

Out of Bondage onto Promise

Exodus 14:1-31

- God is now leading Israel out of Egypt and He's doing so with a **"pillar of cloud by day"**, and a **"pillar of fire by night"**, so that they know that the Lord is with them at all times. As we'll see just because God has delivered us out of one danger doesn't mean that there won't be others to follow, but rest assure that whatever Satan throws at us God will be there to guide us through.

V1-31

- **V1-4** unbeknownst to Israel the wheels of spiritual warfare are turning, as Pharaoh heart is becoming hard again toward them and it will cause him to think that he has Israel trapped. So God leads them to camp at a place called **"Pi Hahiroth"** that's in between Migdol and the sea, which means to Israel's back was the wilderness and to the front the Red Sea. In seeing this Pharaoh is going to think Israel has trapped itself with nowhere to hide or run, thus making it easy for him and his army to come and wipe them out for all the trouble they've caused him.
- What **"Satan means for evil God will turn it around for good"**, for instead of Pharaoh ambushing Israel it's really God setting an ambush for Pharaoh. In going here it looks like Israel is confused and doesn't really know where they're going, this is actually true, Israel doesn't know where they're going, but God knows where He is leading them. **V4** says all of this is being done so that Pharaoh, Egypt, the world, and Israel, may know that **"The Lord He is God"**.
- **V5-9** because of the report of where Israel was, led Pharaoh and his officers to think they don't know what they're doing, who leaves and ends up at the Sea with no way to cross? Then their minds began to ask why have we done this? This shows how quickly man can forget what God has done and demonstrated, someone should have spoken up and said because God unleashed His judgment of frogs, lice, locusts, hailstorms, boils, blood, and our firstborn was killed, that's why! Now their thinking we let our free workforce go ruining our economy let's go get them back
- Pharaoh and Egypt are still thinking in the natural, believing that this is a battle that is won in the flesh, so knowing that Egypt had the best military resources in the world at that time, as chariots were the most sophisticated military technology of their day, he readies **600** of them. While Egypt had its military might of **600** chariots all Israel had was **"its boldness"**, the KJV says **"with a high hand"** meaning they were rejoicing, celebrating, giving each other high fives.
- **V10-12** look how quickly Israel's attitude turns against Moses, they immediately begin to blame him for their situation, accusing him of bringing them there because it wasn't enough graves in Egypt. Translation: Moses us following you has gotten us killed! Their confidence in the Lord and in Moses is gone, and their selective memory tells them that they never wanted freedom in the first place but Moses insisted and it brought them to an impossible situation that will kill them.

- At the beginning of **V10** says **“they cried out to the Lord”** that was the right decision, but if **crying out to the Lord** is not followed by **waiting on the Lord**, then words and actions motivated by fear and flesh instead of faith are sure to follow, and that’s what we see in this section. They wrongly believe that it was better if they’d stayed in Egypt as slaves than to serve God and be free, and why? Because things got hard, and once it did they were ready to quit and go back.
- **V13-14** when other around us respond with fear its even that much more important that God’s leaders respond in faith, Moses says **“do not be afraid, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today”**. At this point Moses had no idea how God would help them in the situation, all he knew was God hadn’t brought them out there to die, and that He had made a promise to Israel that they were not going to live in Egypt, so with that little information Moses had confidence that the Lord was going to deliver them today from Pharoah.
- I love how Moses starts out with **“do not be afraid”** fear can cause us to run and not stand still, and if we won’t stand still then we won’t wait on the Lord, and if we won’t wait on the Lord, then we won’t have the confidence that He will deliver, and if we don’t believe He will deliver, then we will continue to lean on our own understanding to save us and get us out of trouble.
- **V15-18** I love this as God asks **“why do you cry to Me”** this meant there’s a time to pray and a time to act, so once we go to God in prayer we also need to be ready to act on what He says. God tells them **“to move forward”**, fear not only can make us run but also make us stay right where we are in a state of **“paralysis”**. So Israel was tempted to flee and go back to Egypt and also to stay and just cry out being paralyzed by fear, Moses simply says follow my lead.
- Often the greatest miracles begin by following the most simplest of instructions, as Moses is told to lift up his rod, and afterward the Lord will do the rest in dividing the Sea. In **Ex 5:2** Pharoah asked the question: **“Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go”**. You would have thought that after all the miracles Pharoah saw in Egypt he would know Who the Lord is, but it’s here where Pharoah is going to have his question answered once and for all.
- **V19-20** God sends both **“The Angel of God”** this is known as a **“Christophany”**, an appearance of Jesus in the **OT** before He came as the babe of Bethlehem, and a pillar of cloud that brought light to Israel and darkness to Egypt’s army preventing them from getting to Israel. This is a prime example of how the glory of God or work of God can be light to one person and darkness to another, also how God keeps His people in His glorious light while the world stays in darkness
- **V21-22** The Lord could have let the waters go back instantaneous but He doesn’t it is a process that takes all night meaning the people of Israel, and Egypt had to wait, think, and decide what are they going to do once this process is over. **V23-25** can you imagine as Israel is going through the dry land the Sea is like a great wall on both sides as it stands up in attention to the Lord wow

- In the meantime God has seen the army of Egypt and taken off their chariots wheels causing them great difficulty in driving them, rightfully they thought "**lets go back to Egypt**". They realized again that this is a fight they can't win as they are up against the Lord. **V26-28** although all this has happened they still try and follow Israel to destroy them, think about this, by bringing The preincarnate Jesus, a cloud with darkness, broken chariots, God if Pharoah and Egypt would listen would've saved them from being destroyed, yet despite the warnings they continued.
- **V29-31** from the safety of dry land Israel saw Egypt and its army drowned in the Sea and laying on the Seashore, this was confirmation to Israel that their deliverance was real and God's promise to them had come to pass. So when God told them to move forward and all they saw was the Sea, and thus a desire to go back into bondage, all they needed to remember was they are free, not to serve self, but to serve the Lord, as they're now "**out of bondage onto Promise**". So they feared the Lord, believed the Lord, and His servant Moses, let's see how long it lasts.