

**“Wilderness Experiences”**  
**Exodus 17:1-16 and 1 Corinthians 10:1-15**

The Reverend Dr. Girard Lowe

Scripture Lesson: Exodus 17:1-16 and 1 Corinthians 10:1-15

Text: 1 Corinthians 10:11

Introduction:

1. Story of redemption of Israel.
  2. What we have here
    - a. Israel – God’s people
    - b. Egypt is world
    - c. Wilderness between Egypt and Palestine
    - d. Palestine
  3. These things speak to us
    - a. Egypt place redeemed from
    - b. Wilderness is passage we must make to promised land
    - c. Palestine is place of complete rest and joy in the Lord
  4. In the wilderness Israel had certain experiences, so do we.
    - a. Let us see these.
- I. Mara, Bitterness – Exodus 15:23-27
1. Came to springs which were bitter
    - a. They were in the way of the Lord
  2. All Christians have these times of bitterness
    - a. Loss of loved ones
    - b. Disappointments
    - c. Failure of lives to be of largest service
  3. Why we have sufferings and bitterness
    - a. 1 Corinthians 11:31,32 – leads to repentance
    - b. Hebrews 12:7,10 – as children to keep us near to Him
    - c. 2 Timothy 3:12 – suffering in fellowship with Christ
      1. Daniel illustrates
  4. Bitterness of water healed
    - a. Exodus 15:23-25 showed him a tree
  5. How we too can pass our bitterness
    - a. The tree is the cross
    - b. How Christ faced His bitterness
      1. John 18:11
      2. Matthew 26:39,40
    - c. Romans 5:8
  6. God would educate and train us by the bitterness that comes
    - a. Resignation
    - b. Trust
    - c. Patience

d. Must learn these, to have rest and peace

II. Hunger – Exodus 16

1. Verses 2,3 – wished were in Egypt again
2. Christians have some experience in wilderness
  - a. Hunger for righteousness
    1. Are still evil
    2. Unable to live as God would have us
3. Exodus 16:4 – God fed them manna
4. Christ is the Bread of Life
  - a. John 6:32,33,48
5. We are to feed on His word
  - a. 1 Peter 2:2
  - b. 2 Thessalonians 2:13
6. As so fed are made righteous

III. Thirst – Exodus 17:1-3

1. No water and people murmured
2. We thirst for power to do God's will
  - a. To live lives pleasing to Him
3. God supplies to need
  - a. Exodus 17:5,6 for Israel
  - b. For us
    1. 1 Corinthians 10:4
    2. John 4:10,14
    3. John 7:37,38
    4. Revelation 22:1
4. He will satisfy our thirst

IV. Conflict with flesh – Exodus 17:8-16

1. Amalekites were Israelites worst and most persistent enemies.
  - a. Amalek was grandson Esau
  - b. Esau was rejected
  - c. We have rejected the flesh
2. Amalekites came after fed on bread from heaven.
  - a. Flesh is constantly after us
3. Notice how Israel gained the victory
  - a. Exodus 17:9-14
4. Here is a lesson for us
  - a. Law cannot defeat flesh
    1. Romans 7:7-14
  - b. Self effort cannot defeat flesh
    1. Romans 7:15-25
  - c. Victory can only come through God
    1. Romans 8:1,2
    2. Galatians 5:16

- V. Israel came to Kadesh-Barnea
1. Deuteronomy 1:19-23 God told them to enter the land.
    - a. They wanted to send spies
      1. Deuteronomy 1:19-23
      2. Numbers 13:1,2
      3. Notice permissive will of God
    - b. Numbers 13:17-21 spies sent out
      1. Numbers 13:27-33 report
  2. Joshua 21:43,44 all blessings were in the land.
  3. Spies saw enemies, giants, etc.
    - a. Numbers 13:27-33
  4. He calls us into land of rest.
    - a. Matthew 11:28 – rest
    - b. Romans 5:1 – peace
    - c. Romans 7:24 – victory
  5. But many are still in wilderness because of lack of faith
    - a. Hebrews 4:1

Conclusion:

1. As Christians
  - a. Many are still in wilderness
  - b. Face wilderness experiences by always staying close to Christ.
    1. Bitterness – know God is training and teaching
    2. Hungry – feed on Christ
    3. Thirsty – come to Him
    4. Battle of flesh can be won through Him