**Wednesday 12th August**

Deuteronomy 8: 15-18

He led you through the vast and dreadful wilderness, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. **16**He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go well with you. **17**You may say to yourself, ‘My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.’ **18**But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

The Lord is our provider. All good gifts come from Him! He is the source of everything life-giving that we enjoy.  I woke this morning to the news that the UK is officially in recession as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. Throughout this time we have seen many things shaken – things that previously seemed unshakeable, reliable, solid. Money is one of those things that can give us a sense of security and yet it is not a trustworthy saviour. Sometimes we are a bit squeamish when it comes to talking about money, but Jesus didn’t have any such scruples, and addresses this issue a lot in His teaching. In our passage today from Deuteronomy we are reminded of God’s kindness in providing for the Israelites as they walked through a very tough place – a place of lack. And yet, God made it a place of abundance. He warns them not to become proud when they arrive in the Promised Land. He exhorts them to remember that their skills and abilities are a gift from Him. All good things come from Him.

*Father, thank you for all that you give us.  We have so much to be grateful for! Thank you that you don’t withhold anything good from your children.  Help us to never take your blessings and provision for granted, but to recognise your goodness and grace. Keep us from becoming proud and trusting in our own abilities or in wealth, or in anything other than you. Lord, at a time where many are struggling financially we want to pray for those who are being negatively impacted by the financial climate. We pray for those that have lost businesses and jobs and are anxious for the future.  As they call out to you, may they discover you as their provider in a place of lack. Show us how you are calling us to join in with your kingdom work today. Amen*

