

**"Departure from Egypt"**

**Part 6**

**Exodus 12-14**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of the life of Moses we walked with Israel Right up to the edge of the Red Sea. It was on the edge that they were exposed to great pressure and the Egyptian army pursued them with the intentions of destroying everyone one of the Israelites. Tonight, we are going to walk with Israel through the Red Sea as God holds back the waters and allows them passage. Let me first of all review briefly what we looked at last week.

**"Standing on the Edge"**

**1. The Plan**

**Notice Exodus 14:5-8**

Israel went out with a high hand and this infuriated Satan. This meant they went out with confidence, faith and courage. Satan hates it when we walk in faith, confidence and courage. We can be sure he will not allow us to continue to walk this way for he will attack and do his best to paralyze us with fear.

**1 Peter 5:8**

***<sup>8</sup> Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:***

**2. The Pressure**

**Notice Exodus 14:9-12**

This was pressure! Israel had no weapons of war to fight with. They had their wives, children and the elderly with them and no way to defend themselves. I need to make an application here that I did not make last week. Israel was led into this pressure by the Lord so, we can say for sure it was His will for them to experience this pressure. This is a reminder to us that God often leads His people into high pressure situations. He often leads us into situations where we have no means of defense or where we have no resources to meet the need. He does this not to see us squirm, but He does to test our faith and to cause us to be more dependent upon Him.

**1 Peter 1:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> *Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:*

<sup>7</sup> *That **the trial of your faith**, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*

### 3. The Promise

#### Notice Exodus 14:13-14

There were three commands given to the Israelites here in these verses.

#### 1. Fear ye not!

They were not to fear the Egyptians. God had brought them to where they were to see His power not to destroy them.

#### 2. Stand still!

The first instinct for Israel was to run, but God commanded them to stand still. How often have we faced something that struck fear in us and then ran away? It makes me wonder how much we have missed because God had us there for a purpose.

#### 3. See the salvation of the Lord!

They were to lift their heads and open their eyes to see what God was about to do. Let us learn in these situations where we are helpless that we must keep our eyes wide open to see the hand of the Lord at work. This now brings us to where we are in our study tonight.

### "Passing Through the Red Sea"

As Israel stood at the edge of the Red Sea, they had no chance, humanly speaking. They were trapped. The Red Sea was on one side, the mountains on the other and Pharaoh quickly approaching from behind. This was a very difficult place to be in. We need to understand that it is sometimes God's will for His people to find themselves under this kind of pressure. We can encounter this pressure as we walk in the way of obedience on our way towards our eternal home. Let me remind you of what Paul wrote.

#### 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

<sup>8</sup> ***We are troubled on every side**, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;*

<sup>9</sup> *Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;*

While we may find ourselves in these pressure situations, we must also know that God makes a way of escape.

**1 Corinthians 10:13**

*<sup>13</sup> There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*

The way of escape for Israel would be THROUGH the Red Sea and their way of escape would be the way of death to the Egyptians. That which was a blessing to Israel would be a curse to the Egyptians.

**A. The Rebuking of Moses**

**Notice Exodus 14:15**

We see in this verse that Moses went to the Lord in prayer and that was no problem. But the problem seems to have been that Moses prayed "too long". This is normally not the problem with believers today. Usually believers today spend too little time in prayer. But here in Moses life he was too long in prayer. It was time to move! The prayers had been offered and now it was time to go forward.

Notice the words of Wagner on this thought:

*"There is a time to act as well as a time to pray... It is wrong to act without deliberation and prayer; but it is also wrong to be deliberating when we ought to be acting. It is a sin to go forward without prayer; it is scarcely less so to be crying to God, when we ought to be going forward."*

Prayer is to help our action, not stop it. There are some people who use prayer to camouflage their disobedience. When we know what to do, we do not need to keep praying about what to do, WE NEED TO ACT! Insisting that we need to prayer more about the situation is nothing but a cover up for disobedience and it does not fool God.

**James 4:17**

*<sup>17</sup> Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*

Sometimes the good that we know to do is to move forward and put feet to our prayers. Now let me also point out that many make the opposite mistake and they do not pray enough and for that reason they find themselves dealing with difficult consequences. Let us notice a few examples.

**Joshua 7:1-7**

*But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel.*

*<sup>2</sup> And Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Bethaven, on the east of Bethel, and spake unto them, saying, Go up and view the country. And the men went up and viewed Ai.*

*<sup>3</sup> And they returned to Joshua, and said unto him, Let not all the people go up; but let about two or three thousand men go up and smite Ai; and make not all the people to labour thither; for they are but few.*

*<sup>4</sup> So there went up thither of the people about three thousand men: and they fled before the men of Ai.*

*<sup>5</sup> And the men of Ai smote of them about thirty and six men: for they chased them from before the gate even unto Shebarim, and smote them in the going down: wherefore the hearts of the people melted, and became as water.*

*<sup>6</sup> And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads.*

*<sup>7</sup> And Joshua said, Alas, O LORD God, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? would to God we had been content, and dwelt on the other side Jordan!*

Joshua and the leadership never prayed about how to approach Ai. Pride had set in when they gained victory over Jericho, but they had forgot that it was God who gave them the victory. Their lack of prayer brought death and embarrassment upon the nation.

Let us notice one more example. It comes from Joshua 9 when the Gibeonites deceived Joshua and the leadership.

#### **Joshua 9:8-14**

*<sup>8</sup> And they said unto Joshua, We are thy servants. And Joshua said unto them, Who are ye? and from whence come ye?*

*<sup>9</sup> And they said unto him, From a very far country thy servants are come because of the name of the LORD thy God: for we have heard the fame of him, and all that he did in Egypt,*

*<sup>10</sup> And all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites, that were beyond Jordan, to Sihon king of Heshbon, and to Og king of Bashan, which was at Ashtaroth.*

*<sup>11</sup> Wherefore our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spake to us, saying, Take victuals with you for the journey, and go to meet them, and say unto them, We are your servants: therefore now make ye a league with us.*

*<sup>12</sup> This our bread we took hot for our provision out of our houses on the day we came forth to go unto you; but now, behold, it is dry, and it is mouldy:*

*<sup>13</sup> And these bottles of wine, which we filled, were new; and, behold, they be rent: and these our garments and our shoes are become old by reason of the very long journey.*

*<sup>14</sup> And the men took of their victuals, and asked not counsel at the mouth of the LORD.*

### **B. The Command given to Israel.**

#### **Notice Exodus 14:15**

Israel was commanded to go forward but this seems to be against common sense. They were hemmed in on every side so we must ask, "What is this command all about?" Israel needed to be ready to move. They were being called on to have an attitude of obedience regardless of what the situation looked like. This was very important because God would not open the Sea if they were not willing to walk through.

#### **Application:**

There is a very important lesson here for us to heed. God will often wait until His people are committed before He will open the way for us to move forward. We as the church are always to be moving forward. Too many times the church becomes complacent and is content with where they are. But the problem is that as believers we can not stay at the level of growth which we have reached. We must keep moving forward or we will go backwards. There are many churches who should have moved forward in missions, evangelism or in a building project but instead they could not see how it was possible, so they remained stagnant. Sometimes it takes the "parting of a Red Sea" for a church to be able move forward and it takes an attitude of being ready to move before God will part a Red Sea. This is why a stubborn attitude of not wanting to move, which many church members develop, is wrong because it will cause a church to become stale and stagnant.

### **C. The Crossing of the Red Sea.**

#### **Notice Exodus 14:21-22, 29**

##### **1. The Dry Ground.**

Israel crossed the Red Sea on dry ground. This certainly amplifies the miracle. If a lake, river or pond dries up it takes days or weeks for the mud to dry. But here we see that

immediately the mud turned to hard dry ground for Israel to walk upon. The dry ground was so amazing that the Bible speaks of it many times. We can read of it five times in Exodus, once in Nehemiah, once in Psalms, and once in Hebrews. Let us notice two other times when God amplified His miracle in the same way.

### Joshua 3:17

<sup>17</sup> *And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan.*

### 2 Kings 2:8

<sup>8</sup> *And Elijah took his mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground.*

When God performs a miracle, He does so in a way that it cannot in anyway be explained away by some natural occurrence. God does this so that He alone gets the glory for the event.

## 2. Israel walked between the two walls of water.

### Notice Exodus 14:29

Let me show you what the writer of Hebrews says about this event.

### Hebrews 11:29

<sup>29</sup> *By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.*

It is not difficult to see why the crossing was by FAITH. We can only imagine what it would be like to walk down into the dry bed of the Red Sea with walls of water several stories high on either side. You would know that if the walls collapsed you and your family would never stand a chance. It is also very interesting to notice in verse 29 that we are told THEY WALKED. They did not run in FEAR, but they walked in FAITH.

### Isaiah 28:16b

"...he that believeth shall not make haste."

### Application:

### Hebrews 11:6

<sup>6</sup> *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

**Conclusion:**

Sometimes the open doors set before us take a great deal of faith to walk through. They are tests placed before us by our Lord to try our faith. It is His desire that we trust Him no matter how deep the Sea before us is or how frightening the pathway is. If He can hold back the waters of the Red Sea while two million people passed through, then He can protect us in any situation which we will face.

**Hebrews 11:32-39**

*<sup>32</sup> And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:*

*<sup>33</sup> Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions.*

*<sup>34</sup> Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.*

*<sup>35</sup> Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:*

*<sup>36</sup> And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:*

*<sup>37</sup> They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;*

*<sup>38</sup> (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.*

*<sup>39</sup> And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:*