

Sunday, November 17, 2013

FROM DESPAIR TO DELIVERANCE

Unifying Topic: **BEGINNING OF FREEDOM**

Lesson Text

I. God Provides A Way Out (Exodus 14:21-23)

II. God Fights For Israel (Exodus 14:24-30)

The Main Thought: Thus the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore. (Exodus 14:30, KJV).

Unifying Principle: The participants may find themselves in seemingly impossible circumstances while seeking freedom. How can they safely reach freedom? God created a way out when there was no way.

Lesson Aim: To show that the Lord is a deliverer as well as the significance of the Israelites' deliverance from Egypt.

Life aim: To show that God can deliver us from any bondage that we may face. Moreover, God is an Advocate and a Warrior for His children.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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,
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

HISTORY:

¹Israel had just left the land of Egypt, loaded down with cattle and plenty of loot that the Egyptians freely gave them. After all the hardship and the plagues, Pharaoh had finally allowed Israel to go and sacrifice to the LORD in the wilderness.

It had not been easy. Many terrible plagues—the Nile turned to blood, infestations of frogs, gnats, flies, and locusts, a horrendous hailstorm, and complete darkness—did not move Pharaoh. Finally, when the LORD put all the firstborn children of Egypt to death, Pharaoh relented.

Chapter 14:10-20 Now Israel was pinned next to the sea and a large force of Egyptian cavalry was approaching quickly. Israel despaired. "*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 bring us forth out of Egypt?*" they asked Moses. It was one thing when Moses and Aaron confronted Pharaoh themselves—now the whole nation was threatened with an army! They had directed their complaints toward Moses saying that it was better to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness (**Exodus 14:10-12**).

Moses was unmoved. He said to the Israelite in **Exodus 14:13-14**: "*Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you to-day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to-day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The LORD will fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.*"

God speaks to Moses to get his confidence up. He was to quit crying out (quit praying) and speak to the children of Israel to get them moving; going forward. He was to lift up his staff and the LORD would divide the waters of the

¹ <http://www.bible.ca/ef/expository-exodus-14.htm>

Red Sea and the Israelites would pass through the sea on dry land, with the water as a wall on either side. God knows how to get honor because although the Egyptians will follow the Israelites, their chariots and horsemen would be confronted by the angel of the Lord. The Egyptians would truly know that God Lord Jehovah is the I Am God! The angel of the Lord who had been leading the Israelites shifted and got behind them, coming between the camps; causing the camp of the Egyptians to be enshrouded with a cloud of darkness and the Israelites camp with light in the night. Therefore causing the Egyptians not to even come close or find the Israelites at all that night (**Exodus 14:15-20**).

LESSON:

I. Exodus 14:21-23 God Provides A Way Out

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. Moses listens to God instead of crying out to Him, he begins to stretch out his hand over the sea. Moses assumes his leadership role and the Lord caused a strong east wind to push back and hold the sea all night making a dry path through the sea. Could you imagine, they were now on the bed of the sea on dry land? This demonstrated the Lord's great power and protection.

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. Remember, the children of Israel began their journey at night as the angel of the Lord gave light to them making everything plain to see. They passed through the midst of the sea on dry ground as the water became a wall on the right and wall on the left.

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. The Egyptians were now able to pursue the Israelites. They saw the Israelites go in the midst of the sea and all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen thought they could follow and overtake them. Did they really think they could fight such a fierce God? Pride and hardness of heart would think so!

II. Exodus 14:24-30 God Fights For Israel

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,— God looked down in the morning watch, (between 3 and 6 o'clock a.m.) of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and the cloud and begins to trouble the host of Egyptians where they were in a panic.

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. God allowed them to get so far and now they are trapped between the walls of water. God took off the Egyptians' chariot wheels which caused difficulty to drive. They were stuck in the ground. Looking back at verses 13-14 where The Lord instructed Moses to tell the people *"Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord... The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace."* This day the Egyptians see that the Lord was fighting for the Israelites and against them, and now they are ready to flee from the face of Israel, but can't! Verse 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."* This shows that God does not lie and neither does His Word!

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. Now the Egyptians have to be in the middle of the sea's wall of water and the Israelites completely out of the sea's wall that the Lord tells Moses to stretch out his hand again over the sea to close the parting waters back into place that it would engulf the Egyptians, their chariots, and their horsemen. This is their down and out!

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. Moses did as the Lord commanded and stretched forth his hand over the sea. In the early morning light appearing, the Egyptians tried to flee against the closing force of the water but the Lord drowned them in the midst of the sea as the sea returned to its powerful strength as it was before.

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. The rapidly closing water with its devastating force closed down in full strength covering the chariots, the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after the Israelites, but it does not indicate Pharaoh himself being in the waters at this point. Pharaoh's sight of his firstborn and this second devastation is truly etched in his mind and lets him know he truly dealt with the wrong God!

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. The point is showing the difference of the Egyptians being drowned in the Red Sea and the children of Israel walking upon dry land in the midst of the Red Sea! There's nothing too hard for God. He can stand the water up on the right and on the left, and allow His children to walk in the midst of the sea on dry ground.

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. The bodies of the Egyptian soldiers were seen upon the sea shore by the Israelites. This was the result of the destruction of the Egyptian army and the salvation of the children of Israel!

NOT APART OF THE LESSON Verse 31

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. The result was that after Israel saw the great work of their God against the Egyptians, they respected and feared the Lord, now trusting in God and in God's servant Moses!

SUMMARY:

A strong east wind is sent by God over the Red Sea as Moses stretches out his hand over it. Because of Moses' obedience, the waters began to rise up dividing it on both sides, clearing a dry path of land. This made way for the children of Israel to go in the midst of the sea on dry ground with a wall of water on the right, and on the left. The Egyptian army attempted to pursue the Israelites, but their chariot wheels were taken off by God, trapping them in the sea bed (**Exodus 14:21-23**).

God looked down upon the Egyptians in the morning watch and threw them in a panic; the chariot wheels came off which made a hindrance of driving the chariots forward; they then wanted to flee from the face of Israel because the Lord was fight for Israel and against Egypt (**Exodus 14:26-29**). The Lord commanded Moses to again to stretch out his hand over the sea to return it to its full strength, drowning the Egyptians as the Israelites walked on dry land (**Exodus 14:26-29**). As the bodies of the Egyptian soldiers came ashore, Israel feared the Lord and trusted in Him and in Moses His servant. The Egyptians were devastated and the Israelites were delivered unto salvation (**Exodus 14:30-31**).

APPLICATION:

²God gained a powerful victory over Egypt that day and obtained glory over all Egypt so that the power of God was even known in Jericho (cf. Joshua 2:10). He did not do this through the hand of Israel, but by His own hand.

There is much that we can gain from this great story of God's redemption of Israel. God delivered His people from a foe they had no ability to conquer with their own force and led them on toward the Promised Land. Likewise, God has delivered us from our sins, a foe we could not conquer by our own strength (**Romans 1-3**). What God did through Christ on the cross and in the resurrection was like what He did with Israel: He did it by His strength and power, and we can only "hold our peace."

Israel still had to take the step of faith and pass through the sea bed— being baptized into Moses, as Paul would later describe it (**1 Corinthians 10:2**). God's victory still requires us to act in faith and live in obedience (**Romans 6:3-7**, **1 Peter 1:22**). Despite God's great deliverance, that generation of Israelites died in the wilderness on account of their unbelief (**1 Corinthians 10:5**). Let us not be deceived into thinking that God's victory costs us nothing; let us make good on God's victory and serve the LORD today *By Ethan R. Longhenry*.

God provided a way of escape from out of despair (hopelessness and gloom) for the Israelites by fighting for their deliverance (their release, rescue, and escape). It was all God! Praise Him for His mercy that's always miraculous!!

² <http://www.bible.ca/ef/expository-exodus-14.htm>