

# The Preservation of Israel

**Intro:** There used to be a person who sat right over there... she no longer worships anywhere and no longer has a vibrant faith.

There used to be a couple who sat over there... they no longer attend anywhere and exhibit no particular sign of spiritual vitality.

God never set us free to let us fall. His intent was that we continue to walk into the promised land He has prepared for us.

**Trans:** Today we will look at the way he kept newly freed Israel and draw lessons for the way we may expect us to keep us.

We will look at 5 lessons.

God preserves His people through:

## I. Obedience Ex 15:22-26

*Slide 1: Dog class - dog learning to sit and wait... maybe a pic with a dog and a person holding up their hand as if to signal "wait".*

*Slide 2 Map of Israel's exodus from Egypt into the desert.*

### A. Sometimes God leads us to dry places v22

*Slide3: Matthew 4:1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.*

### B. Sometimes we can feel tricked by God with what looked good, but ended up being bitter. V23

1. They found water - yes, God likes us
2. The water was bitter - Yikes, God has abandoned us

(like in a relationship - employer, spouse, kid, friend... someone we assumed God let us to and no it does not seem so good.)

### C. v25 God instructs us to obey - showed is from a root word that means to instruct. Yara - tora to instruct.

1. Specifically find that tree and throw it into the waters
  - a. Some think that there were qualities of the tree that purified the water
  - b. Some think it was purely symbolic - a tree symbolizes life and God makes the bitter sweeter.

### 2.v26 Generally, obey and you will be healed.

\*as God heals the water, so he will heal our bitterness

- through forgiveness
- through endurance
- through a changed situation
- through a renewed focus on God

\*note no response from Israel is recorded... were they happy, embarrassed, entitled, satisfied, educated?

## II. Hunger 16:1-36

*Slide 4: pic of a little girl with one marshmallow.*

- A.v2 How would free people respond to hunger? - honor or grumbling?
- B. v3 How would hungry people respond to their leader? Blame or honor
- C. v4-5 How would people respond to plenty?
  1. Only keep enough for one day v4, 19-29
  2. On the sixth day gather twice as much v5; 23-27
- D. v7 What can hunger teach?
  1. Acknowledging it was me who brought them out of Egypt
  2. Acknowledging the glory of the Lord is at work
  3. v13,14 Sustenance comes from the hand of God.

Teach: Preservation of a people of God is not merely in the food, but in the association of the sustenance to the Father.

*Slide 5: Mat 4:4*

*Slide 6: John 4:32*

*Illus: Person falling backwards into the arms of friends or family*

## III. Faith Exodus 17:1-7

*Slide7: Person falling backwards into the arms of friends or family*

A. *This was a similar test to the previous two... hadn't they learned anything? Would they not yet believe?*

B. v4 Would the people still blame Moses?

1. At one point they children of Israel were ready to stone Jesus, Paul , and they did stone Stephen. - act of total disregard and even hatred.

2. This was the first response of the first sin - Eve did it

C. v 6 God will reveal Himself near the rock

1. Standing with Moses

2. Standing with the elders

D. Only God can make water come out of a rock on His command

1. Jesus is called a stone that would crush all other kingdoms Daniel 9:44,45

*Slide 8: 1 Cor 10:3,4*

E. The issue is whether Israel would quarrel or believe

Teach: God preserves those who continue to have faith and believe

#### IV. Intercession

*Slide 9: either a pic of praying hands or you may find a classical painting depicting this act of Moses*

*It could also be a pic of someone praying*

A. v 17:8 The Amalekites Deut 25: 17 They attacked those lagging behind - weak

B. v9 -10 Joshua gave human effort - it would be required

C. v11 Moses interceded with God on Israel's behalf - it would be required

D. This co-effort would be the banner under which Israel would go into the promised land

Teach: God preserves His people through hard work and intercession

#### V. Wisdom

*Slide 10 : either ancient scrolls or a pic of an owl*

A. Moses was doing the right thing wrongly - judge the people

1. Probably over issues found in later commandments
  - a. stealing stuff
  - b. lying
  - c. not keeping the Sabbath
  - d. coveting someone else's stuff
  - e. dishonoring parents

2. Probably repeat customers

B. Moses listened to the wisdom of his father-in-law.

1. He found godly men who could judge
2. v 25 He enlisted and entrusted godly men to do godly things