



# EXODUS

FROM BONDAGE TO FREEDOM

## BIBLE TEXT | EXODUS 16:1-12

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**1** They set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the people of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. **2** And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, **3** and the people of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." **4** Then the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not." **5** On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily." **6** So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, "At evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, **7** and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against the Lord. For what are we, that you grumble against us?" **8** And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the Lord has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the Lord." **9** Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, 'Come near before the Lord, for he has heard your grumbling.'" **10** And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. **11** And the Lord said to Moses, **12** "I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'"



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## DEVOTIONAL FOR EXODUS 16:1-12

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Moses and the people of Israel set out from Elim, this place of rest that the Lord had provided them and had given them water to drink. They are just one month from the time they had left Egypt (12:17) and once again they begin to grumble against Moses and Aaron. They accused them of bringing them out into the desert to kill them. They even talk about how good they had it back in Egypt where they had all the food they wanted to eat. It is here when I think that God will never be able to satisfy them. I mean what in the world are these people thinking? It has been probably nine or ten months or so since God first sent Moses back to Egypt to first ask Pharaoh to let his people go (Exodus 5). Through all of this and all that they have seen God do, they still do not trust Moses, Aaron or God. Yet God is faithful and tells Moses that He will rain down bread for them but will test them in this to see if they will trust Him. So God gave Moses very simple instructions on how the people are to gather only enough bread for each day's portion (Matthew 6:11). Then on the sixth day, they were to gather twice as much so they could honor the Sabbath the next day. God even tells Moses that He will provide meat for them also. So with all of this, surely the Israelites will begin to trust God to provide for their every need, right? Well, as we will see later on in our study, not even this will help them fully trust God to take care of them.

So what in the world can we learn from these forgetful people? I cannot be that stubborn and forgetful, can I? Yes, I am afraid I am. We see all throughout the Scriptures, this is the human condition. Lets just take a minute and step back and look at our lives and see what all God has saved us from. For me, as I look back I can now see all the times God has protected me, mostly from myself. I can see how He had a plan for me even before I even knew Him as my Savior. Even after I asked Him to be my Lord and Savior, I can still see how I was and still am at times, just like the Israelites. I often try to do things my own way. I can be wise in my own eyes in which Proverbs 26:12 says, there is more hope for a fool than for me. While God has helped me to be better at waiting on Him and trusting Him to provide, it can still be a daily battle when things are not going the way I think they should or the way I want them to. I can still struggle with wanting to fix things and people when I see them headed for what I know is not a good ending. But the truth is, that is not my job and I will likely just mess it all up anyway. I can also, if not careful, during my times of struggle, forget the way God has worked things out in the past. Yes, I can grumble and complain with the best of them, forgetting from where the Lord has brought me. Why do I sometimes worry so much? Why do I sometimes fret so much? Why do I get so angry? Because I am just like the Israelites, and all too often I do not trust the Lord. "Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (Romans 7:24-25) I hope and pray that as we continue this study of the book of Exodus, God will continue to show us how we can better trust Him and his ways with all of our heart (Proverbs 3:5-6; Romans 8:28; 31).



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## Questions:

1. As you look back over your life, when have you acted just like the Israelites?
2. Do you have a hard time remembering that God is for you and you can trust Him with all things.
3. It is easy to grumble if everyone around is grumbling too. Who are you doing life with right now? Do they trust the Lord and remind you of His truth? If not, I pray you would find a group that would walk alongside of you in truth and love.