

Living in the Light of these Truths

In what situations do you ask or expect God to provide for you?

Do these incidents in Exodus suggest that you are right to do so?

If you were more confident that God would provide for the journey, is there something that you might be prepared to do for him?

Are there any situations in your life now that are similar to ones where you have seen God answer prayers in the past?

Do you find yourself becoming more or less patient?

Try to think of one time in your life when you have faced a difficulty, seen God provide and grown closer to him.

For Next Time

Next time we look at ch:19-20.

However why not read the passages in between. Ch 17v8 - 18v27. Ask yourself what these passages tell you a) about God, b) about people's responses to God, c) about your own relationship with God.

KNOWING GOD

To know and be known

EXODUS 15-18

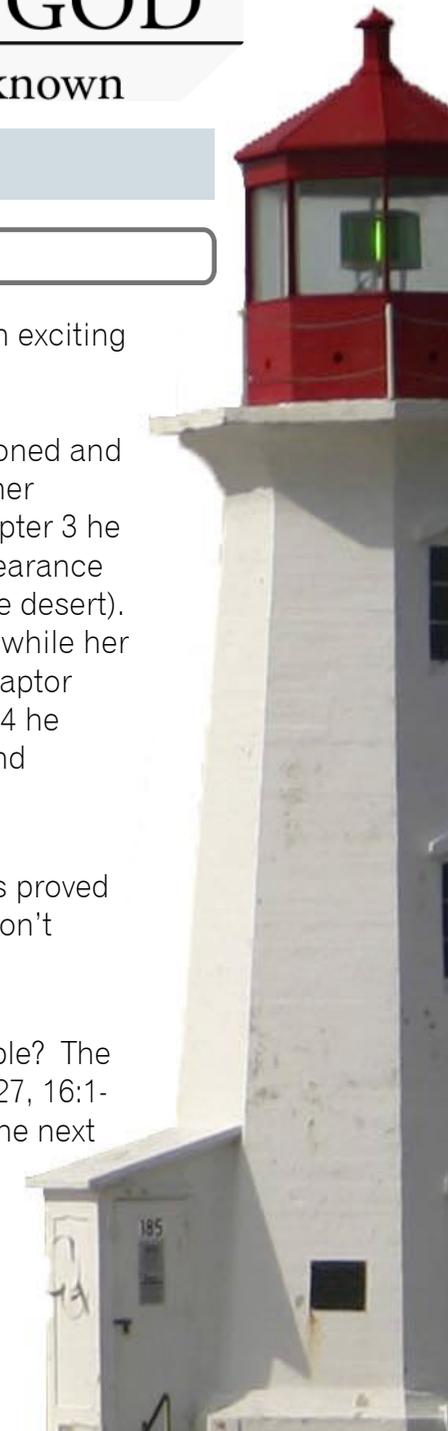
Setting the Scene

It may be helpful to think of Exodus as an exciting romance.

At the start, the heroine, Israel, is abandoned and in distress, crying out and wondering if her beloved will ever return. And then in chapter 3 he does - making a brief but enigmatic appearance with a promise of rescue (to Moses in the desert). In chapters 5-12 she waits and watches, while her hero engages in distant battle with her captor Pharaoh. And then in chapters 13 and 14 he carries her off, out of Pharaoh's grasp and through the sea.

But now the romance takes a twist. He's proved his military prowess, but good soldiers don't always make good husbands.

Does he know how to put food on the table? The three incidents in chapters 15-17 (15:22-27, 16:1-36, 17:1-7) reveal the ups and downs of the next phase of the relationship.



A CLOSER LOOK

Review Exodus 15:22-16:36

Can you recall the main points from the sermon?

Do you have any questions or comments?

Looking at the Text

Read chapter 17:1-7

Bitter disappointment

Look at the beginning of each incident (15:22-23, 16:1-3, 17:1). What does Israel discover about a life of following God? What do you think this means?

A natural reaction?

Now look at how they react each time (15:24; 16:2-3; 17:2-3). What do all three reactions have in common?

Do they change in any way as time goes on?

What do you think of their reactions? Are they justified? Understandable? Perverse?

In a human romance, what effect do you think that reaction would have on the relationship?

An unexpected answer

Each time, God works with Moses to provide what they need (15:25, 16:4-5ff, 17:5-6).

What did the way God provided show them about his character? About their future relationship?

Different memories

Each account finishes with a brief reflection, showing how the incident is to be remembered (15:26, 16:31-35, 17:7).

What does each conclusion reveal about God?

What does each reveal about the relationship between God and his people?

Why do you think the third one is different? (Hint: Look in Psalm 95:9)

