They Did Not Listen To Mosheh

Exodus 14:30-19:2

Reading Questions

1. Can diseases be brought on by disobedience to יהוה’s laws?
2. In what area were the people tried?
3. What did יהוה ask in Exodus 16:28 and what can we learn from this?
4. What does it mean to “try” יהוה?
5. What are we to never forget?
6. Is it acceptable to bow before people?

Reading Answers

1. Yes (Exodus 15:26)

2. In the area of whether or not they would obey יהוה’s laws (Exodus 16:4)

3. “How long shall you refuse to guard My commands and My Laws?” What we can learn from this is obvious: יהוה does care about us keeping His laws! Do we want to be like those in the wilderness who were disobedient? Or do we want to be obedient? Let’s choose to be obedient children! Obeying His laws and commandments clearly are a part of acting in a pleasing way to יהוה. We do not obey laws to earn salvation; we obey laws because it is how we show love to יהוה. It is repeated in Hebrews 4 that he does not want us to be disobedient to his laws; but that He wants us to keep the seventh day Sabbath.

4. In Exodus 17:1-7 we learn that they “tried” יהוה. They key point here is in verse 7 which states they tried Him by saying, “Is יהוה in our midst or not?” So we are not to doubt if יהוה is in our midst or to doubt his existence or to doubt his power or to think He has to prove himself by doing some kind of a sign or wonder for us to believe in Him or to believe in His power. יהוה is the Creator of the Universe; he does not have to ‘prove’ himself to anyone. We do not need a sign to know that He Exists and He Will Exists. If we did need a sign all we would have to do is look in a mirror as human life is a miracle. Even the Name יהוה means, “He Exists, He Will Exist”. We are not to have an attitude of, “If He is in our midst, where is water?” This is a similar attitude that the enemy was trying to get יהושע to listen to when he said in Matthew 4:3, 4:6, Luke 4:3, 4:9, “If you are the Son of Elohiym…” We know יהוה is Elohiym, and it is written, “יהוה of hosts is with us; The Elohiym of
Ya’aqov is our refuge. Selah.” (Psalms 46:7, 11) Water is a key, basic essential to living. If we ever encounter we lack anything, even what seems basic essentials, we are not to doubt if יהוה is with us based upon that alone. We need to remember that sometimes we are tried and tested, and sometimes we are permitted to go through struggles or trials, but that in the end יהוה desires to do us good (Deuteronomy 8:16). That verse in Deuteronomy also reminds me of Jeremiah 29:11.

5. That you blot out the remembrance of Amaleq from under the skies (Deuteronomy 25:19). Although this is from another reading, we see this event referenced in Deuteronomy 25 happening in the reading we’re in. We get the details in Deuteronomy showing that Amaleq not only fought with them, but attacked the feeble ones in the rear. This could have been referring to elderly or children, I’m not sure. But we’re told in Exodus 17:14 that יהוה shall completely blot out the remembrance of Amaleq, and so this is something to remember.

6. For the answer to this question, refer to the same question in the reading notes for Week 12 of the Annual Reading Schedule.

Reading Notes

- You have heard of the phrase or song, “Miy Kamokhah”. This comes from Exodus 15:11 which says in Hebrew, “Miy Khamokhah ba’Eiliym יהוה Miy Kamokha nedar ba’Qodesh nora tehillot oseih phele”. We sing this every Sabbath morning as part of our morning service before we get into the Torah reading, along with the Shema and other blessings and such that are sang/read before the Torah reading.

- Exodus 15:25 where Mosheh is shown a tree reminds me of when Hagar was shown a well in Genesis 21:19. Apparently the tree was there, but he had to be shown it. On another note, I want to share a very emotional word of wisdom/knowledge from one of the prisoners I write to, a brother named Jack who wrote me from prison. In his letter, Jack wrote the following:

“This is also Richard, there was a part of the reading this week in Shemoth 15:22-26. In verse 23 when he said they were unable to drink of the waters of Marah for they were bitter, He never really makes it clear if they were unable to drink because the water was bitter or because the people were bitter, But as always I want to say that I am not saying this is a fact, I just want to point out a lesson I learned in this. I remember sitting in a previous service and myself being bitter. I didn’t know Yahshua and because of my bitterness I could not drink of the water he offered (verse 25).

Then I cried out to יהוה and יהוה showed me a tree, His son had died and Rose from, He made the water living water. What I keep seeing is such a beautiful picture
of the stake and how we are healed by Yahshua. Do you have a take on this? Just a thought Achi.”

As I read what Jack wrote again, but for the first time on a Sabbath morning gathering, I can’t help but admit that I got emotional just from reading that. Amazing. HalleluYah! Praise be to יהוה for all He provides and for sending יהושע!

On another note, miraculously, Jack made parole 30 years early a few years after writing this letter to me. יהוה is SO AWESOME!!!! HALLELUYAH!!!!

- Exodus 15:26 says “יהוה who heals you” which in Hebrew is “יהוה Rophekha” (possibly translated also “יהוה your healer” though I’m not sure).

- In Exodus 16:12 we see that יהוה heard their grumblings. We have to remember that in this wilderness, we do not want to grumble when things are hard. A brother once said to me that one of the first things he does in a hard situation is get on His face before the Father and give thanks and praise and esteem to Him. He pointed out that the enemy can’t really have any power to do anything against us while we are there just praising יהוה and giving esteem to Him. It will put us in the mindset we need to be in, to not worry, not complain, not grumble, just trust and wait upon יהוה for deliverance from the hard time we are in. May יהוה put these things that are good to do in the hard times at the forefront of our minds and bring them to remembrance whenever we encounter struggles of any kind in our life. Amein.

- Exodus 16:5 and 16:23 shows we are to prepare our food we intend to eat on Shabbat (Sabbath) before the Shabbat arrives. We are not to cook on the Shabbat. We also see that the 7th day is the day for the Shabbat (Exodus 16:26, Hebrews 4).

- Exodus 16:29 teaches us we are not to be doing extensive travel on the Sabbath, except to gathering of course which is commanded on Shabbat.

- Manna is Greek. In Hebrew, it is מָן (Man) in Exodus 16:31.

- In Exodus 17:15 it says “יהוה Nissi” which is translated sometimes as “יהוה is my Banner” or “יהוה is my Standard” (standard meaning a flag hung from a pole).

Related Verses

Heals All Your Diseases: Psalms 103:3
No Flight On Shabbat: Matthew 24:20
No Buying or Selling On Shabbat: Nehemiah 10:31, 13:15-21, Amos 8:4-7
Made Known Sabbath & They Refused To Obey: Nehemiah 9:14-17


Blot Out Amaleq: Deuteronomy 25:17-19

40 Years Sustained: Nehemiah 9:20-21