

**Marah and Elim**  
**Exodus 15:22-27**

Having finished singing and dancing, the Israelites move on into the wilderness of Sinal. The Lord had instructed them to carry certain provisions for that part of the journey that would take them out of Egypt and into unknown territory. But having used up most of their food and water the people began to face serious challenges. Moses began to struggle with the rebelliousness of the travelers. The journey ahead, though ultimately successful, would be long and difficult. Today's passage shows us exactly what is needed for our journey to the Promised Land.

I. **Leadership: *Then Moses led Israel***

- A. If men were perfect, God would be their only Leader. (But He **IS** the ultimate Leader.)
- B. Our sinful human nature does not respond adequately to God or to ordinary men.
- D. **Moses** was chosen and prepared by God to be a charismatic wilderness shepherd.
- C. Moses was always a mediatorial leader (not a royal one) armed only with the Word of God.
- E. Moses as mediator/teacher is a type of Christ, who redeems & leads us like a Shepherd.

II. **Food and Water: *"What shall we drink?"***

- A. As many times as God punished the Israelites, He never let them die of thirst.
- B. Yet the chief point of the Israelites grumbling was about not having water.
- C. All the waters of the world were in the Lord's control, but they whined about water.
- D. An arduous journey requires water and food, and there was an ample supply at every point.
- E. Christ, our leader supplies the following: His body and blood, as well as living water.

III. **The Law of the Lord: *He made for them a statute and regulation***

The three uses of the law: Pedagogical, Civil,  
Normative

- A. The Israelites already had a military order (12:51) but needed the regimen of God's statutes.
- B. The "first commandment" was to keep all the other commandments.
- C. The 3 uses of the Law would help the Israelites in all phases of their lives.
- D. Obedience to God practically guarantees a successful journey (not necessarily an easy one).
- E. We are saved by grace & the righteousness of Christ, but we live according His Word.

IV. **The Supernatural: *The waters became sweet***

- A. The Israelites would never have made it to the Promised Land without supernatural help.
- B. In this case God made bitter water drinkable, so also manna, etc., and employed a tree.
- C. The Lord is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think. (Eph. 3:20)
- D. It is interesting to note that Jesus used saliva and pool water in his healings.
- E. Looking more closely, it is comforting to know God can make the bitter sweet.

V. **Rest and Refreshment: *They came to Elim...springs...dates***

- A. Any exhausting task is helped by rest.
- B. Most ancient trade routes went from oases to oases.
- C. The Israelites needed rest and the opportunity to reflect on what God had done for them.
- D. Jesus valued those periods when He could be alone with His disciples.
- E. We should also value these provisions of the Lord, especially via the Church.