

Resources of faith for healing
The Bitter Water of Marah
Exodus 15 : 22 - 26

Dan Fountain
King College

Principles to Remember

- ❑ The history of the people of Israel is true history. These events actually occurred.
- ❑ Their history is an allegory of our spiritual history.
- ❑ The historical events in the Old Testament have great significance for our lives today
 - “These things happened to them as examples for others, and they were written down as a warning to us” I Corinthians 10: 11

Slavery in Israel

- ❑ The people of Israel spent 400 years as slaves in Egypt
- ❑ They could not escape
- ❑ They could not save themselves from this slavery
- ❑ They cried out to God and he heard them
- ❑ He sent a deliverer – Moses

What does this mean for us?

- ❑ We were slaves to sin
- ❑ We could not escape from sin or from the punishment due to sinners
- ❑ We could not save ourselves
- ❑ God has sent us a Deliverer - Jesus

Crossing the Red Sea

- ❑ God, through Moses, led them out of Egypt
- ❑ They came to the Red Sea but could not cross it
- ❑ The Egyptian army was behind them to recapture them
- ❑ God's power opened the Red Sea
- ❑ They crossed safely by God's power
- ❑ God then destroyed the Egyptian army

Meaning for us

- It is God's power, through Christ's sacrificial death, that saves us if we believe in him
- Crossing the Red Sea symbolizes our salvation
- As Israel rejoiced in their freedom, so we rejoice in our freedom from the penalty and power of sin

Saved but not yet delivered

- ❑ The people of Israel soon discovered that not all their problems were solved
- ❑ They had no clear water to drink
- ❑ The spring of Marah was a desert spring
- ❑ It was full of bitter minerals
- ❑ They turned on Moses, but he had no solution
- ❑ God showed him the solution – a piece of wood

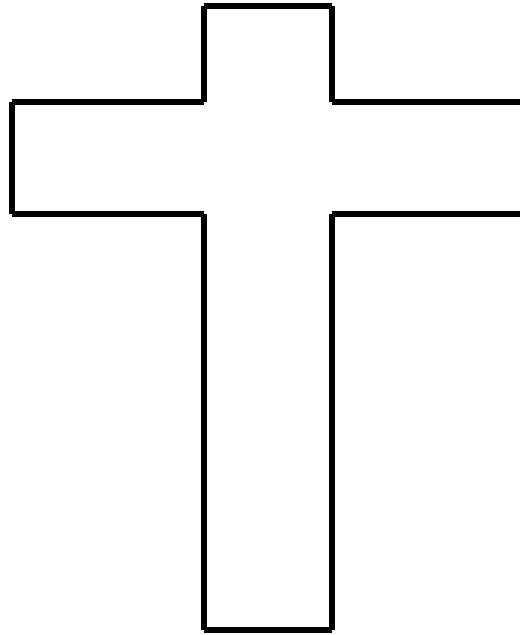
The piece of wood

- ❑ Moses put it into the water and the water became clear
- ❑ What was in the wood that clarified the water?
- ❑ Perhaps resins that caused the minerals to crystallize, flocculate, and settle to the bottom

Saved but not yet purified within

- ❑ Water is a symbol of spirit
- ❑ Our hearts have many 'bitter minerals'
- ❑ Bitterness, anger, jealousy, pride, lust, selfishness, and many more
- ❑ Salvation does not rid us of these
- ❑ We cannot purify our own hearts
- ❑ But God does have a solution for us – a piece of wood

The piece of wood



The piece of wood

- ❑ The cross of Jesus Christ
- ❑ The 'resin' on the cross is his blood
- ❑ His blood can purify our hearts from all sin
- ❑ God did not purify the water of Marah
- ❑ He simply showed Moses the wood
- ❑ Moses had to put the wood into the water
- ❑ God has provided the Cross for us
- ❑ It can purify us ONLY if we apply it to our hearts

The cross and the heart

- Applying the blood of Jesus to our hearts will purify us of the 'bitter minerals' of pride, anger, lust, selfishness etc.
- This is not a one-time event but an on-going and life-long process
- I John 1 : 9 If we confess our sin to God, he will do two things:
 - **Forgive our sin**
 - **Purify us from all our wrong-doing**

How did God test them at Marah?

- ❑ He showed them how to purify the water of their spirits
- ❑ He showed them how to keep their spirit pure
- ❑ It is by obedience to God – doing what is right in his eyes

What is the result of obedience?

H E A L T H

- ❑ How does obedience lead to health?
- ❑ Pride, anger, jealousy, lust → disease
- ❑ Obedience prevents these things
- ❑ Obedience → peace of mind → health

Look at the marvelous progression

SALVATION



PURIFICATION



OBEDIENCE



HEALTH

How to use this story

- ❑ It is marvelous for an interactive group Bible discussion
- ❑ It is useful in a preaching or teaching setting
- ❑ One-on-one basis: give it as 'homework' to a sick person who wants to get well
- ❑ Follow up with it at a second session