

“What I really need to do is read the scripture, because they have sang my entire message. I've been making notes on top of my notes and everything else. The scripture reading is from the Book of Exodus, the thirteenth chapter, verses seventeen through twenty-two.

What is happening here is the children of Israel are preparing to leave their bondage, their suffering. Get out of Egypt by God's design. They're going on a journey.

They're getting ready to travel a long way.

So as we pick up in verse number seventeen, it reads like this. 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, let's pray for the people to repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt.”

“But God led the people about through the way of the wilderness of the Red Sea, and the children of Israel went up, tarnished out of the land of Egypt. And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him. We had straightly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and you should carry up my bones away hence.

Now, if you remember two weeks ago, I touched on this very thing. The message's title was Desperation and Deliverance. And Joseph told them in the last two verses of Genesis to do that, to take his bones with them when they left.

And Moses is honoring that promise, okay? Verse number 20 goes on. It says, And they took their journey from Sukkot and camped in Etham in the edge of the wilderness.

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. He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night from before the people. I want you to understand”

“In verse number 21, it says, And the Lord went before them. He's ahead of them. He's leading them.

To lead them is what the next line says there. You need to underline those things in your Bible, the fact that he went before them, but I want you to remember them as we get into what I want to share with you this morning. Now, how this morning's message is traveling grace.

And I don't know about you all, but I know in my family, we believe in traveling grace. We have been taking vacations since our kids were little. We've been taking vacations since before they had cell phones.

Yes, we are that old. We were able to travel without Google Maps, believe it or not. We were, you know.

And when we traveled every time without fail, and Chris and I still do this today, if we're getting ready to go on an extended trip or go someplace far away, we always have prayer before we go asking God for traveling grace. That's different than everyday grace. You need to understand it.”

“But the traveling grace, sometimes we're going where you've never been. Sometimes we're going where you don't know the road. Sometimes we're going where, you know, you've got all these expectations, and maybe it turns out great, and maybe it doesn't.

But still yet, you need traveling grace. We even traveled back before there was so much road construction. Now you can't get out of Marion without running into road construction.

But we've been doing it for a long time, and we've been very blessed. We've been very, very fortunate in all of our travels, and I'm thanking the Lord for that. But this is what we're talking about here.

God was giving the children of Israel traveling grace. That pillar of a cloud by day and that pillar of fire by night was their assurance, and God's covenant with them that I am going to lead you out of this. I'm going to take you from where you've been into where I have promised you.

You've been in slavery. You've been in bondage. But I came to set you free.”

“It was God's promise to them, and we need to get hold of that because we need traveling grace to get through this life we're in. We need it. Isaiah 54 and 10 says, For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed.

But my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed. God doesn't put any conditions on that. He just says, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord, that hath mercy on thee.

Hebrews 13 and 5, Jesus said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. John 14 and 8, Jesus said, I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you. The children of Israel were beginning their journey, and it's a very long journey that they had to go.

And they were going to a place they had never been before, didn't know anything about. All they had was the covenant that God gave them to travel by. Okay?

This pillar of a cloud, something they could see, something that was tangible for them because God knew they needed this. And as they take off, they have three things. Okay?”

“They were under the direction of God, first and foremost. They were in the will of God because this is what God established for them. And they were under the protection of God.

They were in the direction of God, in the will of God, and under the protection of God. And those three things are the exact three things you and I need to get through this life. Amen.

See, sometimes you gotta prime the pump. The direction of God. Are you following God's directions?

Yeah, as long as I agree with them. I am. Are you in His will?

Have you ever stopped to ask yourself, Am I in God's will? Am I where He wants me to be, or am I where I want to be? Are we in His will?

Do we acknowledge that we are under His protection? Do you understand how much God is protecting you? I believe when we get to heaven, there will be a long time spent, God showing us what we didn't know He protected us from.”

“And I know, I know my guardian angel, has had a rough way to go. I know, and some of y'all have too. But you know the thing God's protected you from, but what about all the things you don't know about that He has protected you from?

So we need this as we travel through life. We need traveling grace. We need God's grace.

I believe this with everything within me. I believe God gives us grace to come into this world. I believe God gives us grace to live in this world.

And I believe God gives us grace sometimes to leave this world. I've seen all of those things take place in my lifetime among many different people. We must have the grace of God in our lives and learn to extend that grace to others, okay?

Now, here they are. They're starting off. They got the cloud by day, and they got the fire by night, and God is leading them.

But sometimes, in life, trouble shows up. Crystal and I have a saying at our house. Yes, everything is going right to form a ring, and with one phone call, everything changes."

"You're just minding your own business, walking along, loving life, and trouble shows up. You didn't ask for it. You didn't invite it in.

It just shows up at the door. It didn't even ring the doorbell. Just come on in.

This is what happened.

If you look in the 14th chapter, about the 7th verse, it talks about the fact that Pharaoh, even though he told him, you can go, please go, he changed his mind.

He changed his mind.

If you read back during all the plagues and everything that's going on, Moses came to Pharaoh, and this is one of my favorite things to preach, and it's not this message, but Moses came to Pharaoh and said, We want to go three days into the wilderness to worship our God, away from the gods of the Egyptians. And Pharaoh said, OK, you can go, but don't go too far.

Go, but don't go too far.

That's Pharaoh. That's how they operate, right? But Pharaoh changed his mind and decided we're going to go after them."

"And he bought 600 chariots from the royal guard. He sent after them. And then he gathered all the other chariots from just the regular army there in Egypt and sent those after the children of Israel.

There are pharaohs in this world today, yes.

Now, they're not just in Egypt. Oh, some of them live in your neighborhood.

Some of them you work with.

Some of them shop at the same place you shop.

They do.

Some of them hold political offices. That's the political that I'll ever get behind this pulpit. Some of them, well, some of them are sitting in church queues this morning.

Some of them are on church stages this morning, and some of them are standing right here, where I'm standing behind the pulpit. What do I mean by that? I mean, there are people who are opposing, limiting, hindering, suppressing, and binding the things in your life and the things of God."

“They are trying to stop your prayers, to stop your worship, to kill your faith, to rob and destroy your joy, to dictate, and I'm going to read this because I wrote this in . And on my other notes, to dictate your life according to their thoughts, opinions, twisting scripture to suit themselves. Church, that goes on today. Just because a man stands behind this pulpit, there are way just as many self-called ministers as there are God-called ministers today, and it breaks my heart.

You know how I know they're not God-called? Because our spirits do not bear witness. My Bible says your spirit will bear witness with those that are of God.

There are a whole lot of guys that are all about themselves and not about what God has in their lives. There's a lot of church people. There's a lot of people on the stage.

There's a lot of people out in there. But you expect better from the church than you do out in the world. But pharaohs are every place.

And sometimes you can see them coming.

But you can't physically do anything about it.”

“The Bible says that the children of Israel saw behind them and saw the chariots coming their way. Now, they reach the edge of the Red Sea is where they're at. And they look back there, and they see the chariots coming.

And they can't do anything to stop them. Well, they can do one thing. They can pray.

They can pray because there is power in prayer. When you think you can't do anything, you can do something you can pray because prayer makes a difference. All right?

Now, the thing about trouble, when it comes to ever, it comes to all of us. It comes to all of us when you least expect it, there it is. I mean, children were doing good.

They had that cloud and the fire, and man, they were going, and everything was fine. They got the edge of the red string, you know, and then they look behind them, and they see all this. And trouble, many, many times, brings fear with it.

There's a 14th, or the 10th verse, in the 14th chapter tells us that the children of Israel were sore afraid.”

“That means they were very afraid. Why were they afraid?

Who were they afraid of? First, they were afraid of Pharaoh.

You know why they were afraid of Pharaoh? Because they were in that habit of being afraid of Pharaoh.

Their fathers had been afraid of Pharaoh, and their grandfathers, and their great-grandfathers, and for 400 and some odd years, they had had a fear of Pharaoh. And it was just a habit of fear. Church, we need to learn to break the habit.

We need to learn that we don't have to fear as long as God wills. They sang it all over this morning. All right?

It says, we're no longer a slave to fear. Why? Because I am a child of God.

Miller Lyon said, Lord, you fight my every battle, and I will not fear. We need to understand this. They used to sing a song.

It's been a few years ago, Fear is a Liar. Fear is a liar. They sang that song.”

“And by the way, this message I'm giving you right now is from 2018. I had it all written out, and the only part I preached was what I'm telling you right now. I put notes on all this stuff.

And they sang a song last week. We sing it quite a bit. Then it starts out, oh, I'm a traveler, far from home.

And I get lost, but I press on. That's when you have to learn to walk by faith. Because trouble comes, you're lost.

You don't know where you're at, folks. I'm telling you, as we travel through this life, we've got to have this stuff. Because when we see trouble coming, it brings fear with us, and we get to be afraid.

You've got to learn to break the habit of fear, because we're the habit. We are, you know? We just, that's just where we are.

We've got to stand on the things that we know. Another song, a hill song that we used to sing, it says, fear is just a liar running out of breath. I love that line in that song.”

“Fear is just a liar running out of breath. Fear is going to do everything it can to stop you, to hinder you, to keep you from standing in the faith that God has given you. I played you a song not too long ago by a guy named John Reddick.

It says, no fear. No fear.

You know?

No fear. That you won't have to fear if you learn to just trust in God. Well, how do I get to the point that I can just trust in God?

You learn how to pray. You learn how to not say a prayer, but play a prayer. And if you never heard a prayer prayed and only a prayer said, oh, there's a difference.

There's a difference. I mean, I can spot them the minute I begin to hear them, because when you say a prayer, it's just nice words. It's got all the Vs and the Vows.

This is the correct King James English, man. And just to hear it, it's eloquent and sounds good. But when I've heard people pray a prayer, when they begin to pray, something just begins to fall all around about you.”

“And you know they've got into the presence of God, and they're dragging you into that presence with them. And when you hear somebody pray a prayer, you know they got hold of God. And if they got hold of God, they're going to let you get hold of God too.

We need to learn to pray prayers and not just say prayers. The children of Israel, what did they do? They cried out to God in the last part of the 10th verse and after the 14th of the 10th, they cried out to God.

They prayed! Oh, hallelujah! They prayed!

But that's all it is.

They prayed, but then they refused to stand in the faith.

They said a prayer.

They didn't pray a prayer.

But, man, it sounds good when you read it. They cried out to God.

But when it didn't happen immediately, if you read Exodus 14 verse 11 and verse number 12, when I'm gonna condense them down, they pouted and they doubted.

You know anything about pouting and doubting? You better know you do.

We've all pouted and doubted.”

“I thought, I didn't think it would be like this. My youngest grandson is nine months old. When he gets upset, he's gonna lift the curls and almost touches his chin.

That little pout, oh my gosh. Pouting and doubting.

And, you know, he's nine months old.

It's a natural unfortunate. That's us.

Pouting and doubting. Because they even went to the point, they've been telling God they want out of Egypt for 400 and some odd years. And the first thing that happens, they said, We should have stayed where we were.

You brought us out here to kill us in the middle of nowhere. Pouting and doubting. Bless God.

They cried out to God. They had had a God and lead them all this time, and now the first side of trouble, you know, I'm on pouting, I'm on doubting. And I'm not, you know, we shouldn't just say that.

Even at Slaves, we were better than we are right here. They focused on the fear, not the faith.

What are you focused on this morning? The fear or the faith?”

“What are you asking God for? And are you believing the things you're asking God for? Are you believing what you're asking God to do?

Well, yes, I am, but he hadn't done it when I think he should. Maybe he's waiting on his time and not yours. You know, I have, I sort of say I have learned.

I am learning.

God is not on my timetable.

I'm on his. Okay? I'm on his.

And if you were on mine, I might think it's going to be glorious. It'd be a mess, a complete mess. When I do it on his, it's amazing how it all just kind of fits together like interlacing fingers, you know?

God has got this certain. We are focused on fear and not on faith. They only saw the problem, not the solution.

They were caught up in the present situation and forgot what God promised.

And we do that.

We do that, man. Whenever everything is happening, everything is going on, you know, we are just trying to sometimes keep our head above water because we feel like we are grounded. And we forget what God promised us.”

“We forget what God was doing for us. We forget all of those things, okay?

Now, I ask you to remember something when we first started. Anybody remember what it was?

I know it's been 20 minutes ago, 25.

I ask you to remember where the pillar of fire was.

Where the pillar of fire was. It's in front of them, right?

Yes, right? Amen.

Man, I ain't got this pump crying yet.

Where are the children of Israel looking? What direction? Behind them.

The cloud has not moved. The pillar of fire has not moved. God has not moved.

What is different? They are, because they're looking back, and it's caused them to be afraid, and it's caused them to fear. The pillar of cloud is still there.

God is still leading them. God has not left them. They turned around from God.

God has not turned from them. And when they turned around from God and got away from God, they powdered and doubted. Maybe that's it.

Maybe that's what we need to do.

Okay?”

“They forgot all about the plagues from God that happened to the Egyptians. They forgot all the miracles that they'd seen. They forgot that they had left Egypt as free men, as free people, set free by the power of Almighty God.

They forgot it. And to be in bondage and slavery for 400 years. They forgot it.

How did Dog react to all this?

He could have let them all go back.

But you know what Dog's plan was?

God's plan was to teach the children of Israel to trust Him, number one. And number two, to show them He would take care of them. Give them the victory that they wouldn't even have to fight.

A battle they wouldn't even have to fight.

Texts 14 and 13, Moses told him, Hear ye not. Don't be afraid is what he's saying. This phrase, a phrase that's just like it, fear not, don't be afraid, do not be afraid.

Hear ye not is throughout the Bible, from Old Testament all the way through New Testament. God is telling us not to be afraid. And Moses tells them to fear not, stand still, and see God's work."

"Stand still. Now that goes against everything we've got, because psychologists tell us we have a thing, and I forget the technical name for it, you know. But it's a fight or flight.

Fight or flight. And if we don't fight, we're going to run. We're going to fight.

Fight or flight. And that's where we're at here. They are ready to go back.

They are ready to run. Why? Because they're afraid.

They're not standing in the face of the earth. They're afraid. And your head tells you, your mind tells you, when you see trouble coming, you've got to do something, even if it's just run around in a circle.

And I've seen that happen. You ever seen anybody get real excited about something because they were afraid? And it's just like they just don't know what to do, so they're doing everything at the same time.

Fight or flight?

Fight or flight? Moses told them to stand still."

"Psalms 46 and 10 says, be still and know that I am God. He said, I will be exalted in the earth. If you will just give God a chance, He will do something glorious for you and in your life.

But you've got to give Him a chance. You've got to just stand in the faith that God has given you, turn around and see the cloud that's before you, see the presence, know that God has given you this grace to travel through this life and through this world. And yes, it's going to be difficult, and yes, trouble is going to seek you out because you have an enemy that wants to destroy everything you've got.

They want to hinder you, to stop you, to hold you back from everything God has for you. But once you learn to stand in this faith and know that God knows what He's doing, that God's got this, you learn a few things as you age and as you go through this thing.

He said, be still and see the salvation of the Lord. Just let God have a chance. Let him see what God can do."

"Seek and 12 and 2 talks about a rebellious house. A house that has ears that hear, doesn't have eyes to see, I cannot see.



How many times have we missed? How many times have we missed the presence of thought? Or this spider flight instinct of ours that we just gotta be doing something that we're just not doing really anything?

And then in 14th chapter and the 22nd verse, and I'm paraphrasing what it says in the King James verse, what Moses told him, go forward together.

Why did he tell them to be still and stand still? Well, I'm telling you, they were all running around in circles, like a chicken with their head cut off. Got to do something, we just don't know what.

So we're just running around, stirring people up.

Did you know, if you get stirred up, somebody else will probably get stirred up with you? You ever been to a big sporting event with a lot of people?

A hundred thousand people, they don't know each other. But one of them will start whooping and hollering, they'll all start whooping and hollering. Half of them don't even know what they're hollering about"

"I watch these football games on television, and I see all of these ladies, I don't mean this is respectful at all, but all these girls up in this stand, whoo! They don't have a clue what just happened on the field. They don't know what a touchback is, but they're, whoo!

All hollering and carrying on.

What, because everybody else is hollering and carrying on?

That's what's going on here. Pingo just said, stand still! We're running around like that.

And now, he says, okay, okay. Go forward together. Forward, there's the sea up there!

Go forward together.

The Bible says.

I sang that one, too. I split the seat so I could walk right. You know, why did that happen?

They went forward with a wall of water, wall of water on the right and on the left. If you ever just took the time to picture it, them walking to the middle of ground that hasn't been dry since creation, and then looking over here, this is a solid wall of water. I guarantee Pitts would swim to the edge, look at them, and then swim back.

Both sides, and they're walking."

"They're walking in there. They're walking in and through God's miracle in their life.

Walking in it and through it.

They are embracing God's promise to give His covenant with them. I'm winding up here, Greg.

He was God had given me grace to go, to travel.

This is the 15th chapter of Exodus, the first verse.

It says, Then, St. Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the Lord, this fake saying, I will sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously.

This is after they walked all the way across the Red Sea, he got on the other side.

For God has triumphed gloriously.

Second Corinthians 4 and 18 says this. So we don't look at the troubles we can see now. Rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen.

For the things we see now will soon be gone. But the things we cannot see will last for it.

We can't see beyond right now.

You need faith to know that whatever is going on in my life right now, if I'm a child of God, God's got this. God's got this.

I don't understand it. I don't like it.”

“I know God's got this.

And I am tired of running around in a circle. I am tired of putting forth all this effort. I'm going to stand still and let God do this.

Because this is God's battle. It's not mine.

It's not yours. It's His.

Let Him fight it for you. And when He does, it will be a glorious victory. Because that's what they said.

They sang that song, that God is triumphed gloriously. God, when they all got through, closed up the Red Sea, completely engulfing all of the Church, all of the Army, and won a victory over those that held His people in line.

And if He did it for them,”

Stand with me today!!!