

April 13–19
Exodus 14–18

“Stand Still, and See the Salvation of the Lord”



Parting the Red Sea

Exd 14:13-14,21-22

What does the Israelites' being "sore afraid" of the Egyptians teach us about the development of their faith?

How did Moses demonstrate his faith in God even before the miracle occurred?

Spencer W. Kimball

"Hope must have long since died in the breasts of the timid Israelitish souls who knew not faith.... And then the miracle came. It was born of the faith of their indomitable leader. A cloud hid them from the view of their enemies. A strong east wind blew all the night; the waters were parted; the bed of the sea was dry; and Israel crossed to another world and saw the returning sea envelop and destroy their pursuers. Israel was safe. Faith had been rewarded, and Moses was vindicated. The impossible had happened. An almost superhuman faith had given birth to an unaccountable and mysterious miracle that was to be the theme of the sermons and warnings of Israel and their prophets for centuries." (CR, Oct. 1952)

1 Nephi 4:2-3

2) Therefore let us go up; let us be strong like unto Moses; for he truly spake unto the waters of the Red Sea and they divided hither and thither, and our fathers came through, out of captivity, on dry ground, and the armies of Pharaoh did follow and were drowned in the waters of the Red Sea.

3) *Now behold ye know that this is true; and ye also know that an angel hath spoken unto you; wherefore can ye doubt? Let us go up; the Lord is able to deliver us, even as our fathers, and to destroy Laban, even as the Egyptians.*

Waters of Marah

Exd 14:23-25

What does the Israelites' murmuring at Marah teach us about the development of their faith?

How did Moses demonstrate his faith in the Lord when the Israelites faced another challenge?

Manna

Exd 16:1-3

What was the reaction of the Israelites when they found that there was not enough to eat?

Does it seem that their faith had grown from the miracles they had witnessed?

Manna

Exd 16:12-15

What parallels can you see between the manna from heaven and the sacrament?

John 6:26-27,30-35

26) Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

27) Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

30) They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work?

31) Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

32) Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.

33) For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

34) Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.

35) And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

John 6:48-51

48) I am that bread of life.

49) Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.

50) This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.

51) I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

Water From a Rock

Exd 17:1-6

What was the reaction of the Israelites when they found that there was not enough to drink?

Does it seem that their faith had grown from the miracles they had witnessed?

Neal A. Maxwell

"Murmurers have short memories. Israel arrived in Sinai, then journeyed on to the Holy Land though they were sometimes hungry and thirsty. But the Lord rescued them, whether by the miraculous appearance by quail or by water struck from a rock. Strange, isn't it, brothers and sisters, how those with the shortest memories have the longest lists of demands! However, with no remembrance of past blessings, there is no perspective about what is really going on." (CR, Oct. 1989)

Battle Against the Amalekites

Exd 17:8-13

What does this account teach us about supporting those whom the Lord calls to lead?

Boyd K. Packer

“The raising of the hands has been a custom since ancient times, symbolized when Moses was confronted by the Amalekite robbers, the destroyers of the wilderness....

“The wicked who now oppose the work of the Lord, while different from, are no less terrible than the plundering Amalekites. The sustaining of the prophet is still an essential ongoing part of the safety of this people. Should age and infirmity cause his hands to grow heavy, they are held up by his counselors at his side. Both are prophets, seers, and revelators, as is each member of the Quorum of the Twelve.” (CR, April 1995)

Jethro

Exd 18:1,8-9

What change does the Joseph Smith Translation make in Exodus 18:1 about Jethro being a “priest”?

Why is it significant that Jethro is identified as a “high priest”?

D&C 84:6

And the sons of Moses, according to the Holy Priesthood which he received under the hand of his father-in-law, Jethro;

Joseph Fielding Smith

“The Midianites were descendants of Abraham, through the children of Keturah, wife of Abraham, therefore the Midianites, who were neighbors to the Israelites in Palestine, were related to the Israelites, and were Hebrews. As descendants of Abraham they were entitled through their faithfulness to his blessings, and in the days of Moses and preceding them, in Midian the Priesthood was found. (Church History and Modern Revelation, 2:103)

Jethro

Exd 18:13-18

What warning does Jethro give Moses about judging every matter personally?

Richard L. Evans

"There is a profound wisdom in this early utterance concerning the delegation of authority and of responsibility and of work. Surely it must be evident to every thinking person that there comes a time when, no matter how able or willing a man may be, he cannot further extend himself so far as person-to-person communication and effort are concerned....

"In person-to-person appointments in this Church and out of it, there is a limit to which a man can extend himself—a truth which the father-in-law of Moses discovered and expressed many centuries ago, and which is a still more pressing truth in our day as the Church and its responsibilities grow." (CR, Oct. 1949)

Jethro

Exd 18:19-20

How does Jethro advise Moses to organize his responsibilities so he can more effectively judge and guide the Israelites?

Neal A. Maxwell

"We generally see the need for Moses to apply the delegation dimension, and we note how both we and those we serve—including family—can 'wear away.' Moses was hearing every case! Worse still, however, this pattern kept him from his real duties...

"The original Twelve were counseled that they were not to 'serve tables' (see Acts 6:1–4). Actually, serving tables is easy. It is visible, measurable, and do-able—compared to opening up the nations of the world to missionary work or to keeping wolves out of the flock. But if the Twelve were drawn away from their scriptural and constitutional duties, the whole Church would suffer. Being drawn away can happen to all of us, almost without our knowing it."
(“Wisdom and Order,” Ensign, June 1994)

Dallin H. Oaks

"An early scriptural account of this need is in Father Jethro's counsel that Moses should not try to do so much. The people were waiting upon their priesthood leader from morning till night.... [Jethro] gave Moses counsel that illustrates the importance of the personal line: 'Thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do.'

"In other words, Israelites who followed Moses should be taught not to bring every question to that priesthood leader. They should understand the commandments and seek inspiration to work out most problems for themselves." (CR, Oct. 2010)

Jethro

Exd 18:22-24

What does Moses' willingness to follow Jethro's advice teach us about his character?

Neal A. Maxwell

"Moses was a righteous and remarkable man. Nevertheless, he needed to change his leadership style for his welfare as well as the people's. Moses succeeded because he was the most meek man upon the face of the earth. (See Num. 12:3) Blessed are the meek, for they are neither easily offended by counsel nor aggravated by admonition." (CR, Oct. 1991)

Next Week:

April 20–26

Exodus 19–20

“All that the Lord Hath Spoken We Will
Do”

