Bible Study 25

January 5th, 2022

The Book of Exodus (continued)

The Book of Exodus is without doubt the most important book in the Old Testament. The people of Israel have crossed the Red Sea and the Egyptians have all perished in the waters. What next for the Chosen People now that they have escaped from Slavery?

There is the beginning of saga in the Desert of Sin where the people in their hunger complain and crumble against Moses and Aaron. They complain that God has betrayed them and left them to starve in the desert. 16:8f. There follows Quail that arrived in the evening and Manna that lay on the desert floor in the early morning.

The giving of bread would resonate with Israel throughout their history and for some thirteen hundred years they would remember. It became for them a symbol of their salvation. We see this theme continued into the New Testament, where bread continues in the stories of Jesus to be a constant symbol.

Similarly with chapter 17 “Water from the Rock” where the people again complain, and Moses strikes the rock. The water that ensues feeds the people. 17:1f. Later it will be the excuse that denies Moses entering the land of Canaan and dying instead within sight of Jericho.

Read Chapter 16 & 17:

The chapter concludes with the Battle Against the Amalekites and demonstrates God’s love for his chosen people. Moses holds out his arms and as long as he does, Israel is victorious.

Chapter 18 begins with the visit of Jethro, Moses Father in-Law to the Hebrew Camp.

Chapter 18 is interesting because Jethro teaches Moses how to appoint Judges to rule over disputes and cases among the people. He begs Moses to teach the people the law and decrees of Yahweh. In future instead of Moses judging from early morning till late night, Israel will be judged by those appointed.

It is a way of introducing Israel and the Chosen People to law. Later will come the Covenant and the Ten Commandments. This Chapter prepares the people for both.

Read Chapter 18