

Sermon Handout
“God Tests His People”
Exodus 15:22-27

- I.** Preparation (the testing) vv. 22-24
The Egyptians buried their dead while Israel moved about
Ex 14:1-3 (see Num 33:1-9)
Three days in the wilderness
Repeated request in Egypt 3:17-18; 5:3; 8:27
Three days journey to “worship God”
Three days darkness on Egypt Ex 10:22-23
Israel separated 10:23b
Water: a friend and a foe
Saved by water at the Red Sea 14:30
Now without water to drink 15:23
Grumbling against God (via Moses) for the second time
Did so at Pihahiroth 14:10-12 (separated by water)
Now at Marah v. 25 (separated by statute)
- II.** God’s miraculous provision v. 25
Moses looks to God for a solution v. 25a
God gives Moses directions v. 25b
The water is “healed”
God proves himself to his people by testing them v. 25c
Gives them a “statute and an ordinance”
- III.** Statutes and ordinances vv. 25-26
Statute – basic meaning is “a carving” or “an engraving”
In this context, a basic law (commandments) *cf.* v. 26
See Gen 49:10 “the lawgiver”
Ordinance – an implementing rule (basic: justice, judgment)
Cf. Dt 33:10; Ps 119:7, 13 (16 times in Ps 119)
Three statements in v. 26
“do what is right”
“give ear to his commandments”
“keep his statutes”
“None of these diseases . . . I am the Lord who heals you”
- IV.** Rest for the people v. 27
Elim (means “trees”)
12 wells of good water
70 palm trees for shade
Final rest, provision and healing Rev 22:1-2