



EXODUS

life in the
wilderness

the wilderness is

"the Cambridge and Oxford of learning"

-CHARLES SPURGEON



**The wilderness is the
University of
learning, maturity, and growth**

We all have wilderness seasons

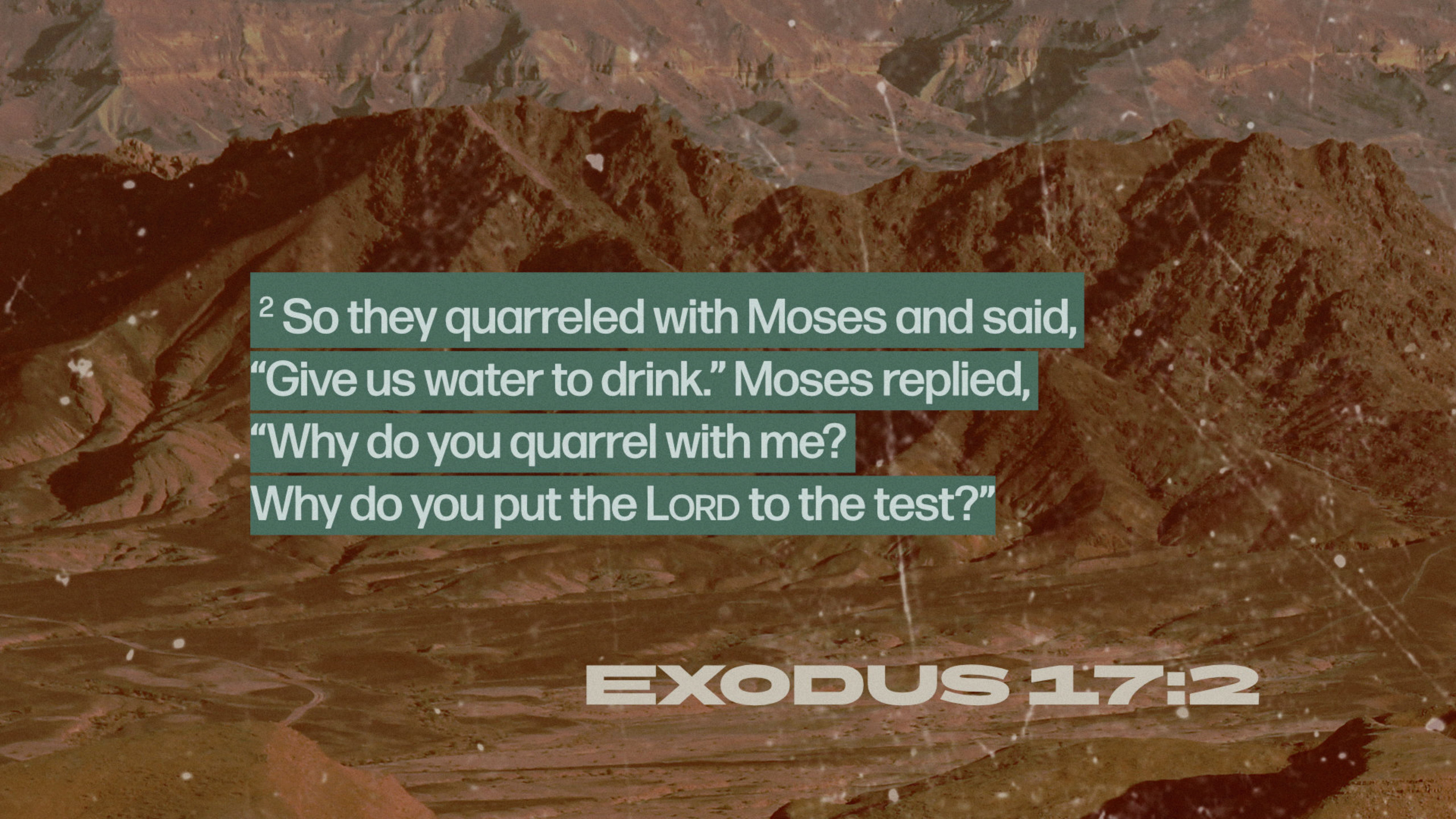
Will we harden our hearts and grumble?

**Will we trust God, lean on his provision,
and let Him teach us and mature our faith?**



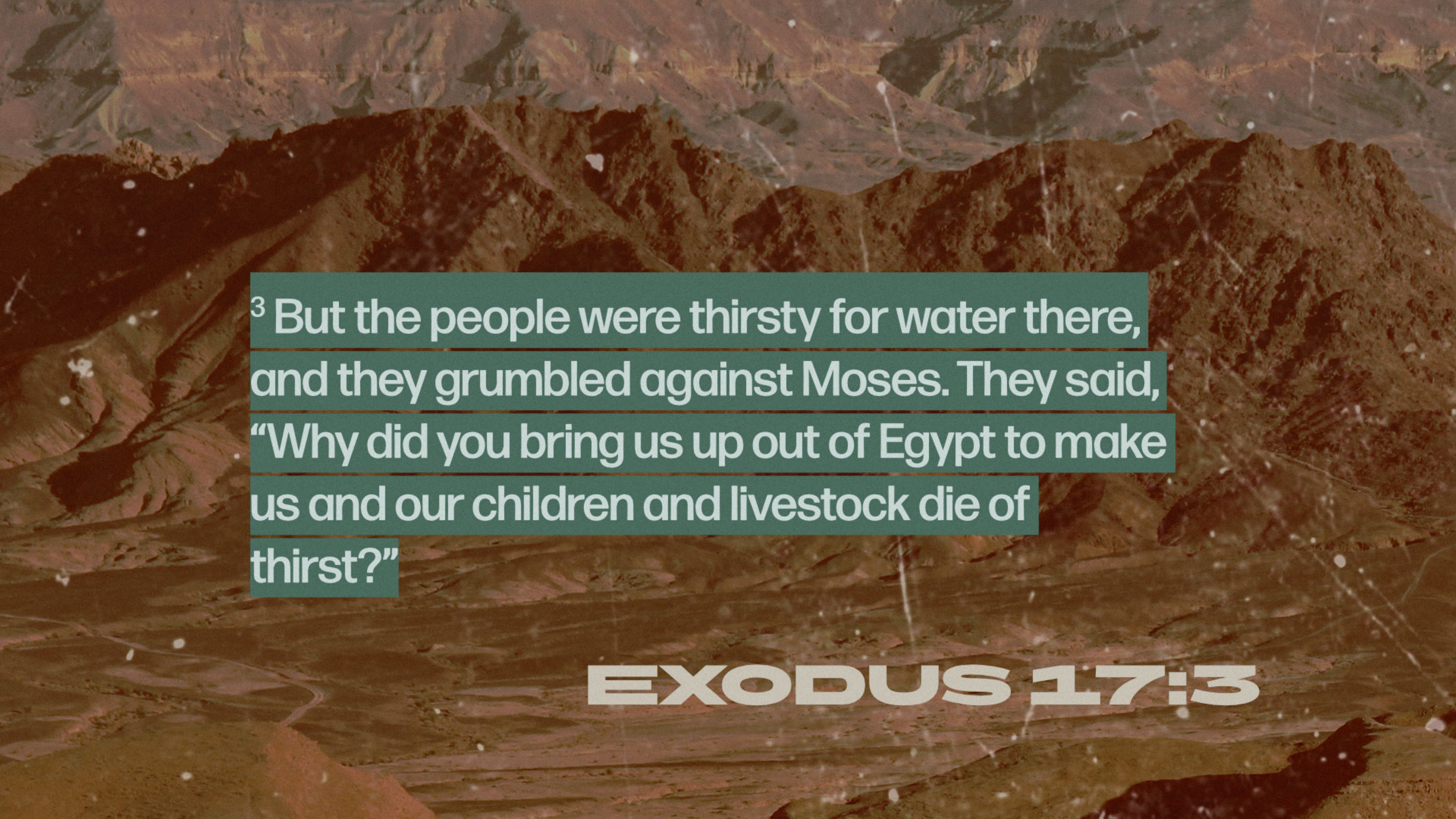
The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

EXODUS 17:1



² So they quarreled with Moses and said,
“Give us water to drink.” Moses replied,
“Why do you quarrel with me?
Why do you put the LORD to the test?”

EXODUS 17:2



³ But the people were thirsty for water there,
and they grumbled against Moses. They said,
“Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make
us and our children and livestock die of
thirst?”

EXODUS 17:3

A pattern of grumbling has developed

EXODUS 14

grumbling as the Egyptian army pursued them

EXODUS 15

complaining about bitter water in Marah

EXODUS 16

hangry... where's the food?

Complaining and grumbling bad for your health?

Research says...





Their grumbling has reached a new level of hostility as the people of Israel are putting Moses and God on trial!

⁴ Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me."

"Moses, you're guilty and we're ready to enforce your execution."

EXODUS 17:4

⁵ The LORD answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel.

EXODUS 17:5-6

**The rod that brought judgement on
Egypt will bring judgment on
God Himself and bring life giving water**

⁷ And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

EXODUS 17:7

- **Massah means "testing"**
- **Meribah means "quarreling" or "contention"**

Lesson #1

DIFFICULTIES DON'T MEAN YOU'RE OFF TRACK

The Israelites were led daily by the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night.

They camped at Rephidim “as the Lord commanded.”

**There's a journey in between
our salvation and our promised land -
the Bible calls this our sanctification**

The process of God's ongoing work to shape,
strengthen, and mature our faith.

Lesson #2

**WARNING:
DON'T HARDEN
YOUR HEART**

“Today, if you hear his voice,⁸ do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the wilderness

HEBREWS 3:7-8

Today, if only you would hear his voice,⁸ “Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness,

PSALM 95:7-8


¹² See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. ¹³ But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.

HEBREWS 3:12-13



The warning is straightforward but serious:

**when hardship shows up,
don't harden your heart
toward God**



**When difficulty comes...
what happens in your heart?**

**Do you see it as an opportunity to trust and
depend on God?**

Do you begin to grow in unbelief?

Lesson #3

STRENGTHEN YOUR TRUST IN GOD

because of His profound provision and patience

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea.² They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.³ They all ate the same spiritual food⁴ and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-4

The Rock WAS CHRIST

- In the wilderness, the rock is struck, and water flows to sustain a rebellious people.
- At the cross, Christ is struck, and living water flows to save sinners.

Jesus

(THE ROCK WHO WAS STRUCK)

is the clearest proof of God's provision and
the source of everything you need
to endure and make it to our promised land