

Exodus 16:1–7

“Choosing between God's Fury and God's Favor in Trials and Blessings”

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¹ And they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they departed from the land of Egypt. ² Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³ And the children of Israel said to them, “Oh, that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. ⁵ And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.”

⁶ Then Moses and Aaron said to all the children of Israel, “At evening you shall know that the LORD has brought you out of the land of Egypt. ⁷ And in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD; for He hears your complaints against the LORD. But what are we, that you complain against us?”

Main Idea: How we respond to God’s providence reveals whether we consider God Himself the best part of His providence. Our choices are between God’s fury and God’s favor.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Exodus 16 beginning in verse 1. Going through verse 7. These are God's words and they journeyed from a lien and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the wilderness of sin, which is between a limb and Sinai on the 15th day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt than the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness and the children of Israel said to them owe that we had died by the hand of Yahweh in the land of Egypt, When we sat by the pots of meat.

And when we ate bread, to the full for, you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger. Then you always said to Moses Behold, I will reign bread from heaven for you and the people shall go out. And gather a certain quota every day.

That I may test them whether they will walk in my law or not and it will be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily than Moses. And Aaron said to all the children of Israel At evening, you shall know that you always has brought you out of the land of Egypt.

And in the morning, you shall see the glory of Yahweh for, he hears your complaints against Yahweh, But what are we that you complain against us?

So far the reading of God's inspired and inherent or it to rejoice to know from his work that he adds His blessing to the hearing and the preaching and the hearing preached of it.

When Moses was would give his farewell sermon in the book of Deuteronomy and he would tell the people of Israel, what would come to them? If they walked with the Lord, in obedience to his word, in the blessings, that would come before them are come to them for it.

And what would come to them if they sinned against the Lord and disobedience, and the curses would that would come to them for that. He put it at one point by the Holy Spirit. This way, I have set before you life and death choose life. Well, the Lord has done very similarly to Israel.

When at Mara they they complained against him. Remember, it took three days from the Red Sea Crossing until they complained against the Lord. And he made the water suite for them. And then he said there, he made a statute and an ordinance for them. And there he tested them and said, if you diligently heed the voice of Yahweh, your God and do what is right in his sight to give ear to His commandments and keep all his statutes.

I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians for. I am Yahweh. Who heals you? And there is, isn't there the implied threat that what we deserve for our sin is the curse and wrath of God which he had displayed in the plagues that he

put upon Egypt and he set before them as it were of life and death, blessing and curse and then he immediately brings them to the place called Aileen.

That we heard about last week with the 12 wells on the 70 palm trees, but as soon as they leave a limb and they go into the wilderness and you think about it when they from when they leave Egypt and they get to the Red Sea and they can't by the Red Sea where the Lord told them the camp, and then they have the Red Sea Crossing.

And then they, they have the, the rejoicing over the Lord, killing the Egyptian army. And then three days later they have Mara. And then from Mara the Lord takes them to Aleam and then they leave a lien and all of that time takes a month and a half. It feels when we're reading it.

Like it's a lot longer, doesn't it? But think about all that would be in the last six or so weeks of the memory of these Israelites, You know, for our purposes. If the Passover night had been at the end of January than today, would be roughly about the same length away.

As the passage before us this afternoon, we are a ficklehearted. We are we very easily as it were go astray in our hearts and they even show that they remember it. Because what had been told them was that if you walk with God he will not bring upon you.

The plagues that he brought upon Egypt and what are the words by which they complain to Moses and Aaron when they're hungry. Oh, that we had died by the hand of Yahweh in Egypt. Can you imagine speaking such a curse on yourself? Oh that we had died knowing that it was the fury and wrath of God against our sin.

That was killing us. There is here. Hopefully not the understanding of what it was that they were saying they're using language that they have learned to use in their talking about what the Lord had done to them in Egypt. But when you think about the day of your death and being prepared to die, and I hope all of you think about being prepared to die, Even you little children.

I have not taken as many walks through our cemetery as I should, but I suspect that there are a few little graves there Once served a church in which there was a great big cemetery with a lot of little graves. And I would take my, then one, and three up to three and five before we left your old walking through the, and we would walk.

And we would stop at every grave whose dates indicated that the occupant was one of their ages. I hope that when you think about always living as one prepared to die, that the big part of that is living is someone who clings to Jesus Christ, and who knows that none, who cling to him, can be lost and everyone who trusts in his name shall be saved.

And none who call upon his name. Can be put to shame that the hope that you have in him will not evaporate in the day of your death. And then, when you think about the various kinds of providence, by by which you die, you usually hope for. And you know some people think it's morbid to think this way You hope for opportunity to be mindful of the gospel.

You hope that you'll have your mind at the time, You hope that you'll have enough wits to be able to speak, because that's going to be your last chance in this world to testify to the Lord Jesus, especially for your loved ones. Whom you hope you will have around you or yeah.

Yeah. Hope to go to heaven by cement truck but that's as far as pain and lacking opportunity to sin against God in our dying and that bothers Christians that you think about, you know, if it's hard, if it's long, if it's painful. Lord, give me grace that I want to go with anxiety.

But we'll go trusting in Christ. Cement truck is a good way to avoid the anxiety of the dying part, but it's a bad way to have good opportunity to give one last testimony, But I hope none of you could ever imagine thinking, oh, that we had died by the hand of Yahweh in Egypt, all that we had died under Carson plague, because at least we had pots full of meat and bellies full of bread.

Now they didn't, but that's what worldliness always does to you. Whether it's the worldliness of looking back on whatever the previous days were, is the good old days or looking forward to whatever you hope, prosperity, earthly speaking or coming or the good new days. All of, that's the heart and mind of Esau.

So all he can see is the pot of the red stuff, you know. Give me the red stuff and for a mess of pottage to use. The wonderful old phrase sold his birthrights and then Hebrews 12 comes and says when you're suffering, when you're under affliction, when the Lord is producing holiness, in you, when he's getting, you ready to see him and preparing you for the glory, that Jesus has earned for you don't be like, Esau and say, but if only, I could have a pot of red stuff, or Israel.

And say, if only, I could have a thoughtful of me and a belly full of bread, or whatever else, it is that you and I get distracted by, because we find our pleasure in it, or we feel secure from it and we end up living for it. No one can serve two masters, you know, Tuesdays the coming Tuesdays devotional, praise God.

You'll have opportunity to think about that, but the choice between pleasure in this world and the everlasting pleasures of the life. To come is a bigger choice than light and momentary, and eternal and weighty. It's actually a choice between the creator himself and the created stuff, because if you have your delight in God, you can delight in the bread that he gives you because he gave it to you.

It is a good gift. God doesn't say, no, you're not going to eat a thing for 40 years. He gives the man, a man is a wonderful gift and we'll be thinking about that more in next week's portion. But the choice between earthly pleasure and eternal pleasure is the choice between enjoying the Creator in the good things that he gives us.

So that whatever he gives us, you can keep enjoying Him and know that he is good. That's what the Sabbath is all about more next week. That's why the Sabbath is so intertwined, with the giving of manna in the rest of the passage. So, it's a choice between perishing and paradise.

And they actually chose perishing because it came with the figment of their imagination. Buffet that they convince themselves that they had had in Egypt. Now Not only do our afflictions, give us the opportunity to just see what will come up. Come from us. But also the blessings that God gives us, You always said to Moses notice it's the Lord who answers their complaint in verse 3 and that's where Moses and Aaron get the idea in verse 7, when it says, but what are we that you complain against us, They didn't even have the opportunity to bring the complaint to the Lord, the the people complained, and the Lord answered.

And he answered something marvelous because they deserved what happened to Egypt and they deserved what happened to Sodom. And if you and I are just reading with a view towards the justice of God, and the holiness of God, the kind of thing that makes us cringe. When we realize what our own bitterness of heart and complaining, often is not so much complaining against that, which is against God, but complaining against his providence, to us, then we read that they've just complained.

And then verse 4, then you always said to Moses, behold I will reign from heaven And if you're familiar with the Bible up to this part You're thinking flood water await He said never again, flood water Then for sure fire and brimstone. That's still fair game, isn't it? But what does he say?

Here's our complaint. And he responds. I will reign from heaven. Bread. Is that not his response to your sin Christian you know when you're in John 6 and Israelites are still looking for the buffet it, what sign do you show? Jesus, God gave our fathers, the buffet simply. And Jesus says, I'm the bread from heaven.

It's not marvelous that that's God's response to the greatness of our sinfulness is to give from heaven. Not the flood waters of Noah or the fire and brimstone of Sodom but his own son for our life. And then he says, and the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day that I may test them whether they will walk in my law or not.

And so, we'll see that next week, that Even when the Lord is giving you good things, He's testing whether it's the receiving them from him and therefore walking with him, according to his word, in those, good things that is going to come out of you. Sometimes it's easier in the affliction, isn't it?

The affliction makes you feel your sinfulness and your neediness makes you cry out to God. And there are those who are hardened by affliction, but I think for many of us, we would readily admit before God's Word or more tested by our prosperity, whether we're as desperate for him then.

And as delighted in him then, and react is the one who gives the grace by which we walk according to His Word, as we heard a whole sermon from sermon about for max, three earlier, Let's ask him for that grace. Our Father in heaven. We bless your name for these seven verses and the mirror that they are to us in which we are able to look and see, just how awful it is to complain against your good providence to us, especially to us who know that.

It was the Lord of glory. Who was crucified for us whom you had prepared for for us. And so we pray that you would help us by your spirit that you would give us from Christ. The faith that we need that you would give us from Christ by faith, the repentance that we need so that we would walk according to his word so that when you give us good things, we would delight in you and your goodness first and foremost in those things.

And when you carry us through affliction that your wisdom sends, and your power carries us through that, part of that power would be your grace sustaining us and hearts that are content with your goodness and not covetous. But that looked to you for the end of all our suffering, which we were joined to know, shall shortly come in the Lord, Jesus Christ in His name.

Also, we ask these things. Amen.