

## Exodus 14 Boxed in by God

Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 2 “Speak to the children of Israel, that they turn and camp before Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, opposite Baal Zephon; you shall camp before it by the sea. 3 For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, ‘They are bewildered by the land; the wilderness has closed them in.’ 4 Then I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I am the Lord.” And they did so. 5 Now it was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled, and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people; and they said, “Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?” 6 So he made ready his chariot and took his people with him. 7 Also, he took six hundred choice chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt with captains over every one of them. 8 And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the children of Israel; and the children of Israel went out with boldness. 9 So the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping by the sea beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon. - **Pray**

**Have you ever been following Jesus with all of your heart**

**A) And you end up in a situation that doesn’t make sense to you?**

**B)) Doesn’t seem right ?**

**C) Seems like the opposite of a place you would hope to find yourself in when you are following Jesus.**

**I have experienced that type of situation more times than I can count in my 50 plus yrs of following Jesus**

**A) Well that is exactly the type of situation that the Children of Israel find themselves in here in Ex 14**

**B) The Lord has led them into a Boxed in situation –  
1) MT Pi Hahiroth, on one side – Mt Migdol on the other side**

**C) Their BACK IS UP AGAINST THE RED SEA –  
Backs up against a Wall – A wall of Water.**

**Now we saw in our Study on Wednesday night –**

**A) Going Thru the book of Exodus Verse by Verse –**

**B) Saw final Plague – Deliverance from Egypt**

**1) Passover – The Angel of God passed over .... **Not protected by the blood of a lamb****

**C) Pharaoh broke and said – Get out of here. –  
Headed out on their journey**

**C)We have noted that to go from Egypt to the doorway of the promise land**

**1)by a straight shot was only an 11 day journey.**

**But the Children of Israel have been slaves in Egypt for the past 400 years.**

**A)They don't know the terrain – so God is going to lead them by the way of the Wilderness -**

**B)Take them on a year long journey**

**C)They set out - Waist girded – walking shorts – walking sticks - Cooking stuff on their backs -**

**1)Look like 1st Century backpackers**

**This year long Journey will include 7 intentional stops – before they get to Kadesh Barnea -**

**A)They will spend 3 whole months at Mt Siani –**

**B)God will give them the Law – and instructions for the building of the Tabernacle –**

**1)Instructions for establishing the priesthood**

**These seven stops are going to be a part of their Spiritual formation and Development**

**A)See at the Beginning Israel doesn't understand what is required to actually be free**

**B)God wants them to discover that Freedom is much more about the state of their hearts**

**1)than the location of their bodies**

**C)God's rescue operation wasn't just about removing their bodies from the land of Egypt**

**1)It was also about getting the spirit of Egypt out of their hearts**

**D)So there was going to be a process and a preparation involved in the journey**

**So we saw on this past Wednesday night –**

**A)They came to stop #1 in Chapter 12 Succoth = Booths or Tents**

**B)The thing was God was seeking to work into their hearts was – this place is not it – Not Home**

**C)Don't get comfortable here – People on the move.**

**D)This Wednesday we are going to see Stops 2-3 Look at Ch13-15**

**And we will See in Ch 13 God initiates the principle of the consecration of the first born and first fruits -**

**A)Talk about the Spiritual implications for us as Followers of Jesus**

**B)We will also learn this Wednesday night that at Stop #2 Etham**

**C)God reveals how He is going to lead them – Cloud by day – Pillar of Fire by night**

**All of us have heard of GPS –**

A)Global Positioning System – most of us use that to get around – in unfamiliar places

B)Great today that you can pick the voice you want for your GPS – My son loves how Britts talk

1)His voice has a British Accent

C)Choose between a female voice or a male voice – Seems more female voice options

1)Heard one husband say: No way I am using a female voice –

D)I don't need another woman in my life telling me what to do and where to go

1) Guess his wife was a bit bossy ?

**So we have heard of GPS – Global positioning system – Israel had an SPS**

A)Supernatural Positioning System –

B)Cloud by day – Massive Cloud – shade from the desert sun – also Direction

C)Cloud would move – they would move! – Cloud stop – they would stop and set up camp

**Wouldn't that be awesome! – Lord which way I am to go – Cloud is moving – lets go!!! –**

A)Where to I apply for a Job – Cloud moves -

**B)Single guy: Lord who am I to Marry – Cloud moves and hovers over a great Christian girl –**

1)Awesome – She is the one

C)That could make for a great line for Christian guys to say to a Christian girl – t

1)he cloud is hovering over you.

**Well we will see on Wednesday night more about how that all comes together**

A)But we learn today – The Cloud led them Stop #3

B)Camp between MT Pirahiroth on one side – MT Migdol .... Back to the Red Sea –

C)BOXED IN – TRAPPED – sitting ducks

**And When the Pharaoh heard that they had turned into this valley he thought –**

A)MAJOR TACTICAL BLUNDER – LOST

B)He LAUGHED at their predicament: Saying

1) The earth has swallowed them up/ The land has shut them in

C)He immediately ordered his armies to pursue them

**D)and when the Israelites saw the enemy closing in on them –**

1)They realized – We are Trapped – We are Doomed

<sup>10</sup> And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD.

A) When the people of Israel feel trapped they do what many of us do as well –

B) they look for someone to blame for the predicament they are in

C) Moses is the likely target

Then they said to Moses, “Because *there were* no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? <sup>12</sup> *Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, ‘Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.*”

**Question we want to answer today is this:**

A) Why would God intentionally lead them into a situation where they were trapped?

B) Why does he do that in our lives sometimes as well

C) See like the Children of Israel we are on a journey - we are people on the way

**D) Just like they were people who were in a process of spiritual formation and development –**

1) God is seeking to develop us and make us more like Christ –

**We will learn when we get to the book of Joshua that the promised land is not a picture of heaven**

A) Enemies and battles – Picture of the Spirit filled and Spirit led life

B) God is seeking to lead us into that life as well

C) Just like the Children of Israel were not on their journey alone

1) but together living in community – relationships

D) Where they are either going to help one another or hinder one another

**The same is true for us –**

A) We are on this journey together with Jesus – as a church family – as a community

B) We are going to either help each other or hinder one another

**So why does God lead them into this boxed in situation – what is he wanting them and us to learn?**

A) 2 Lessons today #1 God will sometimes lead us into difficult situations **to grow our faith!**

B) Listen in times of difficulty our faith can start to falter.

C) Having the faith to come to Jesus for salvation is relatively easy.

**But the faith required to trust God, in those tough seasons**

A) During a season when you see no discernible evidence of his activity- tougher to come by

B) Or in those seasons when the faith required to really sacrifice something significant for his mission,

C) Or having the faith required to resist a temptation that just seems so appealing and so satisfying

1) and necessary to life right now—

D) Having the faith to trust God in those times can be a much harder task

1) well, that's a much harder task.

**And it is during those times of difficulty we can fall into the trap that the people of Israel did often –**

A) Selective Memory - Life was better in Egypt !

B) Life was easier before I became a Christian – before I started following Jesus

C) Now that is not an accurate perception but it is how we can feel - **It is how they felt** –

**We will see later in the story – they literally say – we want to go back to Egypt – had it made**

A) Leeks and the Garlic - Egypt was great! –

**B) Really ?– You were slaves – you were living under horrible conditions - Miserable**

C) But we can fall into that same trap – Life was easier funner before I came to Christ -

**Now the Bible does same that sin is pleasurable for a Season – How many of you had fun sinning ? –**

A) Sin is pleasurable for a season – but the end of it is death –

B) Death to our Joy – Emptiness – misery heartache – but we don't remember that –

1) we don't remember – head over the toilet bowl

C) Don't remember the hangovers – don't remember the emptiness felt in our hearts -

1) We can be Guilty of selective memory

**So God led them into this situation and he will lead us into to situations like this as well to**

A) #1 Grow our faith

“The most accurate test of your faith is not how you respond when miracles happen, but how you respond when they don't.” J.D. Greear

B) Note v.10 again **They lifted their eyes - But not High enough** –

C) They Saw the enemy but they didn't see the Lord !

**So first thing was they needed to get their eyes off the circumstances remember who was with them – leading them**

**A) Sometimes what we see in front of us clouds what we know.**

**B) Or what we see in front of us clouds what we have seen in the past and that is God's ability to work.**

**C) God had just powerfully delivered them from Egypt – 10 incredible plagues**

**D) How quickly they forgot!**

**E) So #1 God led them here as an opportunity for the their faith to Grow!**

**Lesson #2 God will at times lead us into boxed in or difficult situations because he wants to reveal himself to us in NEW WAYS**

**A) DISCIPLES – WALKS ON WATER**

**B) Here in Exodus 14 God is going to reveal himself as the WAYMAKER – He can make a way where there is no way**

**C) The Israelites said: "We've had it"/ God will Say "NO - They've had it"**

**D) The Israelites said: "We're trapped"../ God will say : "NO - They're trapped"**

**Oh how we need to see things from God's Perspective /**

**A) Often so blinded by the way we perceive our circumstances**

**B) Elisha – Surrounding by the Syrians – We are toast – Elisha prays Lord open his eyes –**

**C) He sees – an Army of Angels with Flaming swords between them and the Syrians –  
1) no wonder they weren't moving**

**D) No wonder Elisha wasn't afraid**

**Oh how we need to see things from God's perspective – Look Higher**

**A) You guys know in this story God does something that they would have never expected or imagined –**

**B) No one would even have thought to write the script this way – God was about to Blow their minds**

**1) GOD IS GOING TO PART AN OCEAN?**

**C) Dry up the ground – Walk over on Dry ground – and then have that ocean – collapse on the enemy – COME ON !!!\**

A young boy came back from his Sunday school class, it was his first time in a church, His mom said, **"Well, what did you learn in church today?"** He Said



**"Well mom, my teacher told us a story about Moses who went behind enemy lines and was sent by God, to rescue the Israelites from bondage, in Egypt**

**But then he got to the Red Sea and there's this huge problem Trapped** -two mts and the Red sea – no where to go

**So Moses called a group of Amry engineers who built a bridge so the Children of Israel could walk over safely**

**Then Moses gets on his walkie-talkie and radios headquarters and they send reinforcements in,**

**They bring bombers in, who when the Egyptians were on the same bridge, bombed it and it's destroyed." All the Egyptians died – SMILE**

**Mom said "Are you sure that's what your teacher told you in Sunday school?"**

**And he said, "No mom. But actually if I told you what she told us, you would never believe it."**

**Yes God did what the people would never have imagined**

**A)To Reveal his power and this about His Character- He is the WAYMAKER –**

**B)He is able to make a way where there is no way.**

**<sup>17</sup>No weapon formed against you shall prosper. Isaiah 54:17**

**C)He would want his people and us to live by this principle:**

**Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,'says the LORD of hosts. Zechariah 4:6**

**Friends note this God didn't Remove the problem – by either obliterating the Egyptians**

**A)Or Miraculously transporting the Israelites over to the other side**

**B))God could have easily done either of those things**

**C)But instead of Remove the problem – God sought to make a way through the problem**

**So often in the midst of a difficulty – we say Lord Remove this from my life**

**A)We find ourselves in a boxed in situation and we say – Lord get me out of this Jam.**

**B)God says: No I am going to bring you through it**

**C)See the Lord gives us this promise in his Word: I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6 CSB**

### **That is God's promise to us:**

A)The question is going to be – what will be the condition of your heart through the process

B)God says- I am going to get you to the other side – get your through this Boxed in situation –

C)But how are you going to be in the process – that is the QUESTION

1)Are you going to be Scarred? Full of fear?

E)Complaining ? Kicking and screaming – Anxious or AT PEACE

### **Here the Lord gives us insight into three things the people were to do as he took them through this situation**

A)1st Put aside Fear V.13 <sup>13</sup> **And Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid.**

B)Now that is easier said than done because fear is an emotion

1)Comes out of no where – something scares us – concern that turns into fear

C)**Fear is the greatest enemy of our faith** – Alan Redpath

**C.H. Mackintosh used to say “Ten thousand mercies are forgotten in the presence of a single trifling moment.”**

### **Fear has a way of Crippling us / put us into a frenzy – get so worked up that we are just going in circles**

A)Lot of motion & commotion / purely dictated by our emotions

B)Fear has to be combated with Faith – **and the foundation of our faith is the word of God** –

1)The promises of God

### **Our Faith is built on God's Promise and Proven track record – that is how we combat Fear.**

A)Stand upon the Promises of God –

<sup>20</sup> For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. 2 Corinthians 1;20 ESV

B)Yes in Christ – we are in Christ – Yes – We can say Amen –

C)Stand on that promise – Combat my fear with the promise of God

**2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.**

### **D)How has He given us a Spirit of power and love and a sound mind ? –**

1)The Holy Spirit lives inside of us



**Galatians 4:6 Abba – Daddy – Cry of Intimacy – You belong to God – He is your father**

**A) I am with you – For you – I will empower you**

**B) Not given you are spirit of fear – power – love – sound mind – walk in that reality!**

**C) Believe in the Promise of God!**

**D) So first they were to put aside their fear - we put away fear & replace it w/ FAITH – by focusing on the Promises of God !!!!**

**#2 Stand Still – stop moving**

V.13 Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. <sup>14</sup> The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.”

**There are two reactions that most people have when they feel trapped**

**A) One is to Run – Run away from this situation – Run away from the problem**

**B) Can't handle this – too hard – trapped – no way out – Run**

**C) The 2nd Temptation is the urge to try and Fix it**

**Here Moses is saying don't do either**

**A) Put aside the urge to try and fix it -**

**Psalm 46:10: "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."**

**B) Notice Moses says: V.13 For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. <sup>14</sup> The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.”**

**C) The Lord will fight for you – you will see the enemy no more – now that was a word of faith**

**1) Moses didn't know how this was going to end**

**It is hard to be still isn't it – TOUGH – I AM A DOER**

**A) It is in the stillness that we come to see God for who he is**

But those who wait on the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

**B) Waiting and being still brings perspective and strength**

**C) RECALL Joshua at Jericho NO TALKING - The only way these walls are coming down is God!**

**D)WE NEED TO LEARN HOW Separate from the Naysayers –**

1)Tune in to the voice of God – BE STILL

A word from the Lord for someone here today:  
Be still and KNOW he is GOD

**Three things the Israelites were to do as the Lord took them through this situation:**

- 1st Put aside their fear V.13
- 2nd Stand still V.13
- 3rd Move forward V.15

<sup>15</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of **Israel to go forward.** <sup>16</sup> But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry *ground* through the midst of the sea

**Here is what we learn from this: There is a time to pray and wait and there is a time to MOVE.**

A)Prayer is great – pray pray and pray some more –

B)But then God says ok now move – and we are still not sure – putting out a Fleece like Gideon did

C)The Lord says – NOPE time to move time to act – time to put feet to your faith

**In the case of the people of Israel –**

A)The only way they were going to EXPERIENCE the miracle was – they had to move forward

B)We will see on Wednesday night how the Miracle of the crossing of the Red Seas

1)was meant to be a defining Moment in their Journey

C)Referred to throughout the OT

D)500 years late the Psalmist will bring it up continually as proof of God’s commitment to Israel

**Spiritual significance for us too. –**

A)Paul will refer to this as a picture of our Baptism – We will - Talk more about that on Wednesday

B)But what the Red Sea was to them – the Cross and the Rez of Jesus is to us

C)Stuck in Sin – doomed to Hell – trapped

**God made a way where there was no Way – Sent Jesus**

A)We have to stop and Consider – Our Sin – Christ Sacrifice

B)We have to put aside fear and doubt – Embrace by faith

C)Move forward in Following Jesus –