

Exodus 15:22-27 **Waters of Marah**

22 So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. And they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. 23 Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore the name of it was called Marah. 24 And the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" 25 So he cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet. There He made a statute and an ordinance for them. And there He tested them, 26 and said, "If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you."

27 Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees; so they camped there by the waters. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ To this point God has been delivering Israel from the bondage of the Egyptians and demonstrated His power over all the gods of Egypt as well as the army of the Egyptians.
- ✧ Israel has come to know the power of God to deliver them from bondage, but they need to learn to trust God to provide all the needs of mortal life. [\[Deuteronomy 8:2-3\]](#)
- ✧ By this time they have traveled across the Sinai Peninsula from the land of Goshen in Egypt, and have crossed the Gulf of Elat (the Red Sea) into the Arabian Peninsula.
- ✧ The supplies they brought from Egypt have been used up and God brings them to their **first test of faith**, to Marah where the water is bitter and they can not drink it.
- ✧ Displaying human nature when a difficulty appears that one does not expect or have a ready solution to the problem, they murmured against Moses their perceived leader.
- ✧ Moses is human and does not know how to solve the problem, so he responds by crying out to God.
- ✧ God is ready with a solution and to teach them by an ordinance.
- ✧ First Yehowah solved the problem of thirst and mortal need by instructing Moses to cast a specific tree into the water, and the waters became sweet.
- ✧ Then God used the occasion to give His instruction for their faith.
 - ◇ "If you diligently heed the voice of Yehowah Elohey (the LORD your God) and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am Yehowah Ropeeka (the LORD who heals you)."

On to Elim

- ✧ From Marah they came to Elim where there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees. They camped there by the waters.