

# The Pessimistic Nature of Man

*Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>*

In 1 Cor 10 God gives us some insights into the attitudes that produced the actions that led to Israel's corruption and eventual destruction. The Exodus (*Israel's history*) teaches us a lot about God's Nature, as well as that of our own!

*Satan uses our fallen nature to pull us away from our gracious God!* (Pr 19:3; 1 Cor 10:11-12, 20)

**Reflection:** Last week we learned that God's nature is: Pure/Holy (Ex 3:5);

Perceptive/Aware (Ex 3:7); Preserving/Redemptive (Ex 3:8);

Powerful/Almighty (Ex. 3:19,20); and Personal/Relational! (Ex 3:10-12)

*Many of the circumstances/situations that reveal God's Nature, also expose our own!*

**Direction:** While God's Nature is Perceptive; Israel (and our) Nature was/is:

**1. Imperceptive/Unaware:** Since we're so limited in our perception or awareness of what's actually happening "behind the scenes" (or our human senses), We're prone to make hasty judgments and Complain about current circumstances. (Remember the story of Job!?!?)

Israel's Exodus illustrated this:

**A. After the 10 plagues God directly, visibly and miraculously Led them (Ex. 13:21,22)**

1) To (and through) the Red sea. Ex. 14:10-12 *"The Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid ... Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt? Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians..."*

2) God Led them to Marah. Ex 15:23-25 *"And when they came to Marah, ... the waters were bitter: And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? ... and the LORD shewed him a tree"*

a) If there was an oasis 12 miles beyond Marah (vs 27) why lead them to Marah at all? 25 *"there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them."* (nāsâ: tested)

b) In much the same way God sometimes leads us to/through) "Troubled waters" To Test us. (Is. 41:10; 43:1-5; 2 Sam. 22:34; Ps. 18:33) See book "Hinds Feet on High Places" Hab. 3:19

**B. God miraculously Fed them. (Ex. 16) 2** *"the whole congregation of ... Israel murmured*

*3 ..Would to God we had died ... in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots... ye have brought us forth into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."*

1) God provided miracle manna. Ex. 16:4 (Ps, 78:24,25)

2) God provided miracle meat. Ex. 16:13; Ps. 78:27

3) He did this each day for 40 years, yet Israel complained in Nu 21:4-5 *"Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die...? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread."*

a) Notice the Consequences for their complaining. 6 *"And the LORD sent fiery serpents"*

(1) Where had the serpents been for 40 years? *God had protected them. (See Job 1:10)*

b) Even then God made provision. *Repentance brought Provision for Restoration* Vs 7-9

Jesus used this experience to reach Nicodemus in Jn 3:14-18

**C. God miraculously Watered them. Ex. 17:1-3** *"at Rephidim... there was no water for the people*

*Wherefore the people did chide (grapple) with Moses, .....And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD? And the people thirsted there for water; and ... murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought out of Egypt, to kill us and our children ... with thirst?"*

**Conclusion: Unlike God, we're naturally Imperceptive/Unaware (aka: Limited!)**

***And therefore, prone to murmur and complain! 1 Cor. 10:6-10***

*"Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted....*

*Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer."*

**Satan is at work when we complain!**

**They were exactly where God had led them, and problems came anyway! Ex. 17:1**

**God is Aware and Actively at work, Particularly in the trials of life! (James 1:2-5; 1 Pt 1:6-9)**

**1) There was no water in Rephidim, but God provided *after they recognized their need.* Vs 1-7**

**2) The Amalekite armies attacked them! Vs 8-16 (*Attacks often come when we're weak.*)**

**Notice how they found courage and victory. Vs 11-13 (1 Jn 5:4)**

**Ex 17:14-15 *"And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. (Remember 1 Sam. 15)***

***And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi: (The Lord is my banner!)***

## **Application:**

**Ex. 17:7 *"And he called the name of the place Massah, (to test, try, prove) and Meribah, (to contend, place of strife) because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not?"***

**1) If there's no "strife" (contest/challenge); Can there really be a "test"? James 1:2-5; 1 Pt 1:6-9**

**This took place at Rephidim, which means "to spread and / or support"!**

**2) What has to "spread" in order to provide "Support"? Is 61:1-3 *"Trees of righteousness..."***

### **During the difficult times of life:**

➤ **Satan's at work to whither us. (Mt 13:5,6; 20,21)**

➤ **God are at work to deepen and develop us. Ph 2:12-16 *"it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Do all things without murmuring and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not ... labored in vain."***

**Andrea Crouch song "Through it all"**

**"I've had many tears and sorrows, I've had questions for tomorrow**

**There've been times I didn't know right from wrong.**

**But in every situation God gave me blessed consolation**

**That my trials come to only make me strong.**

**So I thank God for the mountains, And I thank Him for the valleys**

**And I thank Him for the storms He's brought me through**

**For if I'd never had a problem, I'd never know God could solve them**

**I'd never know what faith in His word could do!**

***Through it all, I've learned to trust in Jesus...***

***I've learned to depend upon His word."***

**Are you growing worried, weary, and withered in your faith? (Mt 13:20,21)**

***Or are you growing deeper in your assurance of God's Awareness and Ability to use***

***"all things" to work together for your good and His glory?(Ro 8:28,29; Phil. 4:13)***