

EPISODE NO. 70

Exo. 17:1-7

Water Came from a Rock

1 Then the whole congregation of the sons of Israel moved on from the Desert of Siyn by stages, according to the command of the Always-Present One. They camped at Rephidim. However, there was NO water for the people to drink. 2 Therefore, the people argued with Moses and said, “Give us water, so that we may drink!”

Moses answered them, “Why do you fight with me!? Why do you test the Always-Present One!?”

3 But the people were thirsty for water there, and they continued to complain against Moses, saying, “Why did you bring us up from Egypt!? To kill us with thirst — us, and our children, and our livestock!?”

4 So Moses cried out to Yahweh, saying, “What should I do with these people!? They are almost ready to kill me by throwing stones at me!”

5 Then Yahweh answered Moses, “Get in front of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you. Take along your walking-cane in your hand, the one which you used to strike the Nile River. Go! 6 Listen, I will stand before you there by the rock at Mount Horeb (Mount Sinai). You must strike the rock. Water will flow out of the rock, so that the people may drink.” This is exactly what Moses did in the presence of the elders of Israel.

7 Moses named that place “Massah” and “Meribah,” because of the arguing of the sons of Israel, and because they tested the Always-Present One by saying, “Is Yahweh among us or not!?”