

**Additional notes for teachers:**

Many of the notes comprise deeper matters which have arisen in the course of preparation of the Students Notes. Other material has been appended for the purpose of providing background, explanations or interesting detail.

**Lesson 22 ISRAEL SUSTAINED BY GOD IN THE WILDERNESS****1. A PROVING GROUND**

The bondage in Egypt plus the discipline and hardship of the wilderness were intended to prepare Israel for their mission in cleansing the land of Canaan. This mission had been delayed allowing the Amorite iniquity to develop to its fullness (Gen. 15:16). Israel had to be “proved”.

Man “proves” his products by subjecting them to destructive tests to determine their breaking point. He can then calculate a “safe working load”. God “proves” His “products” by subjecting them to tests designed to strengthen them and enable them to bear ever greater strain (e.g. Abraham), sometimes to reveal a weakness and allow corrective treatment to be taken (e.g. Hezekiah).

**2. WILDERNESS OF SIN**

Although we might refer to our pilgrimage in the “wilderness of sin”, this is not its meaning. It is related to “Sinai” and means “cliffs” (cf. Also “Zin”)

**3. WILDERNESS OF SIN**

Whether the quails continued each evening is doubtful. Exodus 16:13 only mentions one appearing of quails. In a later incident (Num. 11:31) they had sufficient flesh for a month’s eating but here again there is only one gathering mentioned and the quantity stated could well be sufficient for a month’s supply.

**4. THE AMALEKITES**

Amalek was a grandson of Esau (Gen. 36:12). The Amalekites were the first people with whom Israel came into conflict after leaving Egypt. Their attack may have been inspired by the desire to seize Israel’s water supply. God cursed them for all time.

Many years later Saul was commanded to utterly destroy the nation of the Amalekites. Saul disobeyed God and saved the king and valuable cattle alive. The last time the Amalekites appear in the record is when Hezekiah smote the rest of the Amalekites that remained. (1 Chron. 4:43).

C.C. Walker gives an instructive commentary on Amalek and subsequent incidents (“Witness for Christ”, p.162).

**TEACHING METHODS**

1. Review the nature of Israel’s redemption and the entirely new circumstances and environment they were now entering.
2. Expound upon the marvellous spiritual lessons based on the provision of bread and water in the wilderness and similar features.
3. Keep to the forefront the nomadic character of Israel’s sojourn in the wilderness; their dependence on God; their wavering faith despite the evidence of His love and protection.
4. Refer to 1 Cor. 10 to demonstrate that these events are not just matters of history but have pointed application to our own lives.