

**On Trial in the Middle of Your Trial**

Exodus 17:1-7 (NASB)

**A. Observations from the Text:**

1. There is a problem/need (vs. 1, 3a): No \_\_\_\_\_
2. The people’s responses (vs. 2a, 3b): They contend with the \_\_\_\_\_ and put God on \_\_\_\_\_.

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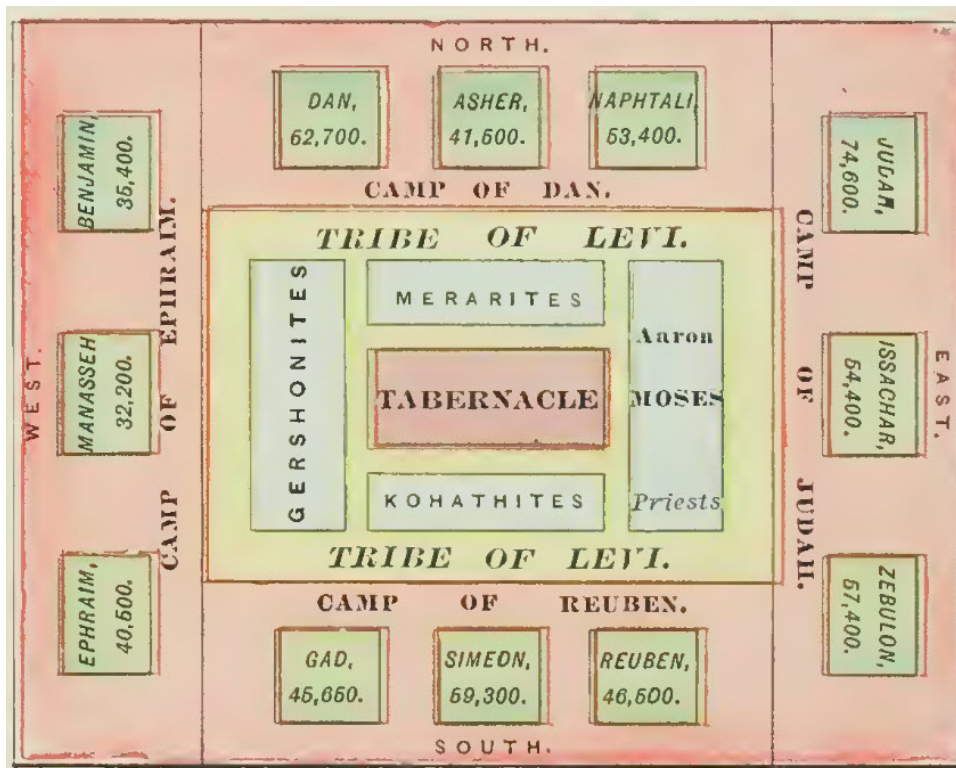
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3. Moses initial response (vs. 2b, 4): Directs the attention back to \_\_\_\_\_.

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**Notes:**

603,550 men in the census  
 These numbers only include men who are of age to fight in war. This means it does not include:  
 1- Women,  
 2- The tribe of Levi  
 3- Males under the age of 20 or over the age of 50.  
 This shows that the “nation” of the children of Israel easily numbered more than 1.5 million people.  
 FYI: The number of Levites not including women and children (in Numbers 3)  
 Merarites 6,200,  
 Gershonites 7,500  
 Kohathites 8,600

Diagram Source:

[www.Bible-history.com](http://www.Bible-history.com)

4. God’s response (vs. 5-6a): He reveals how the need will be met.

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5. Moses final response (vs. 6b-7): Moses \_\_\_\_\_ God, and \_\_\_\_\_ the experience for future instruction/rebuke and hope. (See Psalm 95:7-9; Romans 5:3-5, Hebrew 3:7-19)

- Massah: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Meribah: \_\_\_\_\_ or contending
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**B. Critical question:**

Why did not God \_\_\_\_\_ speak to Moses when the complaints came and respond at the time the need was \_\_\_\_\_ expressed?

1. To show the children of Israel their \_\_\_\_\_, particularly during times of trial and \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. To allow everyone to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the miracle of His provision \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. To help the \_\_\_\_\_ get on the \_\_\_\_\_ page.
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4. To show that he is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in spite of their \_\_\_\_\_.

**C. Concluding questions and admonitions**

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1. Ever had a dire need and God did not answer you or meet the need right away?
2. Ever took issue with a leader's decisions (spouse, pastor, boss, other authority figure) because you did not understand their decisions, or the results were unfavorable and caused you pain?
3. Have you ever been going through a trial and decided to put God on trial?

“In less than six months they had witnessed ten plagues, the pillar of cloud and fire, the opening and shutting of the Red Sea, the miraculous sweetening of the water, and the sending of food and meat from heaven; yet their real question came down to this: ‘Is the LORD among us [beqirbenu] or not?’”

Walter C. Kaiser, Jr. from The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Volume 2. 406. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, © 1990.

When you are on trial in the middle of a trial:

- Stop doubting whether God is with you, and stop blaming others for the trial you are facing.
- Hold fast to His promises, remembering that He is faithful.
- Wait patiently for God to respond to your need.