



## **FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH**

**Pastors: Dennis & Diane Gordon**

### **WILDERNESS 1 Fresh Manna & Living Water**

*Exodus 15:22 - 16:36*



#### **GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ME**

WHEN I AM TEMPTED BY SATAN'S LIE,  
THAT I WILL FAIL SO I SHOULD NOT TRY,  
I WILL BELIEVE GOD'S WORD OF LIFE INSTEAD  
FOR ONLY IN JESUS WILL I FIND REAL BREAD  
AND LIVING WATER THAT SATISFIES,  
TO NOURISH MY SOUL AND GIVE ME REAL LIFE

#### **SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK:**

*Repeat 2x with Congregation*

##### **John 6:35**

*"Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life,  
he who cometh to me shall never hunger,  
and he who believeth in me shall never thirst."*

**INTRODUCTION:** God had delivered His people from cruel slavery in Egypt, and when they were trapped between their enemies and the impossible, God parted the waters of the Red Sea! God makes a way when there is no way. When you trust in Jesus He is always faithful to deliver you. Jesus wants you to find your life in Him, to be filled with His Spirit, to know Him, and be fully satisfied in His presence. Only by eating, drinking and breathing of Jesus can we quench the hunger and thirst of our soul.

**OBJECTS TO BRING:** Jars of Manna cookies; Lemon Slices, Water, Sugar, Feathers

## 2. CHILDRENS STORY: The Backyard Pool



On his birthday Tony was 11 years old and he was eager to have an important job to show his dad he could be trusted. Tony asked, “Dad, can I take over cleaning the pool? I’ve watched you put the chemicals in and sweep it, and I think I’m ready now.” Dad thought and said, “OK Tony, but it’s a bigger responsibility than it looks, especially in the summer. You have to test the water and add chlorine every day to keep the water sparkling clear and fresh. If you forget one day it will start getting cloudy; it will start growing algae and turn green if you miss two days, and by the fourth day bugs start swimming.” “I can handle it Dad,” Tony smiled.



It was summer and Tony kept that pool sparkling for the whole month of June! When July came Tony asked if he could invite some friends to come over for a swim party, and since Tony had kept his promise with the pool, Mom and Dad said yes! The day came for the party and Tony rushed out with his friends to jump in the pool! But wait! Oh no! Tony had been so busy getting food and games ready for his party he forgot to check on the pool - and it was green! Mom and Dad would talk to Tony later, but for now, they understood and saved the day by taking the whole bunch of kids to swim at Uncle Bill’s pool.

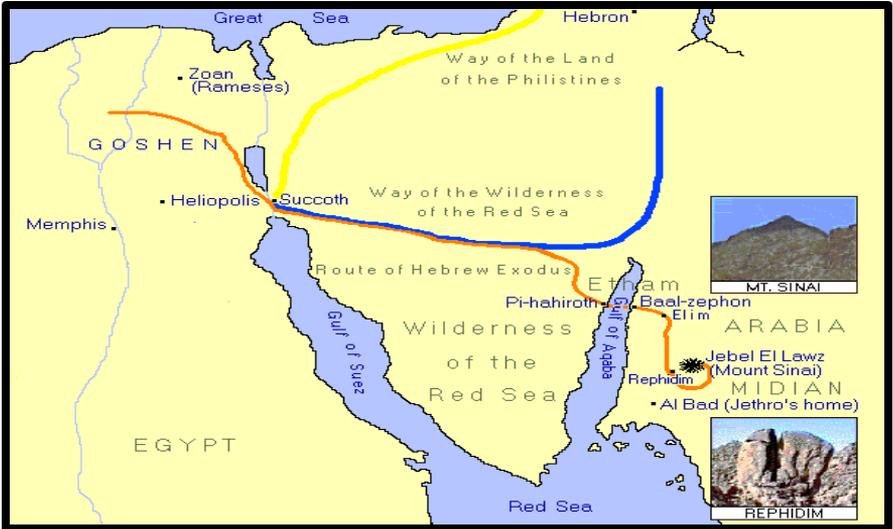


The backyard pool is a lot like our relationship with God. Daily, we need the fresh living water of God’s word to keep our hearts sparkling clean and inviting. If you miss one day, you might not notice very much, but when you miss a couple of days, your mind gets cloudy so right and wrong are not so clear. Finally, with no time for the Lord, yucky thoughts start growing on you just like bugs in a yucky pool! So remember to drink living water every day to keep your relationship with Jesus sparkling fresh and fun!

### 3. GOD BRINGS HIS PEOPLE OUT OF EGYPT

*Exodus 12:37* “And the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot that were men, beside children.”

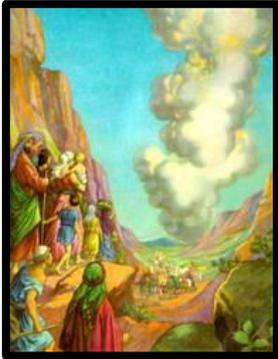
In the night of the Passover beginning in the twilight of Wednesday, Nisan 14/Nisan 15, 1446 BC, Moses and the Israelites began their journey from Rameses in Goshen to Succoth.



"The isthmus of Suez was of the greatest consequence also from a military point of view - it was doubtless fortified in very early times. Probably here stood the great fortress of T'aru, often spoken of as the starting-point for the expeditions into Syria...." "The line of fortifications which was intended to keep back these Bedouins of the Delta, is met with as early as the Middle Empire, and is still standing. It consists of a wall strengthened by small towers... this formed an obstruction which the slaves who tried to escape from Egypt, and Bedouins who wanted to pasture their cattle on the fields of the Delta, found difficult to pass....At this time we also meet with a defensive work of another kind, namely a broad canal, which presumably connected the lakes of the isthmus together. At the point where a **bridge crossed this canal** were strong fortresses on both sides... The great fortress which defended this bridge was the fortress of T'aru', which is so often mentioned as the starting point of the military expeditions." *Life in Ancient Egypt* by Adolf Erman pp.28, 537

#### **4. GOD’S PEOPLE BEGIN THEIR JOURNEY.**

Traveling from Rameses down to Succoth brought the Israelites out of Egypt Proper before going into the Sinai Desert. Succoth was not a city but a region located between the Bitter Lakes and the Gulf of Suez, where the highway through the desert called, ‘The Way of the Wilderness’ begins. Not the middle route called ‘The Way to Shur’, but the Bible says they took the route on the edge of the wilderness going “**The Way of the Wilderness of the Red Sea**”. Some maps show Succoth much farther north or south, however those same maps show the locations of the Exodus question marks because no artifacts have been found, so it is probable that those maps are not showing accurate locations. The map at left, shows the location of Succoth, where satellite and infrared photos have found the fortress of T’aru’, often mentioned as a starting point for military expeditions. There are also artifacts documenting the presence Moses and the Israelites in the land East of the Gulf of Aqaba, that correspond to the Biblical account.



*Exodus 13:17-18 “And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt: <sup>18</sup> But God led the people about, through the way of the wilderness of the Red sea: and the children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt.”*

So during the night of Nisan 14/15, and through the day Nisan 15, 600,000 men, plus women, children and others, about 1.5 million people, traveled for 50-60 miles, until they arrived in Succoth. And the Lord was faithful to go with them as He promised.

*1 Corinthians 10:3 “And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.”*

## 5. THE HOLY BIBLE DOCUMENTED BY ARCHEOLOGY

Why are the locations of Bible events important? Our children are assaulted from every side, by National Geographic programs, museums, teachers, and students who mock them as being ignorant, saying that ‘Christians deny Science’, and many will cite the lack of any evidence or artifacts for the Exodus to prove the Bible is a fairytale, when actually evidence is constantly being discovered that proves the Holy Bible to be absolutely and accurately true! Archeologists of the past were simply looking in the wrong locations. We cannot create evidence based upon our presumptions, printing those locations in our Bibles as truth by simply putting question marks, while authentic evidence gathered from Egyptian monuments, papyri, and archeological discoveries **following the trade route named in the Bible, has enabled Archeologists to CORRECTLY locate Succoth** and several of the other Exodus stop-over points.



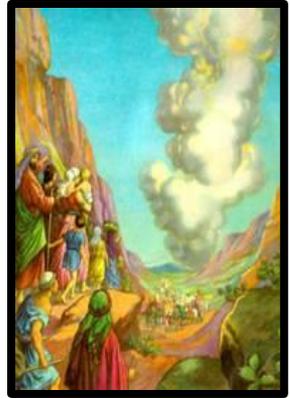
“The first station [in the Israelites’ escape from Egypt] is SUCCOTH, THUKET, or THUKU. Here it is important to observe that the name of the place where the Israelites first encamped is NOT THE NAME OF A CITY, but the NAME OF A DISTRICT, OF THE REGION OF THUKET, in which, at the time of the Exodus, there existed not only PITHOM, but the FORTIFICATIONS which...had [been] erected to keep off the invading Asiatics.

## 6. THE HOLY BIBLE IS DOCUMENTED BY HISTORY

“It was not at Pithom that the Israelites halted; the gates of the fortified city were not opened to them, nor were the storehouses. Besides, the area of the enclosure would have been quite insufficient to contain such a vast crowd. They pitched their tents IN THE LAND OF SUCCOTH WHERE PITHOM WAS BUILT, very likely NEAR those LAKES and those good PASTURES where the NOMADS OF ATUMA asked to be admitted with their cattle.” *Edo Naville The Store-City of Pithom and the Route of the Exodus p. 22.*

On the 2nd day of their journey, after sleeping the night beginning Thursday, Nissan 16, the Israelites traveled about 150 miles from Succoth to Etham, beside the Gulf of Aqaba and made camp.

*Exodus 13:20-21* “They took their journey from Succoth and encamped in Etham in the edge of the wilderness. <sup>21</sup>And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night.”



If any great tribe today fled from the government and the army of a civilized state, it proceeds rapidly along the most convenient and most direct transport route, if only to escape as soon as possible from the territory and jurisdiction of the military power. Such also was the case in the FIFTEENTH CENTURY BEFORE CHRIST, when the Israelites migrated from Egypt. the peninsula of Sinai at that time CONTAINED EGYPTIAN GARRISONS. The tribes living there were more or less DEPENDENT UPON EGYPT and would have received orders to attack the Israelites with their garrisons and thus force them to return. The Israelites were therefore obliged to HASTEN so as to TRAVERSE THE PENINSULA OF SINAI before the GARRISONS WERE STRENGTHENED and the nomads incited against them. For strengthening the garrisons and mustering the nomads at least a month would have been necessary, and in this time the Israelites had to escape from the peninsula of Sinai. Alois Musil, The Northern Hegaz: A Topographical Itinerary - The American Geographical Society, N.Y. 1926, p. 267.

## **7. GOD LEADS HIS PEOPLE IN THE WILDERNESS.**

*Exodus 13:20-22 And they took their journey from Succoth, and encamped in Etham, in the edge of the wilderness. <sup>21</sup> And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: <sup>22</sup> He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.”*

*Numbers 33:8 “And they departed from before Pihahiroth, and passed through the midst of the sea into the wilderness, and went three days’ journey in the wilderness of Etham, and pitched in Marah.”*



*Exodus 15:22 “So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water.”*

Moses led God’s people through the wilderness on their way to the land that God had promised Abraham He would to give to them.

*2 Corinthians 7:1 “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”*

## **8. GOD STILL LEADS US THROUGH THE WILDERNESS.**

**Galatians 3:16** *“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ”*

As God’s people, we also are tested by wandering through many trials on the way to seeing His promises fulfilled in our lives.

**2 Corinthians 1:20** *“For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.”*



Just like the Israelites, Jesus promises that He will never ever leave us or forsake us, He is always near us. Through the fire of His Holy Spirit, He is in us who

believe today, showing us the way. God’s presence went before them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. They followed the pillar of cloud for three days but there was no water and they were very thirsty. Why does God lead us to testing?

**Hebrews 12:11** *“Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.”*

Hard times teach us to depend on God. Jesus wants us to be still without complaining when we are going through hard times. Through hard times we turn to the Lord and listen, and by listening we learn to hear His still small voice. Only by trusting His presence to lead us, will we find the blessings He has promised.

## 9. GOD CAN MAKE OUR BITTERNESS TO BE SWEET



Exodus 15:23-25 “*And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah.* <sup>24</sup>*And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?* <sup>25</sup>*And he cried unto*

*the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them.”*

After three days of walking the **people** were very tired, but excited to find water! They set up camp at Marah, but the water was so bitter they couldn't drink it so they complained to Moses.

Even when you know Jesus as your Savior, if you forget about Jesus and start complaining your life will be bitter. Without Jesus life is very bitter. God doesn't want you to complain and forget about His love for you. How many times did Jesus have an answer ready and waiting for us, but we were so busy complaining we forgot to ask?

Moses cried out to God, and God showed him a tree. **Moses cast the tree on the water and the bitter water became sweet!** Of course, the tree was a picture revealing the cross that was carved from a tree, for many years later, Jesus would come to die on a tree for your sins and mine, bearing all the bitterness of our sins, so that our lives could be sweet.



## **10. JESUS MAKES ALL OUR BITTERNESS BE SWEET**

When we believe in Jesus, He makes our bitterness become sweet and gives us joy instead of sadness. When you learn to trust God and praise Him, He uses all the hard things that happen to you for your good because you love Him.

### **OBJECT LESSON: Lemon, 1 T. Sugar, ½ Glass of Water.**

*I have here a slice of lemon. Would someone be brave enough to taste it? (When a child tastes lemon, his face will show that it is very bitter.)*



*Do you think that is how the water of Mara may have tasted? Sometimes our life can seem bitter, but what can you do when life keeps giving you lemons?*

*(Squeeze the lemon into water (about 1 tablespoon), add the sugar and stir.)*

*Have the child taste the drink as you say, "Make lemonade!"*

*When you truly give your troubles to Jesus and praise Him, He will pour His life into even the most bitter things that happen and your life will become sweet.*

*Exodus 15:26 "and said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee."*

When Jesus turned the bitter water sweet, He proved to the people that He is God. And God spoke a decree even for us today: He said if His people, that means you and me, will listen carefully to what He says and do what is right, that none of the terrible diseases that came upon the Egyptians will come upon us, because He is the God who heals. Jesus is our Jehovah-Rapha, our healer.

God tells us to speak out loud His words of blessing and they shall come to pass!

## **11. GOD DESIRES TO GIVE HIS PEOPLE PRECIOUS PROMISES OF HEALTH AND PEACE.**

*Exodus 15:27 “And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water, and threescore and ten palm trees; and they encamped there by the waters.”*

God moved His people on to Elim where there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees. They were refreshed with an abundance of water, and sheltered under the cool of many palms.

Below is a photograph showing the the legendary 70 palms and 12 wells discovered at Elim, a desert oasis in the Sinai Peninsula.!



When you praise the name of Jesus, the Ancient of Days who is the great “I AM that I AM” who spoke to Moses in the desert and became visible in Christ, the Living Water of His Holy Spirit flows from your innermost being. Jesus gives us more joy than we can hold, from the well of His life-giving love that never runs dry, and like an oasis in the desert with palms to shelter from the heat of the day, He gives us peaceful rest in the shelter of His loving arms.

*Matthew 11:28 “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”*

## 12. WITH DELIVERANCE & BLESSING COMES A TEST.

*Exodus 16:1* “*And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of **the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt.***”

By God’s account it had been exactly one month from the escape from Egypt to their arrival near Mt. Sinai. It was the 15<sup>th</sup> day of Nissan, Jewish year 2305, 1446 BC, when Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt on Passover night, and now 30 days later they left the oasis of Elim to arrive in the wilderness of Sin on May 1, 1456 BC.

*Exodus 16:2-3* “*And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness: <sup>3</sup> and the children of Israel said unto them, **Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.***”

God’s people still had not learned to trust Him! They complained they had no good food and accused Moses of trying to kill them!



*Exodus 16:4* “*Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and **the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.***”

God has not changed. He loves us and gives us wonderful blessings. But it is by way of those blessings also, that He tests us to see if we will walk in His way, or if we really do not trust Him and greedily grab for more and more, thinking we have to look out for ourselves because no one else is!

### **13. GOD GIVES HIS PEOPLE BREAD THAT SATISFIES.**

**Exodus 16:5-8** “And it shall come to pass, that **on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.** <sup>6</sup> And Moses and Aaron said unto all the children of Israel, At even, then ye shall know that the LORD hath brought you out from the land of Egypt: <sup>7</sup> and in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of the LORD... <sup>8</sup> And Moses said, This shall be, when the LORD shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full...”

#### **OBJECT LESSON: Jar of Bread Wafers.**

*(Before class, Fill an empty jar with manna white frosted animal cookies or Vanilla Wafers for each young person. (The labels will be added after colored and feathers attached)*



Hold a jar of Manna up for all the class to see and say, “God told Moses to fill a jar with manna and keep it forever so the people would always remember the miracle of the bread falling from Heaven.”

**Ask each child to take a piece of manna and taste it, then say:** “Manna from Heaven tasted a lot like bread but had a sweet taste and melted in the mouth. Let’s pretend that we are eating real manna from Heaven today and think about how Jesus gives us fresh bread every day when we talk to Him in prayer and read His word in the Bible. Jesus wants you to keep His wonderful word on the table of your heart always so that you will never ever be hungry or sad but always filled with His sweet goodness!

**Exodus 16:10-15** “It came to pass, as Aaron spake unto the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and, behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. <sup>11</sup> And the LORD spake unto Moses.... <sup>13</sup> And it came to pass, that at even the quails came up, and covered the camp: and in the morning...behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground. <sup>15</sup> And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat.”

## **14. GOD USED HIS BLESSING OF MANNA TO TRAIN HIS PEOPLE TO HONOR THE LORD OF THE SABBATH.**

*Exodus 16:32-36 “And Moses said, This is the thing which the LORD commandeth, Fill an omer of it to be kept for your generations; that they may see the bread wherewith I have fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you forth from the land of Egypt... <sup>34</sup>As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept. <sup>35</sup>And the children of Israel did eat manna forty years, ...they did eat Manna, until they came unto the borders of the land of Canaan.”*

The gathering and counting of the homer until Pentecost, is God’s picture of the gathering of the full count of people into heaven for salvation! When Moses put a jar of Manna inside the Ark of God, it was a Testimony of God’s provision of bread for His people, and His testimony that He was coming as the Bread from Heaven to save His people! God commanded them, and He commands us, to honor Him on His holy day, for a testimony to the world that He alone is our Creator God! The Israelites had not kept the Sabbath while they were in Egypt. Now God told them to gather and bake enough manna for two days because they were to honor the Sabbath day, because it is the testimony of our Creator, God.

*Hebrews 4:1-11 “Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. <sup>2</sup>For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it...<sup>4</sup>For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise... <sup>9</sup>There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.... <sup>11</sup>Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.”*



Jesus still commands us to keep His Sabbath today and enter into rest with Him to we find His perfect rest, peace, power and love.

## 15. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU & ME

1. We need to remember to eat of the Bread from Heaven and drink His living water every day so we can see His will for our lives clearly, and keep our hearts filled and satisfied.
2. God still leads His people through the wilderness to test our hearts to see if we are following Him or belong to another way.
3. With deliverance and blessing from God, comes testing.
4. Jesus died on the cross for our sins so that by faith and trust in Him, the bitterness of past sins in our lives will become sweet.
5. Stopping to pray, is like finding an oasis in the desert!
6. God gives us His people bread from Heaven that satisfies!
7. God used the blessing of the Manna to train His people to honor He who is Lord of the Sabbath because we love Him.
8. 'Eat' of God's word for bread, and desire His will for meat. Take time to close your eyes in prayer and climb into His lap where you will learn to know Him and rest in Him every day.
9. Every day, strive to make your life to become a testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ.
10. Let's give our whole heart to Jesus in prayer. Let's give every burden to Him, for He alone can give you rest and fill that hunger deep inside that food cannot satisfy.



*Dear Lord God, Thank you for loving me so much and providing everything I need. Thank you for bringing me out of my own personal Egypt of sin into a new life of walking with You. Thank you for being my Deliverer, my Rock, and my Fortress; for giving me the fire of Your Holy Spirit to live in my heart to guide me as surely as the Pillar of Cloud and of Fire guided the Israelites. Thank you for the pictures in Your word that help me to see and continually let go of all the sad things in my life to walk with You with no murmuring. Help me to know You and praise You in all things more, and love You more every day, **In Jesus name, Amen.***

**16. CRAFT PAGE** Directions: 1. Copy 1 for each child and cut out pictures before class. 2. Color picture & glue on Quail feathers. 3. Glue to Manna jar.



**GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ME**  
**WHEN I AM TEMPTED BY SATAN'S LIE,**  
**THAT I WILL FAIL SO I SHOULD NOT TRY,**  
**I WILL BELIEVE GOD'S WORD OF LIFE INSTEAD**  
**FOR ONLY IN JESUS WILL I FIND REAL BREAD**  
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