

Exodus (6)

They Were Written for Our Admonition

2017/10/13 Bible Study

I. Scripture: Exodus 15:22-25, 16:1-12, 17:1-7; 1Corinthians 10:1-13

II. God led the Israelites out of Egypt, crossing the Red Sea, leading them all along the way with pillars of clouds and fire, so that they could eventually reach their destination: the land of Canaan flows with milk and honey. This was a difficult path, as they met many difficulties: reached Shur, walked three days but could not find water; reached Marah, but the water was bitter; reached the wilderness of Sin, but no food to eat; reached Rephidim, and no water again. The people left Egypt physically, but their hearts tarried in Egypt. As they met hardship, they responded with complaints, quarrels, and tempting God; But Moses was different, he called upon God, yielded difficulties to God, and subsequently received instructions from God, coped with the needs of the people, and resolved issues.

While we journey on as heavenly pilgrims in the great and awesome wilderness, surely we will encounter temptations from the world, and even pressure, burdens, hardship from work and family. What we encounter is the same as people of the world, as God never promised that the sky will always be blue. Nevertheless, Christians can behave differently in such circumstances. We have God, and therefore have joy and hope, for He is a responsible Shepherd, and He is faithful in His provision.

God was displeased with the people not because they asked for water and food. God rebuked them because they belittled and despised God as they faced various difficult situations, and that they completely forgot all that God has done for them. If someone were to treat you that way, how would you feel? 1Corinthians 10:1-13 has recorded this passage, so that how they lived can be an admonition for us; may God help us to not repeat after the Israelites.

III. Thoughts and sharing :

1. How do you view the Israelites' responses of grumbling, quarreling, and tempting God? When you went through difficulties in your life, how did you respond? Please share your experience.
2. What kind of people are disliked by God according to 1Corinthians 10:1-13? What did they do which displeased God? What can we learn from the Israelites' mistakes? To those who make up their minds to learn, what promises are given by God?