



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#157)
Responding to God's promises and blessings.

1

GOD HAS OFFERED US SO MUCH!

- He offers to: **forgive** us for our sins, **save** us from our sins, and **empower** us so that we can fight against sin.
- He has promised to: **change** us, make us **holy**, and give us an eternity of **blessings**... *beginning now!*

★ **WHAT IS OUR RESPONSE TO THIS OFFER?** ★
Do we cling to it... or throw it away?

Do we have:
Gratitude ... Contentment ...
or grumbling? or complaints?

Are we: **Trusting God ...**
or testing him?

Israel was given a similar offer!
We should see how they responded... *and learn from it!*

2



BLOOD FROGS LICE/GNATS FLIES PESTILENCE

WHEN ISRAEL WAS CRUELLY ENSLAVED IN EGYPT, THE LORD DELIVERED THEM OUT OF BONDAGE. HE PUNISHED THE EGYPTIANS WITH 10 PLAGUES, UNTIL THEY WERE WILLING TO LET THEM GO.

BOILS HAIL/FIRE LOCUSTS DARKNESS DEATH

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God saw the oppression; he promised to deliver them. He sent Moses to lead them.

"I have observed the **miser**y of my people in Egypt, and have heard them **crying out** because of their **oppressors**. I know about their **sufferings**, and I have come down to **rescue** them from the **power** of the Egyptians and to **bring them from that land** to a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey..."

So because the Israelites' **cry for help** has come to me, and I have also seen the way the Egyptians are **oppressing** them, therefore, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh so that you may **lead my people**, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

Exodus 3:7b-8a, 9-10 (CSB)

★ **AND GOD KEPT HIS PROMISE. ★**

AS WE READ LATER → None of the good promises the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed. **Everything was fulfilled.**

Joshua 21:45 (CSB)

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But along the way... ?

HOW DID ISRAEL RESPOND?

Well, let's find out.

Pharaoh didn't like being told "Let my people go." So he made their lives even more difficult.

Did the Israelites look to the God who keeps his promises, and ask for deliverance from this trial?

NO! They blamed Moses for making their lives more difficult!

Even so, God kept his promise; and after the 10 plagues, the Egyptians let them go.

The foremen said to [Moses and Aaron], "May the LORD judge and punish you for making us stink before Pharaoh and his officials. You have put a sword into their hands, an excuse to kill us!"

Exodus 5:21 (NLT)

God led Israel to the edge of the Red Sea. The Egyptians changed their minds and sent their army to re-capture them.

When the Israelites saw the Egyptians coming, did they look to God – who had already delivered them from slavery – to protect them from the Egyptian army?

WE'RE TRAPPED!

NO! They claimed that Moses had just brought them out to die... and that they had been better as slaves.

... and they said to Moses, "Why did you bring us out here to die in the wilderness? Weren't there enough graves for us in Egypt? What have you done to us? Why did you make us leave Egypt? Didn't we tell you this would happen while we were still in Egypt? We said, 'Leave us alone! Let us be slaves to the Egyptians. It's better to be a slave in Egypt than a corpse in the wilderness!'"

Exodus 14:11-12 (NLT)

What did GOD do? He kept his promise.

1. First, he blocked the Egyptian's advance with the pillar of cloud.

WE CAN'T SEE WHERE WE ARE GOING!

BUT WE CAN!

EGYPTIANS

ISRAELITES

2. Second, he opened the Red Sea and let Israel cross on dry land.
3. Finally, as the Egyptians pursued them through the sea, he closed up the sea and drowned the Egyptian army.

ISRAELITES

EGYPTIANS

God kept his promise.

What else would you expect him to do?

(Of course, you're reading about it after the deliverance.)

Then...

The people of Israel praised God for their deliverance!

BUT DID THEIR PRAISE LAST? ABSOLUTELY NOT!

Three days later, they were already complaining, again!

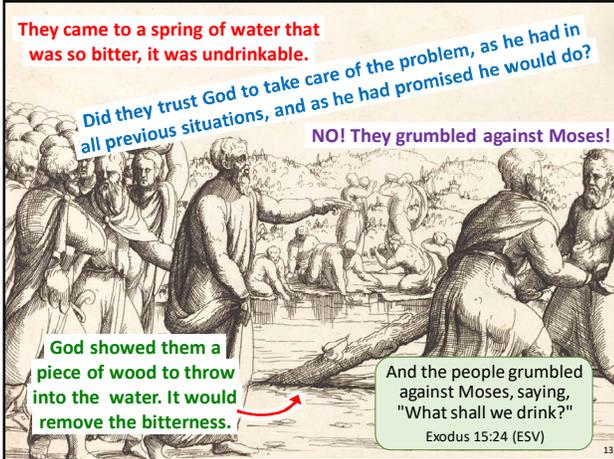
"Sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted. Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea."

Exodus 15:21b (NIV)

They came to a spring of water that was so bitter, it was undrinkable.

Did they trust God to take care of the problem, as he had in all previous situations, and as he had promised he would do?

NO! They grumbled against Moses!



God showed them a piece of wood to throw into the water. It would remove the bitterness.

And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?"
Exodus 15:24 (ESV)

Now their food supplies were getting low.

Did they trust God to provide, based on his previous provisions and the promise he had made to them?

WE'RE GOING TO DIE FROM HUNGER!

NO! They grumbled against Moses and Aaron... but it was actually against God! (Exodus 16:8)

The Israelites said to them, "If only the Lord had let us die in Egypt! There we sat by our pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted! You brought us out into this desert to let us all starve to death!"
Exodus 16:3 (GW)

God still provided.

MANNA

QUAIL



Again, they complained about water.

Did they ask God to provide, based on all that he had already done?

NO! They grumbled against Moses and God!

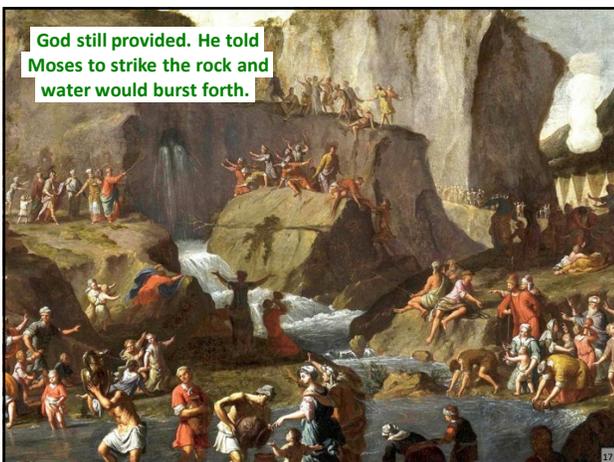
So they complained to Moses by saying, "Give us water to drink!" They complained to Moses and asked, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt? Was it to make us, our children, and our livestock die of thirst?"
Exodus 17:2a, 3b (GW)

WE WERE BETTER OFF AS SLAVES IN EGYPT!

[Moses' response.]

Moses said to them, "Why are you complaining to me? Why are you testing the Lord?"
Exodus 17:2b (GW)

God still provided. He told Moses to strike the rock and water would burst forth.



Many times, they claimed that they would follow the Lord.

"We will do everything the Lord has told us to do."
Exodus 24:3b (GW)

'... tell us everything [God] tells you, and we will listen and obey.'
Deuteronomy 5:27b (NLT)

Many MORE times, they grumbled and complained about what he was doing, questioned his faithfulness to keep his promises, and claimed that he hated them.

The people began **complaining** out loud to the Lord about their troubles.
Numbers 11:1a (GW)

The next day the whole Israelite community **grumbled** against Moses and Aaron.
Numbers 16:41a (NIV)

They **complained** to Moses and Aaron, "If only we had died in Egypt or this desert!"
Numbers 14:2 (GW)

You **grumbled** in your tents and said, 'The LORD brought us out of the land of Egypt to hand us over to the Amorites in order to destroy us, because he hates us.'
Deuteronomy 1:27 (CSB)

With their mouths, they praised God.
 They sang about his strength, his holiness, his unfailing love...
 > AND <
 In their hearts, they turned against him.

The LORD is my **strength** and my **song**; he has given me victory.
 This is my **God**, and I will **praise** him—my father's God, and I will **exalt** him!
 Who is like you among the gods, O LORD—**glorious in holiness**, ...
 With your **unfailing love** you lead the people you have redeemed.
 Ex 15:2, 11a, 13a (NLT)

Our fathers **refused to obey** him, but thrust him aside, and in their hearts they turned to Egypt ...
 Acts 7:39 (ESV)

"Come, **make us gods** who will go before us."
 Exodus 32:1b (NIV)

Even so, **God kept his promises.**
But he would wait until these complainers died.

... those who sinned, whose bodies perished in the wilderness ...
 Hebrews 3:17b (NIV)

Every time they claimed they would be faithful... and God gave them an opportunity to prove it...

He did this to humble you and test you for your own good. He did all this so you would never say to yourself, 'I have achieved this wealth with my own strength and energy.' Remember the LORD your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful, in order to fulfill the covenant he confirmed to your ancestors with an oath.
 Deuteronomy 8:16-18 (NLT)

IT'S THE SAME WAY TODAY!

... they grumbled and complained, and demanded that God prove himself faithful.
THIS IS BACKWARDS!

[They] challenged me and tested me there, although they had seen what I had done.
 Psalm 95:9 (GW)

WE CAN BE TRUSTED... BUT WE'RE NOT SURE ABOUT YOU!

So what does all this mean to ME?

We're glad you asked!!

THESE EVENTS ARE EXAMPLES TO WARN US!

These things have become **examples** for us so that we won't desire what is evil, as they did.
 So don't worship false gods as some of them did, ...
 We shouldn't sin sexually as some of them did.
 We shouldn't put the Lord to the test as some of them did.
 Don't complain as some of them did.
 1 Cor. 10:6-7a, 8a, 9a, 10a (GW)

These things happened to make them **an example** for others. These things were written down as a **warning** for us who are living in the closing days of history.
 So, people who think they are standing firmly should be careful that they don't fall.
 1 Cor. 10:11-12 (GW)

So don't worship false gods ...
 We shouldn't sin sexually ...
 We shouldn't put the Lord to the test ...
 Don't complain ...
 1 Cor. 10:7a, 8a, 9a, 10a (GW)

I'D NEVER DO ANY OF THOSE THINGS!

THAT'S EASY TO SAY... BUT HARD TO PRACTICE!

Do you realize these sins are easy to commit?

- ✓ False gods includes any misrepresentation of what the Bible's says about God.
- ✓ Sexual sin includes desires that occur in the mind (lust), as well as wrong affections, words and behavior.

Our focus is on the "testing/complaining" part (v. 9-10).

- ✓ Complaining, grumbling, discontent, ungrateful, unthankful, etc.
- ✓ Questioning God's power, his faithfulness and willingness to keep his promises; demanding that he "prove" himself.

CONSIDER THIS...

- ✓ Grumbling and complaining make us worthy of judgment.
 Don't **grumble** against one another ... or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!
 James 5:9 (NIV)
- ✓ Being unthankful is characteristic of people who suppress the truth about God.
 ... people, who suppress the ... about God ... they neither glorified him as God **nor gave thanks** to him ...
 Romans 1:18b, 19b, 21b (NIV)
- ✓ Complaining and fault-finding are characteristics of an apostate – someone who has departed from the faith.
 These people **complain, find fault**, ...
 Jude 1:16a (GW)

- ✓ Jesus groups together ungrateful people and wicked people.

[God] is kind to the **ungrateful** and wicked ...
Luke 6:35b (NIV)

- ✓ Ungratefulness will be characteristic of the wicked in the "last days."

For people will be ... **ungrateful** ...
2 Timothy 3:2a (CSB); many other characteristics
are also mentioned.

- ✓ Grumbling is associated with disobeying God.

Instead, they **grumbled** in their tents
and **refused to obey** the LORD.
Ps 106:25 (NLT)

- ✓ The context of some of the above verses links these characteristics to *many other types of sinful conduct.*

★ Got the idea yet? ★

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⇒ Grumblers and complainers should be grateful when God **doesn't** give them what they deserve.

Don't **complain** as some of them did.
The angel of death **destroyed** them.
1 Corinthians 10:10 (GW)

The people refused to enter the pleasant land,
for they **wouldn't believe** his promise to care for them.
Instead, they **grumbled** in their tents
and **refused to obey** the LORD.
Therefore, he solemnly swore
that he would **kill** them in the wilderness,
that he would scatter their descendants* among the nations,
exiling them to distant lands.
Ps 106:24-27 (NLT)

* (A prophetic statement. Their descendants *also* refused to trust God.)

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⇒ People who question and test God should learn from what happened to the Israelites.

[They] **tested God** in the desert.
He gave them what they asked for,
but sent a wasting disease among them.
Ps 106:14b-15 (CSB)

We shouldn't **put the Lord to the test** as some
of them did. They were killed by snakes.
1 Corinthians 10:9 (GW)

... none of the people who saw my glory and the
miraculous signs I did in Egypt and in the desert will see
the land which I promised their ancestors. They have
tested me now ten times and **refused to obey** me.
Numbers 14:22 (GW)

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**WE SHOULD CONSIDER THESE THINGS
"NOT AN OPTION" THAT WE CAN CHOOSE!**

- ✓ Though sometimes a complaint may be legitimate (an example is seen in Acts 6:1), most of our complaining doesn't fit into this category. Neither does our attempt to test God.

- ✓ Complaining is *not an option* for God's people.

Do everything without **complaining** or **arguing**.
Philippians 2:14 (GW)

- ✓ Testing God is *not an option* for God's people.

Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not **put**
the Lord your God **to the test**.'" "
Matthew 4:7 (NIV)

**THOUGH THE WICKED TEND TO DO THESE THINGS,
GOD SAYS THAT EVEN FOR THEM, IT IS "NOT AN OPTION."**

That's why they will be judged for doing so.

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CONSIDER WHAT GOD HAS PROMISED US...

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and **all these things** [= the basic needs of life] will be given to you as well.
Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

And we know that in all things God works for the **good** of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
Romans 8:28 (NIV)

- ✓ Rather than questioning God and complaining, we should be convinced, as Paul was...

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 8:38-39 (NIV)

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⇒ If we have God, and he has promised to take care of us, what else do we need?

- ✓ We have more important things to do, than to be preoccupied with these things!

But godliness with **contentment** is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out. If we have food and clothing, we will be content with these.
1 Timothy 6:6-8 (CSB)

- ✓ We should learn, as Paul learned...

... I have learned to be **content** in any circumstance. I have experienced times of need and times of abundance.
In any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of **contentment**, whether I go satisfied or hungry, have plenty or nothing. I am able to do all things through the one who strengthens me.
Philippians 4:11b-13 (NET)

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→ Our lives are to be characterized by thankfulness, not by complaining!

Thankful to **God**, because of who he is, what he has done, and what he is going to do! He will keep his promises!

Keep your lives free from the love of money and **be content** with what you have, because God has said,
"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."
Hebrews 13:5 (NIV)

Always **give thanks** to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Ephesians 5:20 (ERV)

Death has been swallowed up in victory. The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But **thanks** be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!
1 Corinthians 15:54b, 56-57 (CSB)

Thankful for **God's people**. They may be just as **imperfect** as we are, but God is working in their lives as well!

Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God's people everywhere, I have not stopped **thanking** God for you.
Ephesians 1:15-16a (CSB)

We always have to **thank** God for you, brothers and sisters. It's right to do this because your faith is showing remarkable growth and your love for each other is increasing.
2 Thessalonians 1:3 (GW)

Every time I think of you, I give **thanks** to my God. And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.
Philippians 1:3, 6 (NLT)

→ It's those who are **not** growing, who we should be concerned about. They may prove to be **not** saved. ←

Since these things are true, they leave us with a glorious mission – not just for this week, but forever!

Your Our MISSION!
[This verse is for us as a *group*. ("You" is in plural form.)]

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving **thanks** to God the Father through him.
Colossians 3:17 (NIV)

"In the name of the Lord Jesus" means...

- ✓ Do it for him.
- ✓ Do it as his representative.
- ✓ Do it because of all that he is.

God has delivered us from a slavery that is **much worse** than what Israel experienced!

DON'T GO BACK TO IT!

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin. ... So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free."
John 8:34, 36 (NLT)

When we grumble and complain and put God to the test, it's like saying:

"God, I don't trust you; I won't obey you until you do what I demand."
→ and ←

"I may claim to believe the Bible, but my heart is somewhere else."
→ and ←

"I prefer slavery to what God offers."

Credits (1)

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