

The Second Crisis of Israel in the Wilderness,  
Bitter Water at Marah:  
Bitter Experiences Made Sweet and Pure  
Exodus 15:22–27

**1. *The first crisis: Thirst***

- a. Moses led the people from the Red Sea into the wilderness of Shur: Went three days and found no water
- b. Moses led them to Marah: Found water, but it was bitter

**2. *The first terrible sin of Israel: Complaining, grumbling, murmuring***

**3. *The cry of God's servant to the LORD and the LORD's provision: He showed Moses a piece of wood that purified, sweetened the water***

**4. *The purpose of God: To test His people***

22 Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they travelled in the desert without finding water.

23 When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah. )

24 So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?"

25 Then Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became fit to drink. There the LORD issued a ruling and instruction for them and put them to the test.

**5. *The result of the crisis:***  
***The LORD made***  
***a great covenant and promise***

- a. The covenant: Conditional
  - 1) If diligently listen
  - 2) If do what is right
  - 3) If obey commandments
- b. The Lord's promise
  - 1) He would not have to chastise them with the diseases brought upon the Egyptians
  - 2) He would always provide for them:  
"I am the LORD who heals you"

**6. *The abundant provision of God:***  
***Led them to Elim***  
***which had twelve springs***  
***and seventy palm trees***

26 He said,  
"If you listen carefully  
to the LORD your God  
and do what is right in his eyes,  
if you pay attention to his commands  
and keep all his decrees,  
I will not bring on you  
any of the diseases  
I brought on the Egyptians,  
for I am the LORD,  
who heals you."

27 Then they came to Elim,  
where there were twelve springs  
and seventy palm trees,  
and they camped there near the water.