

January 7, 2018 - Ex. 16:28 – 17:16 - More Manna, water from the rock, Amalekites
Torah Reading: Exodus 16:28 – 17:16 - More Manna, water from the rock,
Amalekites
Psalm 54
Haftarah: Isaiah 58:13 – 59:6, 20-21

Moses held responsible

Exodus 16:28 - "And the LORD said unto Moses, How long refuse YE to keep my commandments and my laws?"

God blamed Moses for the people's sin of gathering manna on the Sabbath, since they were under his authority.

Eating the Hidden Manna

Exodus 16:33 - "And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a pot, and put an omer full of manna therein, and lay it up before the LORD, to be kept for your generations."

Hebrews 9:4 - "... the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant"

This manna "hidden away" was to remind Israel of the miracle. Like Jesus' communion with the afikomen - the bread and the wine - was done in remembrance of Him.

Revelation 2:17 - "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it."

1 Corinthians 10:2-4 - "And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat (food - i.e. the manna); And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."

John 6:32-35 - "Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. ... And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."

Psalm 78:23-25 - when God gave the manna in the desert, it was "the bread of angels."

The church has long referred to the eucharistic meal itself as "the bread of

angels" (panis angelicus).

The Word is the Manna

Jeremiah 15:16 - "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts."

John 1:1 - "In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God"

Striking the Rock

Exodus 17:2 - "Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD?"

They traveled "according to the commandment of the LORD." God had led them to a place that apparently had no water. The rabbis said he did this because they had failed to study Torah (which had not been given yet!). But as with the Israelites, God leads believers into places where we have to depend on him alone, so he can display his provision for us.

Moses did not answer the people in anger, but turned to God. In this he was a type of Christ.

Romans 15:3 - "For even Christ did not please Himself, but as it is written: 'The insults of those who insult You have fallen on Me.'"

Every event on Israel's 40-year journey happened to illustrate a type or foreshadowing of Christ.

Romans 15:4 - "For everything that was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope."

Psalms 102:18 - "This will be written for the generation to come, That a people yet to be created may praise the LORD."

Moses takes his rod - which represents judgment. It was this rod that brought the plagues and caused the sea to split and then destroy the Egyptian army. Now it would be used to smite the "rock."

John 7:37-39 - "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he

of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Smitten of God

The rod of judgment strikes the Rock to illustrate Christ taking the penalty for sin on himself.

Isaiah 53:3-5 - "He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed"

Paul expands on the illustration:

1 Corinthians 10:1-4 - "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."

Christ was the Rock. But how?

There is an expansion on this event in Psalm 105

Psalm 105:40-43 - "The people asked, and he brought quails, and satisfied them with the bread of heaven. He opened the rock, and the waters gushed out; they ran in the dry places like a river. For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham his servant. And he brought forth his people with joy, and his chosen with gladness:"

The rabbis said there was so much water that the flow divided into rivers that separated different parts of the camp from each another.

The Tradition of the Rock and Miriam's Well

"On this occasion there was revealed to them a well of water, which did not abandon them in all their forty years' wandering, but accompanied them on all their marches. God wrought this great miracle for the merits of the prophetess Miriam, wherefore also it was called "Miriam's Well." God created it on the second day of the creation, and at one time it was in the possession of Abraham.

"This well was in the shape of a sieve-like rock, out of which water gushes forth as from a spout. It followed them on all their wanderings, up hill and down dale, and wherever they halted, it halted, too, and it settled opposite the Tabernacle. Thereupon the leaders of the twelve tribes would appear, each with his staff and chant these words to the well,

"Spring up, O well, sing ye unto it; nobles of the people digged it by the direction of the lawgiver with their staves." Then the water would gush forth from the depths of the well, and shoot up high as pillars, then discharge itself into great streams that were navigable, and on these rivers the Jews sailed to the ocean, and hauled all the treasures of the world therefrom. Once upon a time it happened that a leper ... come in contact with the waters of Miriam's well and he was instantly healed." - *Legends of the Jews, Vol. 3.*

Forty years later in Numbers 20, Moses is accompanied by Aaron the high priest, and takes Aaron's rod - representing priestly ministry - not his own rod, and is told to only "speak to the Rock." Moses instead strikes the rock twice, and because of that is not allowed to enter the Promised Land. But water gushes forth anyway for the people as a sign of God's grace.

Streams of spiritual refreshment now flow to us on the ground of an already accomplished redemption, and in connection with Christ's priestly ministry, when we "speak to the rock" in prayer and supplication. - *Gleanings in Exodus, Arthur W. Pink*

Amalek - Flesh vs. Spirit

Our need for prayer and "speaking to the rock" is displayed in Israel's battle with the Amalekites.

We study this passage every year in relation to Purim because Haman was descended from Amalek.

As soon as Israel coalesces into a nation and receives the life-giving water from the Rock, it is attacked by Amalek. The Amalekites probably heard about the water, and wanted to get it for themselves.

This is a picture of the ongoing battle within us between the flesh and the Spirit.

Galatians 5:17 - "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would."

Or, as the NET has it: "For the flesh has desires that are opposed to the Spirit, and the Spirit has desires that are opposed to the flesh, for these are in opposition to each other, so that you cannot do what you want."

Amalek was a grandson of Esau. In some rabbinical interpretations, the name Amalek means "a people - am - who "lick" blood, i.e. Amalek "came to suck the blood of Israel." They represent the archetypal enemy of the Jews.

Amalek "feared not God" (**Deuteronomy 25:17-18**) and is described by Balaam: "Amalek was the first of the nations that warred against Israel, but his latter end shall be that he perish forever." (**Numbers 24:20**)

The battle is accomplished through prayer.

Moses stands with uplifted hands - which always represent prayer and supplication.

Psalm 28:2 - "Hear the voice of my supplications, when I cry unto thee, when I lift up my hands toward thy holy oracle."

1 Timothy 2 :8 - "I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting."

Moses' Prayer

Moses said: "O Lord of the world! Through me has Thou brought Israel out of Egypt, through me hast Thou cleft the sea, and through me has Thou wrought miracles; so do Thou now work miracles for me, and lend me victory to Israel, for I well know that while all other nations fight only to the sixth hour of the day, this sinful nation stand in battle ranks till sunset." Moses did not consider it sufficient to pray alone to God, but he raised his hands toward heaven as a signal for the whole nation to follow his example and trust in God. As often as he then raised his hands to heaven and the people prayed with him, trusting that God would lend them victory, they were indeed victorious; as often, however, as Moses let down his hands and the people ceased prayer, weakening in their faith in God, Amalek conquered. - Legends of the Jews

But Moses got tired and his hands got heavy.

Luke 18:1 - "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint."

Although we often pray without others around, it's not a solitary affair. We encourage and comfort one another, as Aaron and Hur did for Moses. But we also have the Holy Spirit and the intercession of Christ to aid us.

Romans 8:26-27 - "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."

Hebrews 7:25 - "Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."

1 Timothy 2:5 - "For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus"

Exodus 17:13 - "And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the

sword."

The sword represents the word of God, and the scriptures.

Ephesians 6:17 - "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God"

Hebrews 4:12 - "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

The result is a never-ending battle (in this life) "from generation to generation," with an interesting mental twist - we are to "remember" to "forget" Amalek, self and the flesh.

Exodus 17:16 - "For he said, Because the LORD hath sworn that the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation."

Deuteronomy 25:12–19 - "Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt; How he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee, when thou wast faint and weary; and he feared not God. Therefore it shall be, when the LORD thy God hath given thee rest from all thine enemies round about, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance to possess it, that thou shalt blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven; thou shalt not forget it."