today:

There should be a balance between the active and the passive elements our spiritual walk

1. Passively we are to be:
 - _____ upon the Lord.
 - _____ in the Lord.
 - _____ in the Lord.
 - _____ the Lord work.
2. And there is the _____ element of doing the responsible things that God calls us to do.

E. The people are going into armed combat for the first time. They are former slaves with no military training. Moses tells Joshua to "choose" men to go fight.

The word *choose* is a command to Joshua. It means to take a keen look and make a careful, well-thought choice.

F. Your number one guy is on a hillside with a stick. What is God doing?

God has deliberately placed His people in this circumstance because He is positioning them to learn AGAIN something about Him. The wise and providential hand of God is at work.

2. Verses 11-13: The _____ of the battle: (God's provision of victory.)

A. What is the common object in this story and in the first half of chapter 17? The _____.

B. When the staff is held up, Israel is winning, and when it comes down, they are losing.

God wants our focus of attention to be on the staff. So what is the message? All through Exodus, the staff is both a symbol of the _____ and _____ of God. It is a physical sign of the might of God. The point being made here is that it is God who is fighting for Israel. His power is more important than theirs.. So, He is the One they should depend on for victory.

C. The hands of Moses got heavy. Aaron and Hur assisted Moses so his hands stayed up.

So, the men fought, the leaders kept the staff flying high, and God gave them the victory.

Important note:

Aaron and Hur do not get much ink in this passage. They had to climb the same mountain themselves, and their support of Moses' arms took time, strength, and commitment on their part.

In Perusalem:

"Church is a living, dynamic body. If the Aarons and Hurs are poor stewards – do not use their spiritual gifts – both the 'common good' and the 'glory of God' will be adversely affected." Expositor's Bible Commentary

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12:

3. Verses 14-16: A call to _____ God's power, presence, and judgment.

"Write this in a book..."

"God recognized that people have the habit of forgetting, so He instructed Moses to write down in a book what had taken place in the battle against the Amalekites. Furthermore, this was to be read to Joshua, the future leader of Israel, so he would be sure to remember as well. This victory would become a source of encouragement for Christians throughout history--all because it was written down." W. Kroll