

Exodus 15:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them,

Analysis

Moses' response to complaint: 'he cried unto the LORD.' Rather than defending himself or solving the problem independently, Moses intercedes. God's answer —'the LORD shewed him a tree'—provides solution through creation. Casting the tree 'into the waters, the waters were made sweet' accomplishes miracle through natural means. The tree's identity isn't specified because the focus is on God's provision, not the method. The subsequent 'there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them' indicates Marah becomes testing ground.

Historical Context

The sweetening tree's identity (possibly acacia or certain desert shrubs with water-purifying properties) is unknown. The focus is on God revealing the solution to Moses through prayer. The 'statute and ordinance' likely refer to testing obedience.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Moses crying to the LORD rather than solving problems independently model leadership?
2. What bitter situation in your life needs God to show you the 'tree' that sweetens the waters?

Interlinear Text

אָל יִצְעַק	וְיָהִי	תִּזְבַּח הָאָ	וְיָהִי	עַז
And he cried	H413	and the LORD	shewed	and the LORD
	H6817		H3384	H3068
וְיָשַׁלְךָ	אָל	בְּמִים	תִּמְתַּל	בְּמִים
which when he had cast	H413	into the waters	were made sweet	into the waters
	H7993		H4985	H4325
שָׁם שָׁם בְּלִי	בְּלִי	וְמִשְׁפָּט	וְמִשְׁפָּט	
there he made	H0	for them a statute	and an ordinance	
	H7760		H4941	H8033
בְּהָרָה				
and there he proved				
	H5254			

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 8:2 (References Lord): And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.

Psalms 66:10 (Parallel theme): For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried.

Judges 3:4 (References Lord): And they were to prove Israel by them, to know whether they would hearken unto the commandments of the LORD, which he commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses.

Judges 2:22 (References Lord): That through them I may prove Israel, whether they will keep the way of the LORD to walk therein, as their fathers did keep it, or not.

Judges 3:1 (References Lord): Now these are the nations which the LORD left, to prove Israel by them, even as many of Israel as had not known all the wars of Canaan;

Exodus 16:4 (References Lord): Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.

Deuteronomy 8:16 (Parallel theme): Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;

Exodus 14:10 (References Lord): And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD.

2 Kings 2:21 (References Lord): And he went forth unto the spring of the waters, and cast the salt in there, and said, Thus saith the LORD, I have healed these waters; there shall not be from thence any more death or barren land.

Psalms 91:15 (Parallel theme): He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.