

~MARAH (114)
(Ma'rah) [Bitterness]

- One of Israel's early encampments in the Sinai Peninsula. It was named **Marah** because of the **unpalatable water found there**.
- In time they came to **Marah**, but they were not able to drink the water from Marah because it was bitter. That is why he called its name **Marah**. (**Exodus 15:23**)
- After that they pulled away from Pihahiroth and went passing through the midst of the sea to the wilderness and kept marching a three-day journey in the wilderness of Etham and took up camping at **Marah**. (**Numbers 33:8**)
- Although having only recently been delivered from the Egyptians at the Red Sea, the Israelites gave way to faithless murmuring when they were unable to drink the water at **Marah**. Thereafter, at Yehowah's direction, Moses cast a tree into the water, and the water became sweet.
- The Bible does not specify the kind of tree, and so there is no basis for identifying it. Of course, Yehowah could have directed Moses to a particular variety having natural properties for sweetening the water. But there is no need to seek a scientific or natural explanation, as the healing of the water was doubtless miraculous.
- In time they came to **Marah**, but they were not able to drink the water from Marah because it was bitter. That is why he called its name Marah. (**Exodus 15:23**)
- And the people began to murmur against Moses, saying; What are we to drink? (**Exodus 15:24**)
- Then he cried out to Yehowah. So Yehowah directed him to a tree, and he threw it into the water and the water became sweet. There He established for them a regulation and a case for judgment and there he put them to the test. (**Exodus 15:25**)
- In time the men of the city said to Elisha; Here, now, the situation of the city is good, just as my master is seeing, but the water is bad, and the land is causing miscarriages. (**2 Kings 2:19**)

- **At that he said; Fetch me a small new bowl and put salt in it. So they fetched it for him. (2 Kings 2:20)**
- **Then he went on out to the source of the water and threw salt in it and said; This is what Yehowah has said; I do make this water healthful. No more will death or any causing of miscarriages result from it. (2 Kings 2:21)**
- **And the water continues healed down to this day, according to Elisha's word that he spoke. (2 Kings 2:22)**
- **And Elisha himself returned to Gilgal, and there was famine in the land. As the sons of the prophets were sitting before him, he in time said to his attendant; Put the large cooking pot on and boil stew for the sons of the prophets. (2 Kings 4:38)**
- **Accordingly a certain one went out to the field to pick mallows, and he got to find a wild vine and went picking wild gourds from it, his garment full, and then came and sliced them into the stewpot, for they were not acquainted with them. (2 Kings 4:39)**
- **Later they poured it out for the men to eat. And it came about that, as soon as they ate from the stew, they themselves cried out and began saying; There is death in the pot, O man of the true God. And they were not able to eat. (2 Kings 4:40)**
- **So he said; Fetch, then, flour. After he threw it into the pot, he went on to say; Pour out for the people that they may eat. And nothing injurious proved to be in the pot. (2 Kings 4:41)**
- **Yehowah used the circumstances at **Marah** to test the Israelites as to their faith in his ability to care for them. Since bad water can cause disease**
- **In time the men of the city said to Elisha; Here, now, the situation of the city is good, just as my master is seeing, but the water is bad, and the land is causing miscarriages. (2 Kings 2:19)**
- **The sweetening of the water illustrated Yehowah's ability to preserve the Israelites from the maladies experienced by the Egyptians.**

- The regulation Yehowah then taught the Israelites was: Obedience to him as their God would prevent their being afflicted by the maladies he put upon the Egyptians.
- Then he cried out to Yehowah. So Yehowah directed him to a tree, and he threw it into the water and the water became sweet. There He established for them a regulation and a case for judgment and there he put them to the test. (**Exodus 15:25**)
- And he went on to say; If you will strictly listen to the voice of Yehowah your God and will do what is right in his eyes and will indeed give ear to his commandments and keep all his regulations, I shall put none of the maladies upon you that I put upon the Egyptians, because I am Yehowah who is healing you. (**Exodus 15:26**)
- **Marah** is usually identified with **`Ein Hawwara**, 80 kilometers (50 miles) South-Southeast of modern Suez, just a few miles inland from the Red Sea.