

The Book of Exodus

The Crossing of the Red Sea

Text: Exodus 14

- I. The Instructions from God (Exodus 14:1-4)
 - A. God's first instruction was for the children of Israel to turn.
 - 1. This most likely refers to their turn southward.
 - 2. It was the exact opposite direction from their destination.
 - B. God's next instruction was for them to encamp by the sea.
 - 1. From their turning and encamping, it appeared to Pharaoh that they were lost and trapped.
 - 2. From man's perspective, this appeared to be the case.
 - 3. However, God was guiding Israel and had a greater plan in mind.
 - C. God warned Moses of Pharaoh's reaction and pursuit.
 - D. Yet, God promised that He would receive honor and glory because of what would soon happen with Pharaoh.
 - 1. By this final judgment upon Egypt, God would prove that He alone is the one true God.
 - 2. The stubborn Egyptians and Pharaoh himself would finally see the truth.
- II. The Rebellion of Pharaoh (Exodus 14:5-9)
 - A. Once again, Pharaoh hardened his heart and rebelled against God.
 - 1. He had commanded the Israelites to leave, but now asks, "Why have we done this?" (cf. 12:31-33).
 - 2. In spite of all that he has seen and experienced, Pharaoh has not changed his character – he is still stubborn and unfaithful to his word.
 - B. In his foolish pride, Pharaoh decided to use his chariots and soldiers to fight against Israel and to war against Jehovah.
 - 1. This is the madness of sin in a heart that is truly hardened.
 - 2. Pharaoh gathered 600 of the best chariots, but also carried any that he could find.
 - 3. All the chariots, horses, horsemen, and soldiers left in Egypt were involved in this pursuit.
 - 4. Their overthrow would be the ultimate defeat of the most powerful nation on Earth.
 - C. Pharaoh pursued Israel, even though they had gone out of Egypt with a high hand – a demonstration of the power of God.
- III. The Fear of Israel (Exodus 14:10-12)
 - A. As Israel camped with the Red Sea on their east, Pharaoh's army approached from the west.
 - B. From a human perspective, it seemed certain that they were trapped and doomed.
 - C. Sadly, this is how Israel chose to view the situation – thus, they cried out in fear.
 - 1. They cried out to Jehovah, but not in faith and trust.
 - 2. Rather, they cried against Moses – thus, against God.
 - 3. Remember that God had guided them to this place.



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4. Just because one follows the Lord does not mean that difficulties will not arise.
5. There will be troubles, but the child of God must learn to respond with faith.
- D. This first complaint of Israel in the wilderness illustrates an important principle: Israel cared more for the physical than the spiritual.
- E. Furthermore it teaches an important lesson: complaining demonstrates a lack of faith!
 1. They had forgotten God.
 2. They had forgotten God's power.
 3. They had forgotten God's blessings.
 4. They had forgotten God's guidance.
 5. They had forgotten God's goal.

IV. The Salvation of Jehovah

(Exodus 14:13-31)

- A. Moses instructed the people to conquer their fear by standing still and witnessing the salvation of Jehovah.
 1. The word for 'stand still' means, "To set or station one's self; to stand in place or to stand firm."
 2. Just like their previous deliverance, this would also be accomplished by God alone.
 3. Again, God would fight for them while they stood in silence.
- B. Following the Lord's instruction, Moses lifted up his rod and stretched it out over the sea, and the waters parted.
 1. The word for 'divide' means, "To cleave, split, break open, rend, or break up."
 2. To accomplish this, God used a strong east wind.
 3. The water became like walls on either side of the dry ground that the Israelites would cross over.
- C. As this was happening, the pillar of cloud and fire stood between Israel and the forces of Egypt.
 1. Thus, Egypt was kept in darkness and unable to attack the Israelites.
 2. And, Israel was protected and able to cross the Red Sea without hindrance.
- D. Furthermore, God troubled the Egyptian host by causing the wheels to come off of their chariots as they sought to pursue Israel.
- E. Too late the Egyptians recognized and acknowledged the power of Jehovah.
- F. With Israel safely across, God commanded Moses to stretch his hand over the sea and the walls of water collapsed, drowning the Egyptians – including Pharaoh (cf. Psalm 136:15).
- G. Thus, God saved Israel and defeated the Egyptians.
- H. Israel's faith in God was restored and they trusted Him and His servant Moses.