

## LESSON 17

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### The Exodus and the Desert Wanderings

*Directions:* Read the cited scripture passages and related biblical footnotes to help you to fill in the blanks for each item.

1. The first major theme of the book of Exodus is the departure (Exodus) of the Israelites from \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The second major theme is the making of the covenant between God and Moses at the sacred mountain of \_\_\_\_\_. (Ex 19:11)
3. According to Exodus 12:37, the number of Israelite men who fled Egypt was \_\_\_\_\_.
4. If we add to it the women and children, the number would be much greater. But if the Hebrew word *elep* which means thousand is taken to mean family, then the number would be 600 families or about how many people if we count five to a family? \_\_\_\_\_
5. This number seems more realistic since their small number would not want to encounter any resistance from enemies.
  - A. For instance, Exodus 13:17 says that the Israelites did not follow the Mediterranean coast into the land of the Philistines because they were not strong enough to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. Again, they did not take the shorter route across the Sinai Peninsula because there they might encounter garrisons of the army of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. One unusual possession that the people brought with them from Egypt for burial in Canaan was the body of \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex 13:19) which was in fulfillment of the promise made to Joseph by \_\_\_\_\_. (Gn 50:24-25)
7. The Israelites departed Egypt during the time of the “ripe grain,” the spring equinox in March or April. According to Exodus 13:4, that would be the Hebrew month of \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The Israelites then came to their first obstacle on their journey, the \_\_\_\_\_. (Ex 13:18)
9. The Hebrew words *yam suph* are often incorrectly translated “Red Sea.” The Red Sea is south of the whole Sinai Peninsula. Probably the correct translation should be “Sea of Reeds” and the most likely location of this miraculous crossing of the Sea of Reeds is a one day’s march from Succoth at \_\_\_\_\_. (Ex 13:20)
10. En route to the Sea of Reeds, the Israelites were led by the Lord in the daytime in the form of a \_\_\_\_\_ and at night in the form of a \_\_\_\_\_ (Ex 13:21), both examples of \_\_\_\_\_.
11. According to Exodus 14:21, the phenomena which actually parted the Sea of Reeds and made a dry path for the Israelites to cross was a \_\_\_\_\_.
12. The Israelites were undoubtedly traveling light on their journey, although Exodus 12:38 notes that they brought their livestock with them. They could cross the swampy area of the Sea of Reeds while the Egyptians could not because of the weight of their \_\_\_\_\_. (see Ex 14:25)

## Lesson 17 continued

13. The separating of waters is often used in the scripture to symbolize a new beginning, a creation. When the water of the Sea of Reeds “separates,” a new people is born into the world, God’s creation of a new nation. This passage was written by the Priestly source. Where did the Priestly source use this symbol of separation before? \_\_\_\_\_
14. In the desert, the Israelites are able to survive because of several occurrences:
- A. They purify water that is undrinkable. Arabs today speak of a thorn which can sweeten water, as in Exodus 15:25, although in this verse it is called a piece of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. The Israelites are fed in the desert by two events. The first is \_\_\_\_\_, mentioned in Exodus 16:13.
  - C. The second is called manna, from the Hebrew word *man hu* which means “what is it?” This is probably a sweet, edible substance produced by insect secretions on the tamarisk thickets. From the leaves it drops to the ground and becomes firm in the cool night air of the desert. It had to be gathered quickly in the morning because once the sun would hit it, it would \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Ex 16:21)
15. For the Israelites, these desert occurrences were signs of God’s protection and love for his people. They attributed their own survival in the desert, a place they had not been before, to the hand of \_\_\_\_\_.
16. The Israelites, however, were still weak in their faith. Even after the great events of the Exodus, they constantly came before Moses to \_\_\_\_\_. (e.g., Ex 17:3)