

EXODUS 13:17—14:9

LESSON: PURSUIT OF THE SLAVES

—November 10, 2019

INTRODUCTION/SYNOPSIS:

13:13-16 Every firstborn of a donkey shall be redeemed with a lamb. If it's not redeemed, its neck is broken. And every firstborn of man among their children shall be redeemed. And there will come a time when the son will ask the father, "*What does this mean?*" "*What is this all about?*" They were to tell their son that it was by the strong hand of the Lord that brought them out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. So, when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let God's people go, He killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. So the fathers would tell their sons, because of what the Lord has done, they immolate; redeem every firstborn male of the womb. The celebration will be like a token; a sign on their hand and a symbol on your forehead that the Lord brought them out of Egypt with His mighty hand and great power.

LESSON: I. DIVINE DIRECTION EXODUS 13:17-22

13:17 And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt:— Pharaoh did let the Israelites go with Moses, but, God did not lead the Israelites through the land of the Philistines, for its direction was really the shorter route, but God felt the people might become discouraged, for they would encounter armed resistance (war) and might repent and return to Egypt.

13:18 But God led the people about, through the way of the wilderness of the Red sea: and the children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt. So, God had re-routed the people toward the desert by way of the Red Sea. This is actually the second time the name Red Sea is mentioned in the Bible. The first time the Red Sea is mentioned is in Exodus 10:19. The short, quick route (the land of the Philistines) would be filled with danger and the possibility of war, for the Philistines were a powerful enemy. However, the children of Israel went up bound and armed when they marched out of the land of Egypt.

13:19 And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him: for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you; and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you. Joseph was dying but he repeated the true promise "...but God will surely visit you; come for them and bring them out of this land to the land he swore to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob" (Gen.50:24). Then Joseph made his brethren swear "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here" (Gen.50:25). The oath of deliverance was remembered, and 350yrs, almost four centuries later Moses willfully carried Joseph's bones out of Egypt because God kept his promise, and later Joshua buried them at Shechem (Josh.24:32).

13:20 And they took their journey from Succoth, and encamped in Etham, in the edge of the wilderness.

Succoth is the place of the first encampment of the Israelites after leaving Rameses in Egypt (12:37). Now, they are encamped in Etham (Num.33:6) which is the edge of the wilderness (desert).

13:21 And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:— God led them by day and by night, so they were never alone. He went before them giving them direction with a pillar of cloud by day. And He went before them to give the light by night with a pillar of fire. This was God appearing in physical form in a cloud or in fire lighting their path, protecting them from their enemies, providing reassurance, controlling their movements, and symbolizing the burning desire that Israel should have for God!

13:22 He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people. The cloud nor the fire was never out of their sight. It was ever before the people.

II. DIVINE PLAN EXODUS 14:1-9

14:1 And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,— God was always speaking to His spokesperson, Moses.

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. God tells Moses to now speak to the children of Israel and instruct them to turn and encamp before Pihahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, across from Baalzephon, to pitch their tents close to the western shore of the sea.

14:3 For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, They are entangled in the land, the wilderness hath shut them in. And the Lord tells Moses that Pharaoh will assume that the children of Israel are confused and vulnerable, wandering aimlessly in the land, and the wilderness (desert) has shut them in, meaning trapped between the desert and the sea.

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. The Lord says that He will harden Pharaoh's heart again. God's plan is to make Pharaoh follow after the Israelites, for God will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his host (armies). When this happens to Pharaoh and the Egyptians will know that He is the Lord! And the Israelites did as Moses instructed them to do, encamp by the sea (14:2).

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?— So, Pharaoh, king of Egypt thought the Israelites were coming back after three days, but word got back to him that the people had fled; had kept going. Well, just as the Lord said, Pharaoh's heart was hardened and so were the hearts of Pharaoh's servants (staff) against the Israelites to where they said what made them (the Egyptians) let the Israelite slaves go free from their service. That was not what they really wanted to do, but they didn't know that God had hardened their hearts.

14:6 And he made ready his chariot, and took his people with him:— Pharaoh had them to get his chariot ready, and he gathered his army to march after them. This was all part of God's plan.

14:7 And he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over every one of them. From all the chariots of Egypt, Pharaoh had chosen 600 of his best war chariots, manned with captains over every one of them. These war chariots carried two people: one to drive and one to fight. They

were made of a wood or leather cab placed over two wheels and pulled by horses. These were the armored tanks of Bible times. But, even their power was no match for God!

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. With a hardened heart by the Lord, Pharaoh, king of Egypt pursued the children of Israel quite confidently.

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. So, the Egyptians gave chase with all the cavalry and chariots, horsemen and infantry and overtook them as they encamped beside the sea near Pihahiroth, across from Baalzephon.

SUMMARY:

Pharaoh did let the Israelites go with Moses, but, God did not lead the Israelites through the land of the Philistines, although it was really the shorter route, but God felt the people might become discouraged when they encounter the armed resistance (war) of the Philistines, and repent and return to Egypt. So, God had re-routed the people toward the desert by way of the Red Sea. However, the children of Israel went up armed when they marched out of the land of Egypt (**13:17-18**). And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him: for Joseph had made the children of Israel a vow before God, that they would take his bones with them when God leads them out of Egypt, for he was sure God would. They journeyed from Succoth, and encamped in Etham, at the edge of the wilderness (desert). God led them day and night, going before them giving them direction with a pillar of cloud by day, and going before them to give the light by night with a pillar of fire. The cloud nor the fire was never out of their sight. It was ever before the people (**13:19-22**).

The Lord spoke to Moses again to tell the children of Israel to turn and encamp before Pihahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, across from Baalzephon to pitch their tents close to the western shore of the sea. And the Lord tells Moses that Pharaoh will think that the children of Israel are confounded and bewildered, wandering aimlessly in the land, and the wilderness (desert) has shut them in, meaning trapped between the desert and the sea. God's plan is to harden Pharaoh's heart again to make him follow after the Israelites, for God will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his host (armies), because when this happens, Pharaoh and the Egyptians will know that He is the Lord God! And the Israelites did as Moses instructed them to do, encamp by the sea (**14:2**). And it was told to the king of Egypt that the people fled, then the heart of Pharaoh and his servants were turned against the people, to where they wondered, saying what made them (the Egyptians) let the Israelite slaves go free from their service? Pharaoh made them get his chariot ready and he gathered his army to march after them, with 600 of Pharaoh's best war chariots in all of Egypt, manned with captains over every one of them. Their hearts were hardened by the Lord as Pharaoh, king of Egypt pursued the children of Israel quite confidently. So, the Egyptians gave chase with all the cavalry and chariots, horsemen and infantry, and overtook them as they encamped beside the sea near Pihahiroth, across from Baalzephon (**14:1-9**).