

# ONE in the word

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: **and they are they which testify of me** (Jesus).” (John 5:39)

## January 26

**TODAY'S READING:** Exodus 17-21

**OVERVIEW:** Water from the rock in Horeb; Joshua leads Israel in defeating Amalek in battle at the Lord's command; Jethro brings Moses' wife and two sons to Moses in the wilderness; God appears to Moses on Mount Sinai; God gives to Moses the ten commandments; the civil law for the Nation of Israel and the consequences for disobedience.

**HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:** Moses illustrates what a trusting Christian does in times of testing (Exodus 17): he turns to the Lord and asks for guidance! (James 1:5) The Lord ordered Moses to smite the rock at Horeb and out would flow water for the murmuring people of Israel. The picture is obvious: Christ, who is our Rock, was smitten on the cross to provide living water to quench any thirsty soul.

At the end of chapter 17, Moses orders Joshua to lead the people of Israel in battle against Amalek (a picture of the flesh). This is a battle that will continue from generation to generation (the battle of the Spirit versus the flesh – Galatians 5:16-17). Our only hope in winning this battle is to let our Joshua (the Lord Jesus Christ) lead us to daily victory. Note that this battle was won only after Israel had received water from the rock (water is a picture of the word of God which is our only weapon against the flesh – Ephesians 5:26, Psalm 119:9-11).

Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, comes to the wilderness in chapter 18 and offers Moses some advice on how to delegate some responsibility so that he and the people of Israel don't get worn out (Exodus 18:16-18, 21-22). Moses takes his advice (Exodus 18:24-26) and it certainly lifted some of the responsibility off his shoulders. But, whether or not God wanted this to happen is unclear. Even Jethro didn't know if this would be pleasing to God (Exodus 18:23). He was not speaking God's mind on the Lord's matter but his own mind which led Moses to believe he was not able to do what the Lord had him do (Deuteronomy 1:9-15) as he saw with physical sight not with Christ's eyes of faith. Note that Jethro decided to leave Moses and the people of Israel in the wilderness to return to his own land (Exodus 18:27). The lesson to be learned is that we must be careful when getting “wisdom from the world.” It may not always be harmful as in this case (since God doesn't condemn Moses) but it also may not be exactly what God had in mind as this became a first step toward the death of everyone over age 20 (Numbers 14:29). In any case, many times God will use our mistakes for His benefit by His grace. Hallelujah!

In chapter 19, Moses meets with God on Mount Sinai. It is here that God reveals to Moses His plan for the people of Israel and the rest of the world (Exodus 19:6). God desired Israel to be “a kingdom of priests and an holy nation.” His intention was that Israel would be so different from the rest of the world that they would want what Israel had. God’s plan is still the same! It is written in 1 Peter 2:9, “But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” God wants us to be so different from the rest of the world that they want what we have.

In chapter 19 verse 11, God paints a prophetic picture of the second coming of Christ. God says, “And be ready against the third day: for the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon Mount Sinai.” Peter explains in 2 Peter 3:8 that 1000 years is as one day to God. It has been about 2000 years (or two days on God’s time clock) since Christ died on the cross. The third day is upon us, when the LORD will come down in the sight of the whole world (Philippians 2:10-11)!

The Law of Moses, or the Ten Commandments as we most often refer to them, is dealt with in Chapters 20 and 21. We know from Scripture that the law was given to reveal our sin and need for a Saviour (Galatians 3:24). We know that the law is good (1 Timothy 1:8-11) because it embodies the character and nature of God’s holiness, but it must be used for the right reasons. The law was never intended to provide our salvation, though it does have a very important purpose. The law was given to reveal to us our sin, so that in humility and contrition, we would cry out to God for the salvation He offers through His Son (Galatians 3:19-24).

#### **CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

- As the ROCK from which water flows – Exodus 17:1-6 (1 Corinthians 10:4; John 4:14)
- Through JOSHUA – Exodus 17:9-16
- Through the LAW – Exodus 20:1-17 (Matthew 5:17; Hebrews 4:15; Romans 10:4)

*Note: Joshua is the Hebrew name for Jesus, the one who fights for us in battle with our enemies.*