

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Seventeen

GOD CALLED ISRAEL (2)

(Exo. 16:1-15; 17:1-6; 20:1-17; 25:1-9)

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see how God lovingly took care of His called ones, the children of Israel. As the best Husband, He faithfully provided manna for them to eat and water to drink during the 40 years they spent in the desert. Also, He gave them His law, the Ten Commandments, as a written photograph of Himself which clearly told them what kind of God He is and how He wants His loving called ones to be. Greatest of all, He allowed everyone whose heart was willing, to build a special house for Him, the tabernacle, so that He could dwell with them and they could meet with Him and talk with Him.

Memory Verse: "If you will indeed obey my voice and keep by covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to me above all people, for all the earth is mine" (Exodus 19:5).

Facts to Teach:

1. God had saved Israel from judgment and delivered them from slavery. Now, in the barren wilderness He would reveal Himself to them in many marvelous ways and thus practically make them into His people, His house, His bride.

2. After a very short time in the wilderness the Israelites complained and murmured because of hunger and thirst. (Of course, in the desert there is no food or water.) God used this as an opportunity to show them that He was watching over them, that He was their Provider, their Husband, and their God. He gave them fresh manna to eat from heaven every morning. It tasted sweet like a wafer with honey. It never failed for the forty years they spent in the wilderness. Also, He told Moses to strike a large rock with his staff. And when he did, water flowed out and quenched all their thirst.

3. Also, God brought them to Mt. Sinai and there revealed Himself in a much clearer way than by just doing miracles for them, like parting the Red Sea, raining manna from heaven, giving water from the rock, etc. He gave them His law, the Ten Commandments. He wrote it with his own finger (How precious!) in two tablets of stone. It commanded them in two simple ways: what they must do and what they must not do. It showed them two things: how God is and what He likes, and how God is not and what He does not like. It was as though He showed them a photograph of Himself in words! Through the law God's people came to know Him. Also through the law they came to know themselves, that they were sinners.

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GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Seventeen (Continued)

4. God even revealed Himself more to His dear called ones; He revealed to them the plan in His heart for them to build a special house for Him, the tabernacle, which was a large tent. In this house they and He could meet together and talk together as a husband and wife. He gave Moses the exact plans of how to build it, but He would only allow those to help or to give something who would "give it willingly with his heart" (Exo. 25:2). That is, they must give and help with love, because their God is the God of love.

5. Today God's dwelling place is not a tabernacle or temple made with men's hands (Isa. 66:1-2). He dwells in our spirit (Eph. 2:22) and our heart (Eph. 3:17). His dwelling place is the church (Eph. 2:10-22).