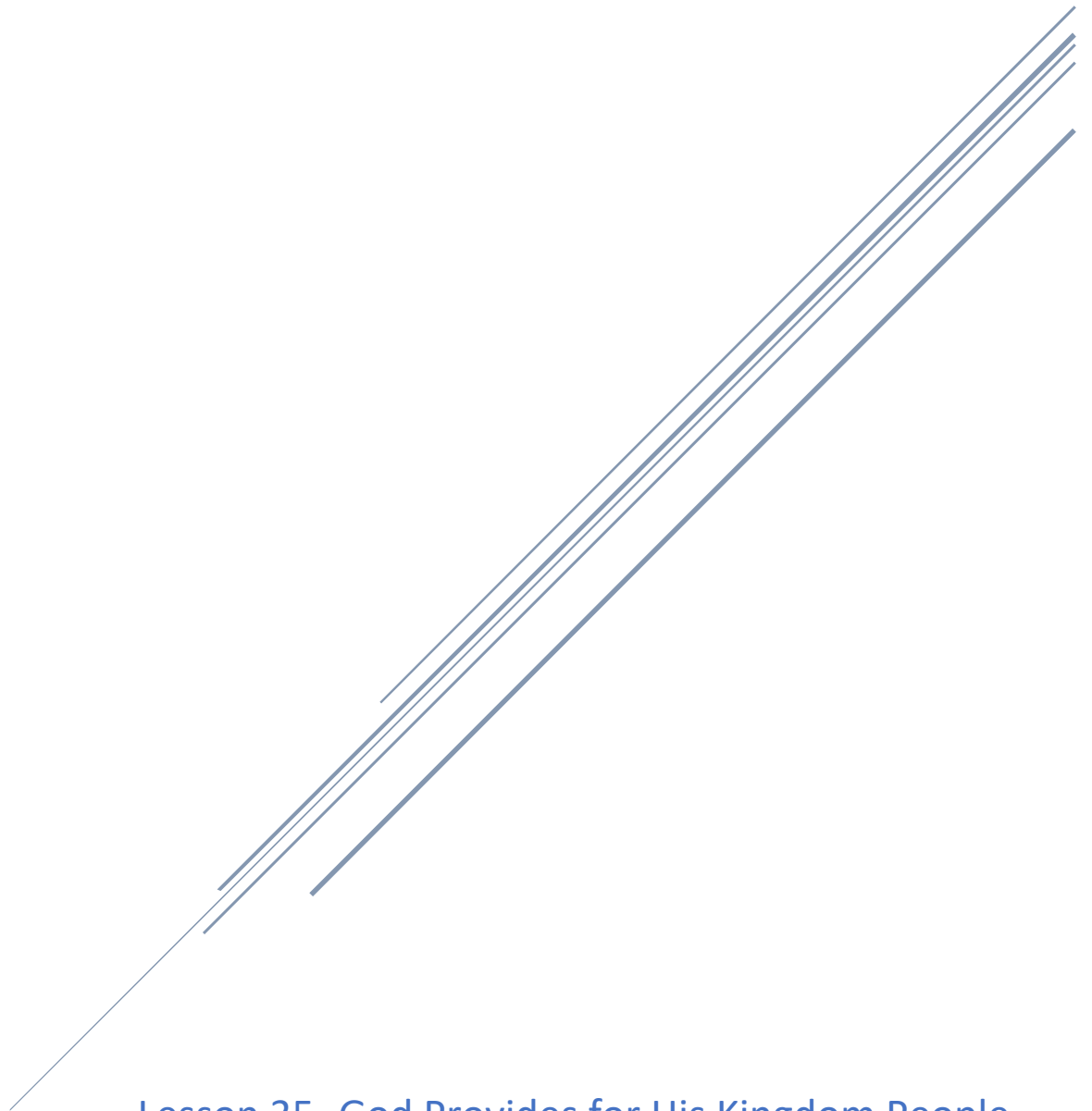


THE KINGDOM, THE BIBLE, & US

Understand the Bible's story, Jesus' importance, and Our place in God's plan



Lesson 35- God Provides for His Kingdom People
FBC Webb City- Dustin Burdin

Introduction

We took several weeks looking at each plague, or sign, that God performed in Egypt. I hope it was clear how with each plague event, God was targeting both Pharaoh's perceived power and the Egyptian false gods/goddesses.

The final plague was the big one, the Passover. We explored how God provided a Passover Lamb to spare the firstborn from being killed. Those who obeyed God's instructions with a heart of faith were saved. Those who ignored God's word, faced His judgment.

We looked at how Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the Passover. The Passover was pointing to a future time when God would send an even greater Passover Lamb to take away people's sin. Jesus is this Passover Lamb.

God has redeemed His Kingdom people of the Old Covenant, Israel. He has purchased them out of slavery and into His Kingdom. This sets the course for the rest of Israel's relationship with God in the Old Testament.

It is also a picture of the same thing God did with His people in the New Covenant, the Church. We are enslaved to sin, but through God's Passover Lamb provided, Jesus, we are redeemed out of slavery and placed into God's Kingdom.

Now let's look at how God provided for His people before they get to Mount Sinai and are given the Law of Moses. We will see how God does the same thing for us through Jesus Christ once again.

God Provides for His Kingdom People, Israel

God Parts the Red Sea and Judges Pharaoh

Exodus 14

Pharaoh should have stopped after the Passover. Remember he personally lost his own firstborn son. However, he has another change of heart. God told Israel to journey towards a certain part of the country camp there. What makes this ironic is where God told them to set up camp is a terrible way to escape out of Egypt. God was leading Israel into what would look like was a trap.

The position God laid out for them to camp at would cause Israel to be trapped. On the north there was the Mediterranean Sea. To their East there was the Red Sea. Egypt was on the Western and Southern sides. If Pharaoh were to pursue after Israel, Israel would have nowhere to run to because of the waters blocking their paths of escape.

Did God make a mistake? No! Certainly not. God did this on purpose. If we look back at Exodus 13:17-22 we see God did all of this on purpose for several reasons. He knew if He led Israel on the most direct path to the Promised Land, they would severely rebel and go back to Egypt. They had not known war like the Philistines and God knew Israel was not yet ready for that kind of conflict.

Moses took Joseph's bones with them, just like Joseph charged the Israelites of his day. God led them with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

Look at Exodus 14:3-4.

God said He will harden Pharaoh's heart by doing this. Or rather, Pharaoh will harden his own heart in response to seeing where Israel is at. God has decided to use this as an opportunity to punish Pharaoh for good.

In Exodus 14:4 God says, "I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord (Yahweh)." God is not being mean by doing these things. Pharaoh could have repented at any point, yet he refused. His heart is stubborn and refuses to bend the knee to God. God knows this. God declares that Pharaoh is at a point of no return, he has gone too far. Pharaoh will not, will never, repent of his sins and follow God. Why? Because God doesn't want him to? No! Because Pharaoh refuses to and will always refuse God.

Pharaoh thought he had a chance to get Israel back. He pursued hard after Israel. Israel sees them coming from afar off and they become scared (verse 10). They gripe to Moses and accuse him of leading them into the wilderness just to die there instead of Egypt. Notice in verse 11 they say, "was it because there were no graves for us in Egypt that you lead us out to die in the wilderness." What a statement! They just witnessed God perform powerful plagues and bring judgment on Egypt. Yet no time is wasted, and they are back to doubting that God will protect them.

Moses holds the line. He says in verse 13 they need to not fear and stand by and watch and see how God will deliver them. Exodus 14:14 is a great verse. Moses says, "The Lord will fight for you while you keep silent." Moses reminded them they didn't lift a finger to fight the Egyptians before, nor will they have to this time. God will continue protecting His Kingdom People.

God instructs Moses to raise his staff out over the Red Sea. God will part the Red Sea in two. There will be a wall of water on the left and right side. Israel will be able to pass through on dry ground. Pharaoh's army will attempt to chase them down, but God will cause the Sea to collapse in and drown the Egyptian army.

God had an angel going before Israel as they traveled. He moved behind Israel and the pillar of cloud that was leading them became a deep foggy mist that caused a barrier

between Pharaoh's camp and Israel's. This allowed time for the next morning for Moses to raise his staff, let the Sea part, and Israel walk through it.

It says after Israel traveled through the Sea on dry ground, God looked down and saw Pharaoh's army pursuing after them. God caused their chariot wheels to begin to break and it slowed down their army's speed.

Exodus 14:25 records some of the army realized they were fighting against God and it was not smart. They called out that they should run away from Israel because Yahweh is fighting for them. God called on Moses to drop his hands and cause the Sea to collapse in on the Egyptian army.

Exodus 14:28 says not one from the army remained alive. Exodus 14:30 we read Yahweh saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians. Israel saw them dead on the seashore. Then in 14:31, it says Israel saw the great power which the Lord used against the Egyptians. Notice the results. They feared the Lord and they believed in the Lord and in His servant Moses.

Why do you think Pharaoh was stubborn again even after the Passover?

Why do you think Israel began complaining against Moses when they saw Pharaoh coming for them?

God proved once again that He will protect His Kingdom people. God led Israel into a situation that caused Pharaoh to chase them down. God was not lost, nor was Israel lost. They were right where God wanted them to be for God's plan to happen. God led Israel on a certain path, even a path that looked dangerous, so that God could bring Himself glory, show judgment on evil, and prove to His people He was their God who would protect them.

The chapter of Israel dealing with Egypt, was now closed. Israel begins a new chapter, a new era, as God's Kingdom people. The next phase of our lessons focuses on God leading Israel through the wilderness on the way to the Promised Land. For now, let's look at a couple more examples of God providing for His Kingdom people.

God Provides Water

Exodus 15:22-27

In our next scene we see Israel grumbling again against Moses. They go three days journey into the wilderness and come to place where the water could not be drunk because it was bitter. They named the place Marah which is the Hebrew word for bitter. They griped against Moses about not having water. Remember there could be nearly 2 million mouths to feed and give water to.

Moses cries out to God and the Lord reveals to him a certain tree. Moses takes the tree and throws it into the water and it makes the water sweet and drinkable.

Verses 25 and 26 get interesting.

It says God made a statue and regulation (that is essentially saying a standard law). Notice it says God tested them (Israel).

Why do you think God would test Israel like this?

Verse 26, God says if Israel will give 'earnest heed.' That phrase means to pay very careful thoughtful attention to obey. Israel is to give earnest heed to God's voice and do what God says is right, then God promises something in return. He promises to never put any of the diseases and curses on Israel that they saw the Lord do on the Egyptians.

God ends the speech with, "for I, the Lord (Yahweh) am your hearer."

Why do you think God took time to say this to Israel at this point in their journey?

God proved to His Kingdom People, Israel, that He would not only protect them, but He would provide for their needs for water so they could live. God did so in such a way that forced Israel to depend on Him for their necessities each day. God also wanted to ensure Israel knew that they must take care to obey God's words. God was not just going to hand things over, at times He would. However, many times God wanted Israel to follow Him in obedience and in return God would show Israel how He would be their protecting and providing God.

God Provides Manna (Bread)

Exodus 16:1-8

In our next scene it says they journeyed farther into the wilderness. They are on the 15th day of the second month after they left Egypt. This means it has been 4-5 weeks since they left Egypt and have been traveling in the wilderness. Their provisions of unleavened bread and whatever else they took out of Egypt must have ran out.

It says they complained against Moses and Aaron, the whole congregation. Remember, of possible 1.8-2million mouths to feed. They complain that there is no more food. They even complain that it would have been better for them to have died in Egypt as slaves. Why? Because they said in Egypt they at least had meat to eat and as much bread as they wanted. They charge Moses and Aaron with bringing them out into the wilderness to kill them with hunger.

God's solution is He tells Moses he will rain bread from heaven for Israel to eat. God gives rules though. They are to go out each day in the morning and only gather one day's portion. Why is He doing this? God says it is His way of testing them to see whether Israel will obey His commands or not.

God made a special exception for the Sabbath day. On the sixth day of the week, they can gather twice as much to get them through to the following week. This was so they could observe the Sabbath day and do no work.

Notice that Moses tells Israel, they are not grumbling against Moses and Aaron. They are truly grumbling and complaining against the Lord. In verses 7-8 Moses reminds them it is truly against the Lord, not Moses, that they are showing they have doubts about. By complaining against Moses, they are complaining really against the Lord Himself.

God Provides Meat

Exodus 16:9-21

Not only will God provide Manna, He will also give them meat to eat. It says in verse 12 that God spoke through the pillar of cloud and said He has heard their complaints. At twilight they shall eat meat and in the morning they shall have bread.

Notice again at the end of verse 12 God says, "that You shall know that I am the Lord your God." God always does things so that His name and His power can be proclaimed. He does things His way so that people can see He alone is God and that they will follow Him and worship Him. God is condescending to their level once again

and providing meat, bread, and water for them in a way that will prove to them God has truly brought them out of Egypt, not to harm them, but to provide for them.

Beginning in verse 13 we read that at evening, massive amounts of quail came up and covered the land. In the morning a layer of dew formed and when it evaporated it looked like a type of wafer-like bread that was a thin-like frosty layer of bread. This was called Manna.

Moses gave instructions again for how much they should gather in. Enough for each person to eat one day's portion. Verse 17-18 says some gathered more and some gathered too little. However, when they measured out what they collected, it miraculously was just the perfect amount that each person needed for the day. No one had too much, no one had too little.

Moses also said that they were never to store up any for the next day (verse 19). However, many did not listen. Some left portions to save until the next day, but by the next day it had grown worms and stank of being ruined. This led to them being forced to gather meat and bread each day and only enough for that day.

Why do you think God did it this way?

As a quick note, it says on the Sabbath they were to gather two days' worth and prepare it ahead of time so they could honor the Sabbath as a day of worship and rest. However, many went out on the Sabbath to gather more Manna, but there was no Manna. This once again caused God to be angry and had Moses ask the people how long do they refuse to keep His commandments?

God commanded that they keep a jar full of the Manna and preserve it for their future generations. This way they could teach their children and remember how God provided for them in the wilderness.

[God Provides Water from a Rock](#)

Exodus 17:1-7

There is another scene where Israel complains again against Moses about thirsting for water. There was no water for them to drink at Rephidim where they were camped. They quarreled it says with Moses. Moses once again reminds them they are not fighting with him, but with God.

They accused Moses again of bringing them out of Egypt just to watch them die of thirst in the wilderness (verse 3). Moses cries out to God and this time says, “What shall I do with this people. In a little while they will stone me.”

God commanded Moses to take the same staff he struck the waters of the Nile with that turned to blood. Take some of Israel’s leading elders and go to the rock at Horeb. Moses was to strike the rock with the staff. Moses did so and water came out from the rock to give the people drink.

They named the place Massah and Meribah because it was there, they tested the Lord asking, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

It is sad, but this is not the first time Israel has acted this way. They have been major complainers ever since leaving Egypt. Moses has to deal with this and got to a point he was worried they were going to kill him. However, each time God has more than proven He will protect and provide for His people. They just need to trust Him and obey Him.

Conclusion

In this session we saw a few examples of God providing for His Kingdom People, Israel. They grumbled and complained, but each time God proved to them He is their protector.

In our next lesson we will see some New Testament scenes where God is said to have provided bread and water for His People, the Church.

The point of this is for us to see God is a providing and protecting God. He provided for His Kingdom people of the Old Covenant, Israel, and He also provides for His Kingdom people of the New Covenant, the Church.

We will see how Jesus ties into these ideas in our next lesson.