### LESSONS THIS QUARTER

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### INTRODUCTION

- Moses had 80 years of training to lead the Israelites to their promised land (40 in Egypt & 40 as a shepherd), and it still seemed it wasn’t enough time.
- The Song of Moses summarizes God’s wonders during Israel’s march out of Egypt, and we see God providing sustenance while Israel continually yeared for more stuff. How grateful are we with God’s provisions?
- God met the needs of the Jews on a daily basis. Why not provide a weekly or monthly surplus to give them more comfort & confidence?

### PASSAGE

#### The Song of Moses

- v3. God is called a warrior, literally “a man of battle”
- v6. …and God’s Right Hand shatters His enemies
- King David says that God taught his hands to war and his fingers to fight… 2Sam 23:35; Ps 18:34; 144:1
- Jesus did not come to bring peace, but a sword… Mt 10:34
- There is a time to pack, for Jesus also said, ”Whoever has no sword is to sell his coat and buy one.” … Lk 22:36
- Yes, we are to have a spirit of humility before God and man, but we also have the God-given right to defend ourselves and our loved-ones against evil, and even to take the fight to the enemy (not necessarily with a physical sword, but the sword of the Lord) … Prov 28:4; Eph 5:11
- Why is God portrayed as a warrior – a killing machine? Consider this: The wicked do not listen to grace, mercy, or reason (Is 26:10), but only to force. Even when forced to obey, the wicked give only “feigned obedience” … Ps 66:3
- v20. First incidence of Dancing. Is it right or wrong to Dance?

#### What is Right or Wrong with Dancing?

- Dancing is mentioned 24x in the Bible (19x in the OT)
- Dancing is portrayed negatively or sensually in 2 incidences: 1. Ex 32:19-21 – Jews danced (out of control) before an idol, resulting in 3,000 men being slain with a sword 2. Mark 6:22 – The dancing of Herodias’ daughter pleased Herod and his guests, whereby John the Baptist was slain
- Dancing is portrayed positively in all other passages: 2Sam 16:4 – David danced to the LORD with all his might Ps 30:11 – God can turn our mourning into dancing Ps 150:4 – We are to praise God with music and dancing Ecc 3:4 – There is a time to mourn and a time to dance
- Conclusions → Liberty vs Legalism vs Licentiousness:
  - Provocative dancing seems to get men killed in the Bible, so avoid pole dancing & dancing with another’s spouse
  - We cannot be dogmatic or legalist and declare all forms of dancing as sinful or unbiblical. There is liberty in Christ.

#### First Water Purifier

- v22-24. Provisions are given after walking 3 days. The only watering hole is polluted – so what do grumblers do best?
- v25. Moses “cries out” to the Lord. How would you cry out?
- It is a good thing Moses’ prayer is not recorded for us, cause many people would use it as a magical formula
- Prayers are meant to be personal chats with God our Father and not recited formulas or “meaningless repetition” of many words as the heathens do…….. Mat 6:7
- …and the Lord “showed” Moses a tree to sweeten the waters (how the tree sweetened the waters is unknown)
- The Lord possibly showed the tree to Moses by His physical presence either through the Holy Spirit or a Christophany ………. Ex 14:19; 23:20;21; Act 7:38

### CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / CONSIDERATIONS

- Even when they complained, God’s response, like a loving parent, was to provide for them and give them another chance to obey
- God’s provisions were strictly according to the people’s needs, no more and no less, and they were not to hoard God’s provisions – WHY?
- Jews had to learn to completely be reliant on Him for all their needs each and every day → His mercies are new every day……..Lam 3:22-23
- How do we rely on God on a daily basis?

### NEXT WEEK: Exodus 19-24. The 10 Commandments

- Manna, Meat, and the Sabbath
  - vv1-21. More grumbling on day 45 over not having any meat (How soon former slaves forgot the misery they had in Egypt)
  - Manna (“what is it”) is provided for 40 years, 6 days/week
  - Other 40-year miracles included their clothes and sandals never wore out, and feet didn’t swell… Deut 8.4
  - v12. Quails were provided twice, here (without a curse) and in Num 11:31 with a curse – and this wonder occurred that they would realize God is for them – but it was short-lived
  - v16. An aomer is 2 quarts (1/2 gallon), equivalent, not to a bowl, but to a box of Honey-Nut Cheerios per person/day
  - vv22-30 – The Sabbath was for the Jews, a covenant between them and God ………….. Ex 31:14-17
  - God’s provision for the Jews on their Sabbaths while they were heading to and living in their Promised Land was nothing short of phenomenal. Consider the following:
  1. God unconditionally blessed the 6th day for Manna to feed them for 2 days……….. Ex 16:29
  2. God would bless the 6th year with 3 years of food to provide nourishment during the 6th year, the 7th or Sabbath year of rest, & for the 8th year to replenish – If they Tithed………………………… Lev 25:21
  3. During the 50th year, Jubilee, God would bless the 48th year with 4 years of food to cover for the 48th year, the 49th year (which was a Sabbath year of rest), the 50th year of Jubilee (another year of rest), and the 51st year to replenish – If they Tithed……………… Lev 25:11-12
  - No other nation has been under such a Land covenant

- More Grumbling for More WATER
  - When is grumbling or complaining about a bad situation OK?
  - Even righteous Job got chastised by God for complaining against Him ………….. Job 38, 39
  - BUT, recall Ezra 9 where the people rightly complained about their leaders marrying foreign wives and incurring more of God’s wrath instead of His blessings on the nation
  - We need to contend with evil, not with God………Pro 28:4

- God Ultimately Fights for His People, but Soldiers Do Die
  - vv16-18. As long as Moses was able to keep his hands up, Joshua prevailed in battle over the Amalekites
  - Principle of “Shared Responsibilities” in the ministry. We are a team & we need others to work with & intercede for us
  - This battled marked the Amalekites for total annihilation, but it won’t happen till centuries later…………… 1Sam 16:18; 1Chr 4:43

- Principle of Delegating Responsibilities to Qualified Men
  - God didn’t tell Moses everything on day one how to lead 3M people through a wilderness for 40 years
  - Moses had to learn & experience many things as he traveled, and be humbled to receive instructions from others (Jethro)
  - vv20-21. Fearing God, being truthful, not being greedy, and being teachable are admirable qualities for especially for leaders, deacons, and elders……….. Titus 1