

Analytical Essay Sample



Levels 8-9

All For God's Glory

The Israelites faced many impediments in the wilderness, and through them they learned that God's character was a perfect mix of strength and compassion, justness and mercy, power, and love. They lacked food and water, were attacked by their enemies, and were burdened by sin, but God mercifully helped them out of each predicament. He was a God worth glorifying. Through provision, protection, and grace God's glory was revealed to the Israelites during their difficulties.

Finding enough food and water for a million hungry and thirsty people in the middle of the desert can be a problem. This was a constant predicament, but God provided for them in each one. In Exodus 16 they had no food, but God provided by giving them manna each morning and tame quail in the evening. Another time, they had no water, so God sweetened the bitter waters of Marah and Elim (Exodus 15:22-27). Later, He miraculously provided by pouring water from a rock. His glory was proved through His provision of the Israelites' needs.

God's glory was also shown when He protected the Israelites from their attacking enemies. When the Amalekites attacked in Exodus 17, God shielded them through Moses and his staff. God told Moses to sit on the top of a mountain with his staff raised high in the air. When his staff was above his head, the Israelites won; however, if he let it drop, they began losing. God then sent an angel ahead of the Israelites to clear a path through their enemies for them (Exodus 23:20-33). In Leviticus 26, He promised that if the Israelites obeyed Him, He would save them from their enemies, but if they disobeyed, their enemies would conquer them. God's glory was tremendously displayed through the powerful defeat of the enemies of His people.

All humanity is under the curse of sin—the Israelites included. Mercifully, God demonstrated His glory in making a way out of their condemned future: sacrifices. Sacrifices were used as atonement for the sins of the Israelites. There were sacrifices for guilt, sin, festivals, and fellowship. Different reasons to sacrifice called for different substances, such as animals, grain, incense, and money. In Leviticus 4-5, He gave a detailed description of exactly what the sacrifice should contain and how it should be carried out. Through this practice, God offered a relief from sin for the Israelites.

Clearly, the Israelites saw much of God's glory through the years in the wilderness. Through all their troubles—no food or water, trouble with enemies, and sins—God saved them. He provided for, protected, and forgave His people, showing his glory through a balance of love and power. In each hazardous situation, God took care of them.