

**God's People Encounter Both Bitterness And Sweetness!
Grit Before Greatness! Pt. 3**

Exodus 15:22-27

March 6, 2016

Exodus 3:7, *The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of My people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey..."*

Four Thoughts For God's People And Bitter Life Experiences:

- 1) **God's People Sang A Song Of CELEBRATION**
Exodus 15:1, *Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord: "I will sing to the Lord, for He is highly exalted. Both horse and driver He has hurled into the sea. ²"The Lord is my strength and my defense; He has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise Him...and I will exalt Him.*
- 2) **God's People Encounter Bitter WATERS**
Exodus 15:22, *Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. ²³When they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter; therefore it was named Marah. ²⁴So the people grumbled at Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" (Ruth 1:19-20)*
- 3) **God Brings Both Sweetness And EXPECTATIONS**
Exodus 15:25, *Then Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree; and he threw it into the waters, and the waters became sweet. There He made for them a statute and regulation... ²⁶And He said, "If you will give earnest heed to the voice of the LORD your God, and do what*

is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments... I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, the LORD, am your healer."

- 4) **God's Faithful Followers Always End Up REFRESHED**
Exodus 15:27, *Then they came to Elim where there were twelve springs of water and seventy date palms, and they camped there beside the waters.*

What Should We Do When Life Turns Bitter?

- **Remember Your Past VICTORIES**
- **Keep Your Present Circumstances In PERSPECTIVE**
Romans 8:28, *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.*
- **Don't Linger At BITTER WATERS**
Hebrews 12:15, *See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.*
Ephesians 4:31, *Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.*
- **Your Oasis Is Just Around The CORNER**
Proverbs 14:10, *Each heart knows its own bitterness, and no one else can share its joy.*
Jeremiah 29:11, *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future... ¹³You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.*

Next Steps: Be thinking and praying now about who you can bring to church with you on Easter weekend! A friend, neighbor, workmate, etc.