

EXODUS Lesson 14

Exodus Chapter 14

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Memory verses for this week: Son 8:7 Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be contemned.

Introduction: We continue our study on Exodus this week. In last week's lesson, we studied about the sanctification of the first born and learned that the journey to the promised land would be a lengthy journey. Our study closed as we covered the cloud and the pillar of fire which were to lead the people both day and night.

In today's lesson we are to have for our consideration one of the most remarkable miracles recorded in the Old Testament, certainly the most remarkable in connection with the history of Israel. From this point onwards whenever the servants of God would remind the people of the Lord's power and greatness, reference is almost always made to what He wrought for them at the Red Sea. Eight hundred years afterwards the Lord says through Isaiah:

Isa. 51:15, But I am the LORD thy God, that divided the sea, whose waves roared: The LORD of hosts is his name.

Micah 7:15 According to the days of thy coming out of the land of Egypt will I shew unto him marvellous things.

I. The Redeemed Threatened

Exo 14:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Exo 14:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, that they turn and encamp before Pihahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, over against Baalzephon: before it shall ye encamp by the sea.

Exo 14:3 For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, They are entangled in the land, the wilderness hath shut them in.

As in prior chapters, we find the Lord speaking to the people's leader, Moses. Their route of travel is now changed. The Lord places them where the sea is ahead, the mountains on either side, and the Egyptians behind them. Here they would be totally dependent upon the Lord for their safety in this trial.

James 1:3-4, Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting

nothing.

Pharaoh's conclusion of the matter would be that the people were entangled in the land and the wilderness had them shut in.

Exo 14:4 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, that he shall follow after them; and I will be honoured upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host; that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD. And they did so.

Exo 14:5 And it was told the king of Egypt that the people fled: and the heart of Pharaoh and of his servants was turned against the people, and they said, Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?

Exo 14:6 And he made ready his chariot, and took his people with him:

God's work and purpose was to be accomplished. When this was all over, the Egyptians would know who the Lord was. The Egyptians would pursue after Israel God warns. Now that the Israelites were gone, the Egyptians began to miss their slaves. This is similar to Satan's fiery darts when the sinner turns to Christ.

Eph 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

Eph 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Eph 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Pharaoh prepares to pursue them by readying his chariot and bring his people with him.

Barnes Notes said this about verse 5.

Exo 14:5 The people fled - This was a natural inference from the change of direction, which indicated a determination to escape from Egypt. Up to the time when that information reached Pharaoh both he and his people understood that the Israelites would return after keeping a festival in the district adjoining Etham. From Etham the intelligence would be forwarded by the commander of the garrison to Rameses in less than a day, and the cavalry, a highly-disciplined force, would be ready for immediate departure.

Exo 14:7 And he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over every one of them.

Exo 14:8 And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued after the children of Israel: and the children of Israel went out with an high hand.

Exo 14:9 But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pihahiroth, before Baalzephon.

Exo 14:10 And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD.

Pharaoh's army goes with him as the hard hearted king comes in pursuit. Verse 9 says that the Egyptians overtake Israel near Pihahiroth. As Pharaoh and his mighty army drew near, the Israelites became very fearful, but Moses remained strong.

We must remember that the children of Israel were unarmed, untrained, and unaccustomed to war. But we believe that Moses was trained in military matters as his first 40 years were in the palace of the King where he gained much worldly wisdom.

Acts 7:22 And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds.

Exo 14:11 And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt?

Exo 14:12 Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness.

Exo 14:13 And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.

Exo 14:14 The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

The faithless Israelites turn on Moses and begin to complain that it would have been better to have stayed in Egypt than to come out to a grave in the wilderness. The foolish Israelites prefer slavery over what they can see with their eyes. But faith is not something we see with the eyes. It is invisible, but it is as real as anything you will ever see.

Heb 11:1 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

Their faithful leader Moses speaks there in verse 13 and tells them to "Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord." Moses tells them that the Egyptians would be utterly destroyed. Not in their own power and might, but the Lord would be the one to fight for them. Israel had been brought to this exact place by the Lord, in order that they might see the sufficiency of the Lord.

Phil. 4:19, But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

I Cor. 10:13, There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Adam Clarke in his commentary said this about verse 13:

Exo 14:13 Moses said - Fear ye not - This exhortation was not given to excite them to resist, for of that there was no hope; they were unarmed, they had no courage, and their minds were deplorably degraded.

Stand still - Ye shall not be even workers together with God; only be quiet, and do not render yourselves wretched by your fears and your confusion.

See the salvation of the Lord - Behold the deliverance which God will work, independently of all human help and means.

Ye shall see them again no more - Here was strong faith, but this was accompanied by the spirit of prophecy. God showed Moses what he would do, he believed, and therefore he spoke in the encouraging manner related above.

II. The Redeemed are Delivered

Exo 14:15 And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward:

Exo 14:16 But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

Exo 14:17 And I, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them: and I will get me honour upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.

The Lord instructs Moses as to what they were to do. The Israelites are to go forward and the way would be prepared. God would take care of them, and the Egyptians would be destroyed.

Exo 14:18 And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten me honour upon Pharaoh, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.

Exo 14:19 And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them:

Exo 14:20 And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night.

The Lord was to be honored before Pharaoh and the Egyptians. The Lord himself would deliver Israel. The angel and the cloud protected Israel it says in Verse 19. To the Egyptians, the cloud was of darkness like a storm, but to the Jews it was the cloud of light. This kept God's chosen separated from the Egyptians.

Exo 14:21 And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

Exo 14:22 And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the waters divided. God used a strong east wind all that night to drive back the waters, and it says that Israel marches through on dry ground. Many have attempted to explain away the miracle, by saying that this was only a shallow marsh. They fail to explain how the Egyptians could have been drowned in such a place.

This was an act of faith as they stepped out on the dry land with the waters held back above them.

Heb. 11:29, By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.

This was an act of obedience, and was called in I Corinthians a type of baptism.

I Cor. 10:1-2, Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

III. The Unredeemed are Destroyed

Exo 14:23 And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

Exo 14:24 And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians,

Exo 14:25 And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians.

Undeterred by the waters standing up on the side, the Egyptians follow, and this brought destruction to the Egyptians. They try to do without faith, what Israel did by faith. No wonder they were destroyed. Don't be surprised if the world makes fun of you for the faith you have in God. Many will never believe in this life, but one day they will know the truth. Verse 24 says that the Lord troubled Egypt in the morning watch. (The morning watch was from 2 a.m. until sunrise.) The chariot wheels begin to fall off, and the Egyptians decide they should flee as God is the one fighting against them.

Exo 14:26 And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.

Exo 14:27 And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.

Exo 14:28 And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them.

God instructs Moses to bring his hand back over the sea that the waters might come back over the Egyptians. When he does this, the Egyptians are overthrown. The waters returned as before, and the waters destroy the army. Not one man remained but all were drowned.

Exo 14:29 But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

Exo 14:30 Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore.

Exo 14:31 And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses.

So Israel received their deliverance this day. It says in verse 29 that Israel walked upon dry land between the walls of water. The Lord saved Israel, and Israel saw the great work and feared the Lord.

But there are a number of typical lessons found in this chapter.

1. Typically the crossing of the Red Sea speaks of Christ making a way through death for His people.
2. Evangelically the crossing of the Red Sea tells of the completeness of our salvation. It is the sequel to the Passover night.
3. Doctrinally the passage through the Red Sea sets forth the believer's union with Christ in His death and resurrection.

Gal. 2:20, I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

This is pictured in baptism, but is accomplished by faith.

Rom. 6:5, For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.

Eph. 2:5-6, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

4. Practically the deliverance of Israel from the Red Sea illustrates the absolute sufficiency of our God.

Isa. 43:2, When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

4. Dispensationally the passing of Israel through the Red Sea foreshadows the yet future restoration and deliverance of the nation of Israel from among the sea of the nations.

Psa. 65:7, Which stilleth the noise of the seas, the noise of their waves, and the tumult of the people.

Rev. 17:15, And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

Ezek. 20:34 And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out.

Ezek. 37:21, And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land.

Study Questions:

1. Why did God change the route of travel for Israel?

The Lord places them where the sea is ahead, the mountains on either side, and the Egyptians behind them. Here they would be totally dependent upon the Lord for their safety in this trial.

2. What did Pharaoh conclude from their route of travel?

They were hemmed in.

3. Why did the Egyptians miss having the Israelites?

No slaves to do all the work.

4. How does this compare with Satan's work when a sinner is saved?

He attacks us with fiery darts to try and destroy us and our faith.

5. What excuse did Israel have for their fear of Egypt's army?

The faithless Israelites turn on Moses and begin to complain that it would have been better to have stayed in Egypt than to come out to a grave in the wilderness. The foolish Israelites prefer slavery over what they can see with their eyes

6. “_____ ye not, stand still, and see the _____
_____.”

FEAR Salvation of the Lord.

7. Why was the cloud darkness to Egypt and light to Israel?

God caused it this way to keep them separated.

8. At what time did the Lord trouble the Egyptians?

The Lord troubled Egypt in the morning watch. (The morning watch was from 2 a.m. until sunrise.)

9. Some suggest that Israel crossed only a marsh and not a sea. Why could this not be true?

You could not drown thousands of Egyptians in a marsh.

10. What N. T. ordinance is typified by the crossing of the Red Sea?

Baptism.

* Base outline for lessons by permission from:

THE BOOK OF EXODUS

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.

