



## From the Sea to Sinai

- The First Challenge—Lack of Potable Water
  - From our distant and lofty perspective we immediately express wonder at the quickly fading memory of God’s care, provision and power the Israelites display here—that is until we remember our panic at the times when we face a real or perceived shortage of a necessity.
  - Although they grumbled against Moses, it was the pillar of cloud and fire that led them to this place.
  - God revealed in the miraculous manner that He made the water potable that He led them to this place to test them and revealed how He would protect them.
  - Obedience and trust in God will result in physical wellbeing of His people.\*
  - God then leads them to a place of abundant supply.

\* *None of These Diseases: The Bible’s Health Secrets for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, S.I. McMillen, M.D. & David E. Stern, M.D.

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- The Second Challenge—Food
  - They are now a month into the journey
  - The novelty of deliverance had worn off and now the daily routine of survival results in them referring to the time in Egypt as “the good ole days”. The power of this draw to endure slavery for temporary and fleeting relief is the root today of the many destructive things people allow to control their lives.
  - Again blame for the hardships is directed at Moses and now includes Aaron. Moses points out the fact that their grumbling and blame is against Yahweh. It is often people that we lash out at when the real target is God.
  - God will provide immediate provision of meat in the evening and the first of ongoing provision of bread (manna) in the morning. The evening provision is to prove that it is Yahweh who brought them out of Egypt and the glory of Yahweh will be revealed in the morning provision.

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- The Second Challenge—Food
  - The manner of the provision of manna was to test the obedience of the people.
    - The people were to gather the manna every day. Normally food was gathering in the form of reaping a crop that would all be gathered at one time and stored or preserved for use until exhausted. In this case the trust would be in the food stored. Here the trust had to be in God.
    - A double portion was to be gathered on the sixth day in anticipation of the rest on the seventh day.
  - The result of God’s provision will be that the people would know that He is Yahweh.

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- The Second Challenge—Food
  - The beginning of the manna brings the introduction of the Sabbath day in the life of the nation of Israel.
    - A day of rest is described in the context of creation but this is the first mention of it in scripture as an expectation for the Israelites to observe.
    - Verse 29 refers to the Sabbath as a gift. The people were to have a day when they did not have engage in the everyday task of putting food on the table. It was a day of rest. This is reflected in Jesus' words: "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. *Mark 2:27 (ESV)*

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- The Second Challenge—Food
  - The beginning of the manna brings the introduction of the Sabbath day in the life of the nation of Israel.
    - God would miraculously preserve the manna gathered on the previous day for the Sabbath day in contrast to any other day when it would breed worms and stink if kept overnight. Gathering the double portion on the sixth day and keeping it for the next day was an act of faith in the revealed will of God. Verses 27-30 reveal that some failed this test.

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- The Second Challenge—Food
  - The Manna
    - Hebrew for “What is it?”
    - Coriander is cilantro when it has flowered and produced seeds.
    - Tasted like wafers made with honey
    - “The people went about and gathered it and ground it in handmills or beat it in mortars and boiled it in pots and made cakes of it. And the taste of it was like the taste of cakes baked with oil.” Numbers 11:8 (ESV)



\* <http://www.readyanswers.org/PathfinderBibleExperience/Exodus/ConstraintsHinOmerEphah.pdf>

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- The Second Challenge—Food
  - The Manna
    - An omer\* of it was to be gathered and eventually placed in the Ark of the Covenant. (See Hebrews 9:3-4, also compare 1 Kings 8:9)
    - The manna continued until the Israelites entered the Promised Land and ate of the produce of the land. (see Joshua 5:12)



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## From the Sea to Sinai

- The third challenge—Lack of Water
  - Before there was water but it was not fit to drink. Now there was no water.
  - The people again turned to Moses with demands and accusations.
  - Moses turned to Yahweh, the God who hears and answers.
  - Yahweh instructed Moses to take some of the leaders with him and go before the people. He was to take the staff and strike the rock at Horeb and God would make water come from the rock.
  - Verse 7 indicates that the Israelites were questioning the presence of God with them.

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- The fourth challenge—The attack of the Amalekites
  - Joshua was enlisted to choose those who would go out and fight.
  - Moses went to the top of the hill to intercede with God on their behalf.
  - Aaron and Hur accompanied Moses and held up his hands so Israel could prevail. This revealed God's intervention on their behalf and how dependent they were for that intervention.
  - God reveals that He will blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven and also indicates conflict with them from generation to generation.
    - 1 Samuel 15 gives the account of King Saul commissioned to wipe out the Amalekites but he disobeys by sparing some of the people.
    - Multiple conflicts with the Amalekites are recorded through the remainder of First and Second Samuel
    - 1 Chronicles 4:43 records how the descendants of Simeon finally destroyed the last of the Amalekites during the reign of Hezekiah, king of Judah.