

The Fourth Crisis of Israel in the Wilderness; Thirst: God's Provision of Water Exodus 17:01–07

1. *The crisis: Thirst —*

the Israelites had no water

- a. Left the desert of Sin and were led from place to place by God
- b. Camped at Rephidim
- c. The crisis: No water

2. *The terrible sin of Israel*

- a. They looked to Moses not to God: Argued, grumbled
- b. They tested God: Questioned His goodness and care — demanded that He prove Himself, provide for them
- c. They accused Moses of being an impostor: Misleading them, leading them to their death

3. *The cry of God's servant: He cried out to the LORD*

- a. He cried out for direction
- b. The people threatened his life

1 The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

2 So they quarrelled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?"

3 But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?"

4 Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me."

4. *The provision of God*

- a. God told His messenger to walk ahead of the people: To take some of the elders and his staff with him
- b. God promised to stand before His servant by the rock in Horeb
- c. God instructed His servant to strike the rock and promised that water would flow out of it
- d. God's servant obeyed

5. *The place memorialised*

- a. Named Massah:
Test, testing
- b. Named Meribah:
Arguing, quarrelling, strife, contention

5 The LORD answered Moses,
“Go out in front of the people.
Take with you some of the elders of Israel
and take in your hand the staff
with which you struck the Nile, and go.

6 I will stand there before you by the rock
at Horeb. Strike the rock,
and water will come out of it
for the people to drink.”
So Moses did this
in the sight of the elders of Israel.

7 And he called the place Massah and Meribah
because the Israelites quarrelled
and because they tested the LORD
saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”