Moses
Part 11

Exodus 14 NIV
1 Then the Lord said to Moses, **2** "Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon. **3** Pharaoh will think, 'The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.' **4** And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord." So the Israelites did this.

- God tells Israel to go an unusual way, so that Pharaoh will think Israel is confused and in a vulnerable place.

- God wasn't done with Pharaoh and his army. Now the Lord warns Moses one last time concerning Pharaoh and tells him - God will "gain glory" again as a result and everyone will see.

Vs. 5-8
5 When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them and said, "What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!" **6** So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him. **7** He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them. **8** The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly.

Vs. 5 says that Pharaoh and his officials said - **"What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!"**

- If this isn't proof that sin will make you stupid… Pharaoh and his officials are as dumb as a rooster…

- **NKJV** says Pharaoh and his officials asked themselves **“Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?”**

- Where are Pharaoh’s wise officials to say, sir I can think of 10 reasons why we let them go; meaning all 10 Plagues God brought against Egypt and the last one costing them their first born sons.

- Pharaoh and his officials have spiritual amnesia…

Story: Rooster

- Pharoah’s behavior is proof that spiritual blindness is a real thing…

2 Corinthians 4:4
The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Vs. 6,7
6 So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him. **7** He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt…

- Pharaoh had the best military resources. Chariots were the most sophisticated military technology available at that time. Israel had nothing except God.

Vs. 8 The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly.

- The Word **boldly** here is the Hebrew (ruwn yad) is also translated “high handed” meaning they marched out proud, exalted or haughty against Pharaoh’s authority.

- So not only were the Israelites bold in their exodus but their boldness carried with it a push back towards the authority of Egypt.

- I think it's worth noting that as a general rule Christians should not have a rebellious attitude towards civil authority as Paul covers in Romans 13. But this shows that Israel took on a kind of holy boldness, or attitude against ungodly authority for the purpose of obeying God.

Question: Do you think than an attitude or willingness to push back against ungodly authority is ever warranted?

Vs. 9-12

9 The Egyptians—all Pharaoh's horses and chariots, horsemen and troops—pursued the Israelites and overtook them as they camped by the sea near Pi Hahiroth, opposite Baal Zephon.

10 As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord. **11** They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? **12** Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"

- This entire account of Israel has been one of growing faith. They have witnessed Moses appearing out of nowhere with a message that God was going to deliver them. This turns into confrontation after confrontation with Pharaoh that for a time caused them extra grief. After 10 plagues they are finally released. Now they are in the desert, with the Red Sea on one side of them and Pharaoh's army on the other.

- In every challenge they face, God answers with a new miracle they have never seen before.

- Fear causes their "high handed", “bold” attitude to disappear. Now they turn on Moses and seem willing to surrender back to slavery.

- Out of fear the Israelites say to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die?”.

“They mocked in the most sarcastic tone possible (since Egypt specialized in graves and had about three-fourths of its land area available for grave sites).” **(Kaiser)**

- Theologians say if there was ever a place that obsessed over the dead and burials it was the Egyptians. This place was definitely not lacking any graves.

Vs. 13-14

13 Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. **14** The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

- This text is a powerful declaration of faith on Moses’s part. I would say it was even a prophetic declaration over Israel…

In Moses’s declared:

- Do not be afraid
- Stand firm
- See the deliverance the Lord will bring.
- The Lord will fight for you
- You need only to be still

- At this point, Moses had no idea how God would help. All he knew was the situation was so bad God had to help or everything leading up to this point would be lost.

Vs. 13 "Stand firm and you will see the deliverance (salvation) the Lord will bring you today."

- The word used for deliverance Is also translated salvation.

"Salvation is used here in its literal sense of saving life, or victory instead of defeat in war." **(Cole)**

- As the use of the word moves on, 'salvation' is used in more with the saving of the soul. This shows that the salvation the Lord gives is not limited, He saves us from many things.

Vs. 15-18

15 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. **16** Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. **17** I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. **18** The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen."

Vs. 15

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on.

How funny is this - Even God is like; Moses what are you doing, now is not the time for prayer. Let's go…

"There is a time to pray, and a time to act. It can actually be against God's will to stop doing and to only pray in a particular situation. This was a time for action, and Moses could pray along the way." **(Guzik)**

"There is a time for praying, but there is also a time for holy activity." **(Spurgeon)**

"There is something more to be done than to pray. We must not only crave God's help, but be forward in the course whereby to make way for God's help." **(Trapp)**

Vs. 16

"Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground."

- This was not the time for Moses to be on his knees in prayer, this was the time for Moses to be on his feet and be about it.

- How often have people said I'm praying, only to avoid obeying. This can be a spiritual cover up to allow for soulish desires. If God has told you to go, then go… If God has told you to stop, then stop… If God has told you what to do, then do it…

Story: Steve Hill use to say, Never pray about a Missions Trip. Jesus said "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel." We need not wonder what His will is. The Apostles never prayed about preaching the Gospel then went until the Holy Spirit stopped them. (Acts 16)

Vs. 19-22

19 Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, **20** coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to

the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, **22** and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

- God sent both the specially commissioned Angel and the pillar of cloud as a barrier between Israel and the pursuing Egyptian army. God protected Israel from the Egyptian attack until a way was made through the Red Sea.

- We often have little idea or understanding of how much God does to protect us from the attacks of an unseen enemy. We can sometimes feel overwhelmed in a spiritual struggle, only to find out that God's presence stands between you and the enemy, as he provides spiritual protection over your lives.

Vs. 23-31

23 The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. **24** During the last watch of the night the Lord looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. **25** He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

26 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." **27** Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing

toward it, and the Lord swept them into the sea. **28** The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

29 But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. **30** That day the Lord saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. **31** And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

Isaiah 10:27
It shall come to pass in that day
That his burden will be taken away from your shoulder,
And his yoke from your neck,
And the yoke will be destroyed because of the anointing oil.

- The deliverance at the Red Sea became a turning point in Israel's history. In this era of Israel's history they had many troubles ahead but Pharaoh and the Egyptians never troubled them again. This yoke was destroyed

- This was confirmation to Israel that their deliverance from Egypt was real and complete. The Israelites might have been slow to believe they were free while their slave masters were still live. God wanted Israel to know their freedom was complete, their bondage of slavery was over.

- We can say that the deliverance of Passover and the miracle of the Red Sea go together.

- If not for the victory at the Red Sea, the redemption at Passover would have meant nothing. Likewise, they would have never made it to the Red Sea without the redemption at Passover.
- In the same way, the redemption of the cross would mean nothing without the miracle of the resurrection. The two works of deliverance go hand in hand.

Closing: