

PLEASE NOTE - The references below are taken from the 86-20 Index. Many verses have additional references that have not been included due to time & space. We are encouraged to do additional personal research.

(Exodus 15:3) 3 Jehovah is a powerful warrior. Jehovah is his name.

*** w95 10/15 p. 11 par. 13 Why Fear the True God Now? ***

13 The victory song at the Red Sea continues: "Jehovah is a manly person of war. Jehovah is his name." This invincible Warrior, therefore, is not some anonymous figment of man's imagination. He has a name! He is 'the One who causes to become,' the Grand Maker, the One "whose name is Jehovah, . . . the Most High over all the earth." (Exodus 3:14; 15:3-5; Psalm 83:18) Do you not agree that it would have been wise for those ancient Egyptians to have a reasonable and respectful sense of fear of the Almighty rather than defy him?

(Exodus 15:13) 13 In your loyal love you have led the people whom you have redeemed; In your strength you will guide them to your holy place of dwelling.

*** cl chap. 28 p. 285 par. 15 "You Alone Are Loyal" ***

Consider his dealings with the nation of Israel. After their miraculous deliverance through the Red Sea, the Israelites proclaimed in song to Jehovah: "You in your loving-kindness [or, "loyal love," footnote] have led the people whom you have recovered." (Exodus 15:13) The deliverance at the Red Sea certainly was an act of loyal love on Jehovah's part. Moses therefore told the Israelites: "It was not because of your being the most populous of all the peoples that Jehovah showed affection for you so that he chose you, for you were the least of all the peoples. But it was because of Jehovah's loving you, and because of his keeping the sworn statement that he had sworn to your forefathers, that Jehovah brought you out with a strong hand, that he might

redeem you from the house of slaves, from the hand of Pharaoh the king of Egypt."— Deuteronomy 7:7, 8.

(Exodus 16:2) 2 Then the entire assembly of the Israelites began to murmur against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.

*** w06 7/15 p. 15 pars. 4-5 'Keep Free From Murmurings' ***

. On occasion, the Israelites were discontented with their lot in life and expressed this by murmuring. For example, just a few weeks after their deliverance from slavery in Egypt, "the entire assembly of the sons of Israel began to murmur against Moses and Aaron." The Israelites complained about food, saying: "If only we had died by Jehovah's hand in the land of Egypt while we were sitting by the pots of meat, while we were eating bread to satisfaction, because you have brought us out into this wilderness to put this whole congregation to death by famine."— Exodus 16:1-3.

5 Actually, Jehovah sustained the Israelites with what they needed in the wilderness, lovingly providing them with food and water. There was never a threat that the people of Israel would die of famine in the wilderness. In a spirit of discontent, though, they exaggerated their plight and began to murmur. Although their complaints were directed against Moses and Aaron, in Jehovah's eyes the real target of their discontent was God himself. Moses told the Israelites: "Jehovah has heard your murmurings that you are murmuring against him. And what are we? Your murmurings are not against us, but against Jehovah."— Exodus 16:4-8.

*** w93 3/15 pp. 20-21 Why a Complainer's Lot Is Not a Happy One ***

God's View of Complainers

The Israelites' murmuring about food supplies reveals two inherent dangers in complaining. First, complaining is contagious. The account says that "the entire assembly of the sons of Is-

rael began to murmur against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.” (Exodus 16:2) Likely, a few began to complain about the shortage of food, and before long everybody was complaining.

Second, the complainer often exaggerates the problem. In this case, the Israelites asserted that they would be better off in Egypt, where they could eat as much bread and meat as they wished. They complained that they had been led into the wilderness only to die of hunger.—Exodus 16:3.

Was the situation of those Israelites really that critical? Possibly their food stocks were running low, but Jehovah had foreseen that problem, and in good time he provided the manna to satisfy their physical needs. Their exaggerated complaints betrayed a complete lack of trust in God. While in Egypt they had justifiably complained about the harsh conditions. (Exodus 2:23) But when Jehovah freed them from slavery, they started complaining about food.

(Exodus 16:29) 29 Take notice of the fact that Jehovah has given you the Sabbath. That is why he is giving you the bread for two days on the sixth day. Everyone must stay where he is; nobody is to leave his locality on the seventh day.”

*** w98 7/15 p. 16 Have You Entered Into God’s Rest? ***

Israel Failed to Enter Into God’s Rest

8 The nation of Israel benefited from Jehovah’s arrangement for work and rest. Even before giving the Israelites the Law at Mount Sinai, God told them through Moses: “Mark the fact that Jehovah has given you the sabbath. That is why he is giving you on the sixth day the bread of two days. Keep sitting each one in his own place. Let nobody go out from his locality on the seventh day.” The result was that “the people proceeded to observe the sabbath on the seventh day.”—Exodus 16:22-30.

9 This arrangement was new for the Israelites, who had just been delivered from slavery in Egypt. Although the Egyptians and others meas-

ured time in periods of five to ten days, it is unlikely that the enslaved Israelites were permitted a rest day. (Compare Exodus 5:1-9.) It is therefore reasonable to conclude that the people of Israel welcomed this change. Instead of viewing the Sabbath requirement as a burden or restriction, they should have been glad to follow it. In fact, God later told them that the Sabbath was to serve as a reminder of their slavery in Egypt and of his deliverance of them.—Deuteronomy 5:15.