

Where's Your Chair?

Exodus 15 22-27



When Israel came out of Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of a strange tongue,
Judah became his sanctuary, Israel his dominion.
Psalm 114:1-2

Praising:

Rooted deep in Christ our master,
Christ our pattern and our goal,
teach us, as the years fly faster,
goodness, faith and self-control.

Reading:

Exodus 15:22-27
Bitterness at Marah

Israel's initial escape from the Egyptians has been made decisive and complete, but what starts to become clear is that God's people are now on the move. The wilderness of Shur is on the border of Egypt. Under marching orders from Moses, they arrive three days later at Marah but find no water to drink. Israel quickly turns on the one who has led it there. The water miraculously sweetened, the Lord chooses that moment to lay out the terms and conditions of a test.

If Israel listens, does what is right, heeds God's commandments and keeps his statutes, then it will be spared the plagues suffered by the Egyptians. After the bitterness of Marah, Elim is a welcome, verdant and refreshing next staging post. As their journey continues, Israel's continual complaining in the wilderness will become a dominant theme.

Listening:

Praying:

Lord when we find ourselves looking for someone to blame

- help us to check ourselves and to see our own share of the responsibility
- take us to the cross where the blame of all the world has been laid on your Son
- grant us patience to wait-out the inconvenience and to trust in your unfailing provision

Father: so often life tests and tries me. Then sometimes it riles and frustrates me. It can even pain and injure me. By the healing Christ alone can bring, please sweeten the bitterness. Amen

Doing:

Wednesday, 17 August 2016