



## Sermon Notes from 11 August

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### How to Handle the Wilderness Experiences of Life: Thirst (Exodus 15:22-27, 17:1-7) by Rev Guna Raman

The book of Exodus reveals who God is to us. We read from Exodus 15 and 17 how God reveals Himself through His people's thirst.

#### 3 aspects of God from the thirst situation of the people

##### **1) God's Healing**

The Israelites had started to complain about the lack of drinkable water. God responds to their cries with a log that made the water sweet (Ex 15:25). While the cleansing of the water is a miracle, it is important to note the method God used: He used something out of nature (the log) to heal the water. God had placed in nature healing properties for the human body. He has led people since ancient times and used their questing, knowledge and imagination to discover what He has placed in nature for our healing.

Ex 15:25-26 – This is the first mention in the bible of God revealing Himself as Jehovah Rapha (the Lord who heals). More than obeying God's commands (moral and spiritual laws), He calls for His people to obey the natural physical laws. Live a healthy lifestyle unto the glory of God! He is not just Jehovah Rapha in your sickness, but all the days of your life!

##### **2) God's Longsuffering**

Ex 17:3 – The people grumbled against Moses and were prepared to stone him to death (v4). Instead of rejecting them, God responds to His people by meeting their needs. God reveals that His patience is not just a bad tolerance of His people, but His longsuffering patience. God takes the people He should have rejected and serves them by meeting their needs. If you want to thrive in the wilderness, you need to get the big picture of God's longsuffering.

Despite all of the Israelite's complaints, God still came through for them patiently every time. Never lose sight of the big picture! Get an eagle's view of your life. The ultimate theme of your life is God's longsuffering patience with you.

##### **3) God's Grace in hard places**

Ex 17:6 – Water had come out of the unlikelyst of places in the desert: a rock. It is in the hardest places that God's grace flows. God often brings us to hard places so that He can bring us to Himself. As our Father, He puts us in a hard place and gives us grace, which transforms and shapes our character.

#### Summary Lessons from Exodus 17

**#1** God is your healer day by day and not just when you are sick.

**#2** Unless you see the big picture of God's longsuffering nature in your life, you will not be patient or relaxed in your circumstances.

**#3** God's grace flows from hard and tough places.

Ex 17:2 – The quarreling of the people was so significant; Moses named the place after it (v7). The Hebrew meaning for 'quarreling' is to bring a charge and summon someone to a legal court of justice. Moses was charged by the people and he cried out to God in panic (v4). God responds by commanding Moses to take the staff (v5b) and some elders of Israel (v5a) to begin a trial, and to pass on before the people (v5). God was the one that stood on trial (v6).

At the cross, Jesus was judged as He took the blame for our sins and was struck to death. Jesus took the blow of judgement for us (1 Co 10:3-4). This is how God is able to wipe out evil without wiping us out.