

## Exodus 17:1-7 **Water from the rock of Meribah at Rephidim**

<sup>1</sup> Then all the congregation of the children of Israel set out on their journey from the Wilderness of Sin, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped in Rephidim; but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup> Therefore the people contended with Moses, and said, "Give us water, that we may drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt the LORD?" <sup>3</sup> And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, "Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup> So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me!" <sup>5</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, "Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river, and go. <sup>6</sup> Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink." And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup> So he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the contention of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?" NKJV

### Facts Revealed:

- ✧ From the **Wilderness of Sin** to **Rephidim** where there was no water.
- ✧ Rephidim was in the area of Mount Horeb (Mount Sinai).
- ✧ This is the second time the people murmured against Moses about the lack of water, showing human tendency to complain at a problem even though they had seen God provide the solution earlier at the bitter waters of Marah in the Wilderness of Shur. [[Exodus 15:22-27](#)]
- ✧ However, this time there was no water at all.
- ✧ Moses cried out to Yehowah because the people were ready to stone him.
- ✧ Yehowah instructed Moses to take his rod and some of the elders of Israel before the people and to strike the rock with the promise that water would come out of the rock.
- ✧ Yehowah said, "I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb.
- ✧ Moses struck the rock in the sight of the elders of Israel as God had instructed, and God provided water from the rock for the Children of Israel to drink.
- ✧ The rock represented Christ Who was struck by the soldiers at the time of His crucifixion that provided salvation for the sins of the world. In both cases the provision was God's Own doing for the life of His people. [[1 Corinthians 10:1-4](#)]
- ✧ Moses named the place Massah (temptation) and Meribah (strife or contention), because the Children of Israel tempted Yehowah by questioning whether God was with them or not.
- ✧ God certainly proved to them that He was with them by providing water from the rock.

Evidence of a great abundance of water flowing from a rock in Horeb can be seen by the appearance of erosion found by archeologists recently in the area of Mount Horeb which is today called Jabal Al Lawz.

(See: "The Exodus Case" by Dr. Lennart Moller copyright 2002 Scandinavia Publishing House [www.leocordia.com/exodus](http://www.leocordia.com/exodus) )