

Where's Your Chair?

Exodus 16 22-36



You led your people like sheep by the hand of Moses and Aaron.
Psalm 77:20

Praising:

Since, Lord, thou dost defend
us with thy Spirit,
we know we at the end
shall life inherit.
Then fancies flee away!
I'll fear not what men say,
I'll labour night and day to be a
pilgrim.

Reading:

Exodus 17:8-16
The Amalekites attack Israel

The idea of Israelite men being picked-out to fight, suggests holy war by a select group. This is our introduction to the young warrior Joshua but Moses remains the key charismatic leader, ensuring victory from the hilltop by the power of his rod and outstretched arms. Judgment determines that this feud with the Amalekites must persist until they are utterly

wiped out (this happens centuries later in the reign of Hezekiah). Though spiritually and morally repugnant to us today, the idea of God taking sides in a bloody holy war would not have troubled those party to the events themselves back then. If the Lord is on the Israelites' side, and if Israel is keeping its part of the bargain to heed the Lord's commands, then woe betide anyone foolish enough to take arms against God's chosen people.

Listening:

Praying:

In the face of every threat and assault we pray O Lord

- for the wisdom to see what's right and the love and grace to fight for it non-violently
- for the courage to kneel and lay ourselves at your divine disposal, whatever happens
- for the peace of knowing that through the cross and empty tomb we are Christ's for ever

Father: it's not about lying down and allowing myself to be walked over, but it may still be about taking abuse, being falsely accused, suffering unjustly, even going to the cross. Amen

Doing:

Monday, 22 August 2016