

## The Gratitude Gauge: Intro: Summary of Miracles: Marah, Exodus 15:24-26

# The Israelite Jornada

## IV. The Gratitude Gauge

### A. Introduction: Summary of Miracles

During the 40 years of wandering in the Sinai's Jornada, the Lord performed a continuing series of miracles in order to maintain an unbroken logistical supply line flowing to His chosen people. Miracles originate from the sovereignty of God and only occur when all the facts from divine omniscience demand it.

The Exodus generation was not permitted to enter into the land because they were never able to orient to the plan of God and thus never developed any gratitude. Even though the first generation was the recipient of more miracles than any other generation in history, they were not impressed because they had dried up souls.

For 40 years the Lord provided for and protected some two-million people, often doing so by means of miraculous events. Often, He had to resort to discipline because of their lack of faith and gratitude and resultant rebellion.

Nevertheless, even though the Jews exhibited great and continuous ingratitude, the Lord was faithful in His provisions to the nation. For example, throughout the entire 40-year period, neither the Jews' clothes nor shoes ever wore out.

**Deuteronomy 8:4** - Your clothing did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years.

Yet throughout the entire time the discipline was found in the Jornada itself, not the prolonged time frame. All the Jews has to do in order for the pillar of cloud and fire to blaze a straight wheel-track to Canaan was to develop some gratitude in their souls. They never were willing to do so and as a result the sparse and desolate world of the Jornada was used by the Lord to execute the entire first generation of ungrateful Jews, save Caleb and Joshua.

Although the Jews expressed their ingratitude throughout the Jornada experience, the Lord performed a series of miracles on their behalf. Here is a brief summary of a few:

1. The first test after the Exodus was a three-day period of no water followed by the discovery of bitter water at Marah which they could not drink.

**Exodus 15:24** - So the people grumbled at Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?"

**Exodus 15:25** - Then he cried out to the Lord and the Lord showed him a tree; and Moses threw it into the waters and the waters became sweet. There the Lord made for them a statute and a regulation and there He tested them.

**Exodus 15:26** - And the Lord said, "If you will give earnest heed to the voice of the Lord your God [positive volition toward Bible doctrine], and do what is right in His sight [develop wheel-tracks of righteousness in the norms and standards of the conscience], and give ear to His commandments [orientation and adjustment to the imperative moods] and keep His statutes [develop behavior patterns based on doctrine], I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I the Lord am your healer."

Please note that the lack of water cannot be divine discipline. Jewish volition is not an issue. They are following the pillar and cloud of the God of Israel. Consequently, the Lord leads them to Marah for the purpose of testing.

Rather than casting their faith toward the God who delivered them at the Exodus, they grumble to Moses about the taste of the water provided.

Salvation for the Jewish people was the issue at Ramses where they performed the first Passover. By placing their faith in the blood of the slain lamb, they were delivered from the sting of death which is sin.

What followed over the next several days, culminating in passage through the waters of Little Bitter Lake, was a type illustrating the baptism of the Holy Spirit. [CTL: Romans 7:2, Romans 7:3, Romans 7:4, Romans 7:5, Romans 7:6; TXP: B/HS]

Egypt represents the Devil's world and life under slavery to the first husband, the sinful nature. Following the cloud and fire is a type for faith in the Word of God which protects us from such bondage.

The passage through the miraculous breach in the lake is a type for retroactive positional truth, or divorce from the first husband, which results in breaking his tyrannical power over us. Once safely on the other side, the waters destroyed the power of the first husband-his SWAT Team of chariot, horse, and infantry. [ Review principles 5-6, 8-10, 12-13, from Sun-tzu's The Art of War, from CWL-454 & CWL-455.]