

**Introduction:**

- A. Rock of Ages Hymn by Augustus Toplady
    - 1. Blends events of Exod 33 with Exod 17 and the cross
    - 2. The event at Massah and Meribah became a proverbial saying to perennially warn God's people against hard-heartedness
  - B. Exod 17 is more than just a miracle. It is a covenant lawsuit brought against God by the people of Israel.
- I. Charges Levelled (Exod 17:2, 3, 7)
- A. A Covenant Lawsuit Is Levelled Against YHWH (17:2)
    - 1. The Plaintiffs=Israel
    - 2. Defendant=Moses representing God himself
    - 3. The word Quarrel in Hebrew literally means “to bring a lawsuit against”
  - B. The Charge—Treason
    - 1. "Give us water to drink." (Exod 17:2).
    - 2. "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" (Exod 17:3)
    - 3. "Is the LORD among us or not?" (Exod. 17:7)
    - 4. How are we like the Israelites?
- II. Verdict Delivered (17:5)
- A. Moses' Staff as Emblem of Judgment
  - B. Elders as Witnesses of Justice
  - C. Who is the guilty party?
  - D. What had God already done for the Israelites?
    - 1. Safe Passage through the Red sea (Exod 14)
    - 2. Bitter Water Made Sweet (Exod 15:22–27)
    - 3. The Lord fed them with quail (Exod 16)
    - 3. The Lord fed them with mana (Exod 16)
  - E. The Ironic Turn: The Israelites, not God, are guilty of a poor memory, doubt, and hard heartedness
- III. Sentence Executed (17:4, 6)
- A. The sentence for treason is death by stoning (17:4).
  - B. How will God fulfill His promises if He kills Israel?
  - C. The Rock of Ages is Struck (17:6)
    - 1. YHWH stands “before” the Rock
    - 2. YHWH stands “on” the Rock (cf. Deut 32:15, 18; Ps 78:35; 95:1)
    - 3. YHWH stands in the place of the guilty and takes their punishment
    - 4. Christ is the Rock (1 Cor 10:4)
  - D. Returning to the three questions/charges
    - 1. Give us water! Water given from the wounded side of the Savior
    - 2. Have you brought us out here to kill us? No, I have sent my Son to take your punishment.
    - 3. Is God among us? Yes, in the person of His Son.