



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Exodus 13:17-17:16
- II Corinthians 4:1-18
- Psalms 116:1-10
- Matthew 14:22-33
- John 6:1-40

HARD-PRESSED ON EVERY SIDE!

- Don't Go Your Own Way
- Hemmed In On All Sides
- Treasure In Earthen Vessels
- Bread From Heaven

After all the miracles and all the undeniable supernatural signs: deliverance from Egypt with 10 devastating plagues; being led by smoke and fire out of Egypt so they could travel day and night and in a direction they would have never chosen on their own, so Yahweh could demonstrate His power; a pillar of smoke and fire to hold off the Egyptian army; the opening of a massive body of water with the tap of a rod, so they could pass over on dry ground; the destruction of the entire military force of the most powerful nation in the world, as they are swallowed up in the waters; and they still DON'T BELIEVE. They complain every step of the way, and each time the hand of Yahweh provides! What about you? Do you still

complain every time you face a challenge, no matter how many times you see the “deliverance of Yahweh?”

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

“For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, ‘**They are bewildered by the land; the wilderness has closed them in.**’ Then I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, so that he will pursue them; and **I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army**, that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD.” And they did so.” Exodus 14:3-4 NKJV

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. **We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—** always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you. II Corinthians 4:7-12

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. This reading tells the adventures of the Israelites as they leave Egypt, cross the Red Sea, receive miraculous provision in the wilderness and face their first battle.
2. Right from the start we see Yahweh's strategy. He sends the people out Egypt in a direction away from the Philistines even though that not the shorter path. He does so for two reasons:
 - (a) First, so they don't immediately panic by facing opposition
 - (b) Second, so He can later hem them in against the sea.
 - (c) Why? So He can show them His mighty power as He wrecks their enemies right in front of them.
3. In a prophetic moment, "Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he [Joseph] had placed the children of Israel under **solemn oath [in Genesis 50:25]**, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here with you.""
Exodus 13:19
4. Yahweh went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so they could travel day and night.
5. Yahweh tells them to camp at the shore of the Red Sea as He plans to inspire Pharaoh to chase them, so He can "gain honor

over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I *am* Yahweh.”

6. So, the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses *and* chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping by the sea.
7. [COMPLAINT #1: FEAR] The people lose heart and are afraid and complain. “Did you just take us out here to die; we would have been happier just staying in Egypt!”
8. Moses then proclaims this classic line of Scripture “Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of Yahweh, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. Yahweh will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.”
9. The children of Israel are told to go forward. Moses will touch the waters and they will divide so the people can pass over on dry ground.
10. To give the people time, Yahweh puts a pillar between Israel and Egyptians, and notice this prophetic picture. It was a **cloud and darkness** to the one, and it **gave light by night to the other**. It held back the Egyptians all night.
11. The children of Israel crossed on the dry ground.
12. Then the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh’s horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

13. As they pursued, Yahweh troubled the army of the Egyptians. And He took off their chariot wheels, so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Egyptians."
14. Then Yahweh has Moses stretch out his hand and the sea closes over the Egyptians and not one of them survived.
15. Israel saw Yahweh's great work, feared Him and believed His servant Moses.
16. Then we have The Song of Moses which extols Yahweh's virtues as it recounts the testimony of deliverance. It includes this amazingly prophetic verse. (Ex. 15:17) "You will bring them in and plant them **in the mountain of Your inheritance**, in the place, O Yahweh, which You have made for **Your own dwelling, the sanctuary, O Yahweh**, which Your hands have established."
17. Then we have The Song of Miriam "Sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!"
18. Then, THREE DAY'S JOURNEY into the wilderness they come up against a water shortest as the water available is not pure. [Please remember that Moses demanded that Pharaoh let the people go a three days' journey into the wilderness to worship Yahweh and have a feast. And now we are at that exact moment. And what does Yahweh have planned?

19. [COMPLAINT #2: THIRST] And the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" So Moses interceded, and Yahweh showed him a tree. When he cast *it* into the waters, the waters were made pure.
20. HERE IS THE PIVOT POINT OF THE THREE DAYS' JOURNEY:
There He made a statute and an ordinance for them, and there He tested them, and said, "*If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you.*"
21. [COMPLAINT #3: HUNGER] 45 days into their journey the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, "Oh, that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat *and* when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."
22. Yahweh then rains bread from heaven and the people gather their daily need (daily bread). Why one day at a time? To test whether the people will walk in His laws or not. On the sixth day gather double so they have no need to gather on the Sabbath.

23. Moses says, "Listen, you are really complaining against Yahweh and He hears you. He will give you meat to eat in the evening, and in the morning bread to the full."
24. So it was that quail came up at evening and covered the camp, and in the morning when the layer of dew lifted, there was a small round substance, as fine as frost on the ground (manna). Let every man gather it according to each one's need.
25. If anyone gathered more than needed and left it until morning, it bred worms and stank.
26. On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much bread because on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there was none. The Sabbath rest is holy to Yahweh. Prepare what you need today and the remains may be kept until morning and it will not rot.
27. Some people did not trust, so went out on the Sabbath to gather manna anyway and they found none. The Sabbath is like a famine that you need to provide for in advance (like Joseph).
28. This is where they are told to collect some manna and store it in a pot to be kept for their generations, that they may see the bread with which Yahweh used to feed them in the wilderness. when He brought them out of the land of Egypt.
29. Israel ate manna forty years, until they came to an inhabited land; they ate manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan.

30. [COMPLAINT #4 THIRST AGAIN] They arrive next in Rephidim; but there was no water and they thirsted and complained against Moses, and said, “Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?”
31. Moses cries out to Yahweh for help and he is instructed to strike a rock in Horeb with the Rod in which he struck the Nile, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink. [Forty years later this will happen again and Moses is told to speak to the Rock instead of striking it. He does not obey and instead strikes the rock twice. Water does pour forth but the consequences to Moses for his disobedience are severe. SEE Numbers 20:7-13]
32. The final piece of this week’s portion is Israel’s first battle in the wilderness against the Amalekites.
33. Joshua is called to lead the men against Amalek. As the battle rages, as long as Moses raises his hands Israel prevailed.
34. As Moses’ hands become heavy, Aaron and Hur support him on each side. His hands remained steady until the going down of the sun and Joshua defeated Amalek.
35. Yahweh tells Moses to memorialize Amalek’s defeat in the book and recount *it* in the hearing of Joshua, and that He will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.

DON'T GO YOUR OWN WAY

1. It never looks the way you think it should

A. Yahweh sent Israel out of Egypt in a surprising direction, and of course, He knew what He was doing.

(1) “Then it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that **God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near;** for God said, “Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt.” So God led the people around by way of the wilderness of the Red Sea. And the children of Israel went up in **orderly ranks** out of the land of Egypt.”

Exodus 13:17-18 NKJV

- (a) He knew they would not be ready for conflict right out of the box. Later they will face the Amalekites and they will have victory.
 - (b) He knew they would want to return to Egypt the moment they saw the Philistines.
 - (c) He also had a bigger plan they could not see!
- (2) “Then **I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, so that he will pursue them;** and **I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army,** that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD.” And they did so. Now it was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled, and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants

was turned against the people; and they said, “Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?” So he made ready his chariot and took his people with him. Also, he took six hundred choice chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt with captains over every one of them. And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the children of Israel; and the children of Israel went out with boldness. So the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping by the sea beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon.” Exodus 14:4-9 NKJV

- (a) Yahweh’s plan is that he would harden Pharaoh’s heart once more.
- (b) Yahweh knew Pharaoh would pursue Israel into the wilderness.
- (c) Yahweh’s plan was to gain honor over Pharaoh, his armies and all of Egypt.

B. Even when you think God is doing one thing, He is often doing another!

- (1) He knows best even when we cannot see it.
 - (a) “A man’s heart plans his way, **But the LORD directs his steps.**” Proverbs 16:9 NKJV

- (b) **“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD,**
And He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not
be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with
His hand.” Psalms 37:23-24 NKJV
- (c) **““Enter by the narrow gate;** for wide is the gate and
broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are
many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and
difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few
who find it.” Matthew 7:13-14 NKJV
- (2) His ways are higher than our ways.
- (a) “And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of
cloud **to lead the way,** and by night in a pillar of fire to
give them light, **so as to go by day and night.** He did not
take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire
by night from before the people.” Exodus 13:21-22
NKJV **(Cloud by day—fire by night, you would think
this would be cut and dry?)**
- (b) **““For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your
ways My ways,”** says the LORD. “For as the heavens are
higher than the earth, **So are My ways higher than your
ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.”** Isaiah
55:8-9 NKJV

- (c) “For **I know the thoughts that I think toward you**, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV
- (d) “Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. **It is hard for you to kick against the goads.**” So he, trembling and astonished, said, “**Lord, what do You want me to do?**” Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”” Acts 9:1-6 NKJV
- (e) “Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.**” II Corinthians 12:10 NKJV

(3) Don't lose heart (faith).

- (a) "Then they said to Moses, "Because there were no graves in Egypt, **have you taken us away to die in the wilderness?** Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone that we may **serve the Egyptians**'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.'" Exodus 14:11-12 NKJV
- (b) "**Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.** For by it the elders obtained a good testimony... **But without faith it is impossible to please Him,** for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that **He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**" Hebrews 11:1-2, 6 NKJV
- (c) "As a **dog returns to his own vomit,** So a fool repeats his folly." Proverbs 26:11 NKJV [also in 2 Peter 2:22]
- (d) "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, **the author and finisher of our faith,** who for the

joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV

HEMMED IN ON ALL SIDES

2. Subtopic

A. What happens when you seem trapped on every side and all hope is lost?

(1) “For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, ‘**They are bewildered by the land; the wilderness has closed them in.**’ Then I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, so that he will pursue them; and **I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army**, that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD.” And they did so.” Exodus 14:3-4 NKJV

(a) FIRST RESPONSE IS FEAR: “And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. **So they were very afraid**, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD. Then they said to Moses, “Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, ‘Let us alone that we may serve the

Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.'" Exodus 14:10-12 NKJV

- (b) "And Moses said to the people, "**Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD**, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. **The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.**"' Exodus 14:13-14 NKJV
 - 1) "**Be anxious for nothing**, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; **and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding**, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV
- (2) The Complaining Spirit continued!
 - (a) [COMPLAINT #1: FEAR] Exodus 14:10-12 as they are backed up against the sea.
 - 1) "Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness?"
 - 2) "Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness."

(b) [COMPLAINT #2: THIRST] Exodus 15:22-26 three days' journey into the wilderness they find nothing but bitter water.

- 1) the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?"
- 2) there **He tested them...**
- 3) "**If you diligently heed the voice** of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, **I will put none of the diseases** on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you."

(c) [COMPLAINT #3: HUNGER] Exodus 16:32-36 Forty Five days into the wilderness, bread from heaven and double portion for the sabbath preparation.

- 1) "Oh, that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, **when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full!** For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."
- 2) "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that **I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not.**" (Meaning only seek your

daily bread, "Give us this day our daily bread."

Matthew 6:11

- 3) "And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall bring in **twice as much** as they gather daily."
 - 4) So it was that quails came up at evening and covered the camp, and in the morning the dew lay all around the camp.
 - 5) Let every man gather it according to each one's need; if they kept any overnight it rotted.
 - 6) And so it was, on the sixth day, that they gathered **twice as much and what they kept overnight did not rot.**
 - 7) Place some in a jar and seal it for all generations as a reminder of what Yahweh has done (this is what is later placed in the the Ark of the Covenant, Hebrews 9:4)
- (d) [COMPLAINT #4: THIRST AGAIN] Exodus 17:1-7 as thirst overtakes the people a second time and Moses strikes the rock and brings forth water.
- 1) **And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses,** and said, "Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"

- 2) “Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall **strike the rock**, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink.”
- 3) *At the end of their journey in the wilderness 40 years later, the same circumstance arises, but this time Moses is commanded to speak to the Rock in order to bring water forth. Instead, he strikes the rock twice. Water does come forth but the consequences for Moses are devastating—See Numbers 20:7-13.
- 4) Yahweh names the place Massah and Meribah, because of **they tempted the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?**

TREASURE IN EARTHEN VESSELS

3. You were made for this!

A. Treasure in earthen vessels—the power of Yahweh displayed in human testimony

- (1) “For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, ‘**They are bewildered by the land; the wilderness has closed them in.**’ Then I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, so that he will pursue them; and **I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army**, that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD.” And they did so.” Exodus 14:3-4 NKJV

(2) What do you think Paul had in mind when he wrote these words? WOW! WOW!! Hard-pressed on every side!!!!
Backed up against the sea, with no way out?

(a) “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. **We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed**— always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus’ sake, **that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.** So then death is working in us, but life in you. II Corinthians 4:7-12

1) **Hard pressed on ever side so that the life of Messiah may be manifest in you!** “I have been crucified with Christ; **it is no longer I who live**, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Galatians 2:20 NKJV

(b) “And since we have the **same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed and therefore I spoke,**” [Psalms 116:10] we also believe and therefore

speaking, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God." II Corinthians 4:13-15
NKJV

- 1) What is that same spirit of faith? It is the faith that David had when, "The pains of death surround him." (Hard-pressed on every side!) "**I will walk before the LORD In the land of the living. I believed, therefore I spoke.**"
- 2) "I love the LORD, because **He has heard My voice and my supplications.** Because He has inclined His ear to me, Therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live. **The pains of death surrounded me,** And the pangs of Sheol laid hold of me; I found trouble and sorrow. Then I called upon the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I implore You, **deliver my soul!**" Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; Yes, our God is merciful. The LORD preserves the simple; **I was brought low, and He saved me.** Return to your rest, O my soul, For the LORD has dealt bountifully with you. **For You have delivered my soul from death,** My eyes from

tears, And my feet from falling. **I will walk before the LORD In the land of the living. I believed, therefore I spoke, "I am greatly afflicted."** Psalms 116:1-10
NKJV

- (c) Therefore we **do not lose heart**. Even though our **outward man is perishing**, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. **For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory**, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal." II Corinthians 4:16-18 NKJV
- 1) Do not lose heart even when you think your life is about to end.
 - 2) That is minor compared to the work Yahweh is doing!
 - 3) Do not focus on the the things you can see with your eyes right in front of you, like the entire Egyptian Army bearing down on you with no way to escape.
- (3) You see! Had Yahweh not led them this way in the Exodus, they would not have been hemmed in. They were hemmed in for a REASON!

(a) Then I will harden Pharaoh's heart, so that he will pursue them; and **I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army**, that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD." And they did so." Exodus 14:4

1) Why would Yahweh do this!?

2) **First to show both Israel and Egypt that He has separated them! Darkness on one side and light on the other:** "And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a **cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other**, so that the one did not come near the other all that night." Exodus 14:19-20 NKJV

(b) **And back to Paul's words again. Does this not conjure up the thoughts of Pharaoh's hardened heart and blindness?** "Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, **not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully**, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the

sight of God. **But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe,** lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. **For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness,** who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." II

Corinthians 4:1-6 NKJV

- 1) But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe.
- 2) For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness.
- 3) Shining like the sun! Let your light shine!
 - i. "Thus let all Your enemies perish, O LORD! **But let those who love Him be like the sun When it comes out in full strength.**" So the land had rest for forty years." Judges 5:31 NKJV
 - ii. "Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil. Avoid it, do not travel on

it; Turn away from it and pass on. For they do not sleep unless they have done evil; And their sleep is taken away unless they make someone fall. For they eat the bread of wickedness, And drink the wine of violence. **But the path of the just is like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.**" Proverbs 4:14-18 NKJV

iii. **"Let your light so shine** before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16 NKJV

(4) Yahweh's plan all along!

(a) "And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. **Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD,** which **He will accomplish for you** today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. **The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.**" "And the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? **Tell the children of Israel to go forward.**" Exodus 14:13-15 NKJV

(b) "Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. So the children of Israel went

into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. **And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea,** all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen." Exodus 14:21-23 NKJV

- (c) "Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the LORD looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and **He troubled the army of the Egyptians [to delay their entering the sea].** And He took off their chariot wheels, so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians."" Exodus 14:24-25 NKJV
- (d) "Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, **that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians,** on their chariots, and on their horsemen." And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it. So the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into

the sea after them. **Not so much as one of them remained.**" Exodus 14:26-28 NKJV

1) WORTH REPEATING AGAIN! **For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,** while we do not look at the things **which are seen,** but at the things which are not seen. **For the things which are seen are temporary,** but the things which are not seen are eternal." II Corinthians 4:17-18

(5) Another wind and water event in which Yahweh had a plan all along!

(a) WALKING ON WATER "Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, **tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.** Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "**Be**

of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." **[while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary]** And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." **[Don't go the way you thought you would go]** And when Peter had come down out of the boat, **he walked on the water to go to Jesus.** But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, **he was afraid; and beginning to sink [you must fix your eyes on Y'shua, the author AND finisher of your faith, Hebrews 12:1-2]** he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, **"O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"** And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God." Matthew 14:22-33 NKJV

BREAD FROM HEAVEN

4. Manna and Y'shua and again Joseph and the Double portion

A. Supernatural Bread

- (1) Test when you are hungry—provision for only what you need!
- (a) “Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, **I will rain bread from heaven for you.** And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that **I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not.**”
Exodus 16:4 NKJV
- (b) This is the thing which the LORD has commanded: ‘**Let every man gather it according to each one’s need,** one omer for each person, according to the number of persons; let every man take for those who are in his tent.’ Exodus 16:16 NKJV
- (c) “Then the children of Israel did so and gathered, some more, some less. So when they measured it by omers, **he who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack. Every man had gathered according to each one’s need.**” Exodus 16:17-18 NKJV
- (d) “Give us this day our daily bread.” Matthew 6:11
- (e) “And Moses said, “Let no one leave any of it till morning.” Notwithstanding they did not heed Moses. But some of them left part of it until morning, and **it**

bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them." Exodus 16:19-20 NKJV

(2) Sabbath and the Double Portion

(a) "And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall **prepare** what they bring in, and it shall be **twice as much** as they gather daily.'" Exodus 16:5 NKJV

(b) "And so it was, on the sixth day, that **they gathered twice as much bread**, two omers for each one. And all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. Then he said to them, "This is what the LORD has said: 'Tomorrow is a Sabbath rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD. Bake what you will bake today, and boil what you will boil; and lay up for yourselves all that remains, to be kept until morning.' " **So they laid it up till morning, as Moses commanded; and it did not stink, nor were there any worms in it.** Then Moses said, "Eat that today, for today is a Sabbath to the LORD; today you will not find it in the field. Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will be none.'" Exodus 16:22-26 NKJV

(c) "Now it happened that some of the people went out **on the seventh day to gather, but they found none.** And the LORD said to Moses, "How long do you refuse to

keep My commandments and My laws? See! For the LORD has given you the Sabbath; therefore He gives you on the sixth day bread for two days. **Let every man remain in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.”** Exodus 16:27-30 NKJV **[There is no provision for the seventh day ON the seventh day, it all takes place the day before!]**

(3) Joseph and the double portion

(a) “Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land, to collect one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt in the seven plentiful years. **And let them gather all the food of those good years that are coming, and store up** grain under the authority of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities. **Then that food shall be as a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine** which shall be in the land of Egypt, that the land may not perish during the famine.”” Genesis 41:34-36 NKJV

(b) “So the advice was good in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of all his servants. And Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?” Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, **there**

is no one as discerning and wise as you. You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you.” And Pharaoh said to Joseph, **“See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.”**”

Genesis 41:37-41 NKJV

- (c) **“Who then is a faithful and wise servant,** whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. **Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.**” Matthew 24:45-47 NKJV

B. Bread of Life

- (1) The Feeding of 5000 in a desolate place (wilderness) in John 6:1-14 is symbolic of miracle manna from heaven.
- (a) “After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased. And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples. **Now the Passover,** a feast of the Jews, was near. Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip,

“Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?” But this He said to test him [precisely what Yahweh was doing with Israel in the wilderness, to see if they would obey Him—*SEE DEUT. 8:2 below], for He Himself knew what He would do. Philip answered Him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little.” One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to Him, “There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?” Then Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted. So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, “Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost.” Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did,

said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world." John 6:1-14 NKJV.

- 1) ***Deuteronomy 8:2** "And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not."
- (2) Y'shua then walks on water in vv. 15-21 (a shortened mention of the entire event we see in Matthew 14:22-33).
 - (a) "Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone. Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, got into the boat, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was already dark, and Jesus had not come to them. Then the sea arose because a great wind was blowing. So when they had rowed about three or four miles, **they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid.** But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going." John 6:15-21 NKJV

(3) Y'shua then connects the two events, provision in the wilderness and a miracle on the water to himself being the Bread of Life in vv. 31-40 (Just like the events between Israel and Egypt)

(a) "On the following day, when the people who were standing on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other boat there, except that one which His disciples had entered, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with His disciples, but His disciples had gone away alone— however, other boats came from Tiberias, near the place where they ate bread after the Lord had given thanks— when the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they also got into boats and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You come here?" Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him." Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work

the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent." Therefore they said to Him, "What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? **Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'** " Then Jesus said to them, "**Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.**" Then they said to Him, "**Lord, give us this bread always.**" And Jesus said to them, "**I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.** But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that

everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”” John 6:22-40 NKJV

Questions & Discussion

1. Non-stop testimonies:

- A. How many times have you witnessed the supernatural hand of Yahweh working in your life?
- B. Even so, how do you handle trials?
- C. Do you still complain every time you face a challenge, no matter how many times you see the “deliverance of Yahweh?”
- D. Do you sometimes lose faith?
- E. Do you sometimes want to go back to your old life?

2. I am sure I heard His voice!

- A. Have even been so certain that Yahweh was sending you in one direction when all of a sudden it was clear you needed to go in another?
- B. What trials did you face making the decision to obey and what trials did you face even though you obeyed?
- C. What was the final outcome?
- D. What lessons did you learn?

3. Hard pressed on every side:

- A. Have you ever felt hard pressed on every side, seemingly trapped with no way out? At the same time you are sure you heard Yahweh's voice and you did exactly what He told you to do.
- B. How is it possible to be certain you are in the midst of His will and feel hopeless at the same time?

4. Bread from Heaven:

- A. Compare Manna from heaven and Y'shua as the bread of life.
- B. Compare the double portion of Jospheh's preparation to the double portion of Sabbath preparation.