

**"Departure from Egypt"**

**Part 7**

**Exodus 12-14**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study we followed Israel through the Red Sea as they walked between two walls of water on dry ground. This opening in the Red Sea had to be extremely wide because there is estimated to be over two million Israelites plus their herds and their flocks. For this many people to pass through in such a short amount of time required a large passageway. Some believe the divide in the water was over a mile wide.

**Notice Exodus 14:21-22**

The Sea was a way of salvation to the Israelites, but it was a way of destruction to Pharaoh and his military. As Pharaoh would follow Israel, he and his army would become trapped in the Sea and will be destroyed.

**"The Entrapment of the Egyptians"**

**1. The darkness of the destruction.**

**Notice Exodus 14:19-20**

Here is another miracle within the miracle of the dividing of the Red Sea. The pillar of fire and cloud was used by God to keep the Egyptians in the dark, so they were not able to advance upon Israel in the night. To the Israelites however it was a bright light which provided light for their camp throughout the night as they made ready to cross the Red Sea.

**Application:**

Within this scene we can see a sad picture of where the unsaved of our world are at today. They are like the Egyptians because they are living in spiritual darkness. This is what we looked at in Ephesians 4.

**Ephesians 4:17-19**

*<sup>17</sup> This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,*

*<sup>18</sup> Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:*

<sup>19</sup> Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

The unsaved are living in the vanity of their mind in the sense that they are following after the philosophies of the world in an attempt to find joy and contentment. Their understanding has been darkened and they are separated far from God.

Here is a thought on their understanding being darkened.

*"Their beclouded intellect and their emotions have been darkened permanently so that they are without the faculty of discernment and are unable to distinguish clearly between right and wrong."*

Their hearts are blinded, meaning their hearts are hard and calloused. To be "PAST FEELING" means they no longer feel pain anymore. They feel physical pain, but they are numb to the convictions of their conscience.

Just like Pharaoh these people have done this to themselves.

#### **Romans 1:18-24**

<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

<sup>19</sup> Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

<sup>20</sup> For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

<sup>21</sup> Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

<sup>22</sup> Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

<sup>23</sup> And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

<sup>24</sup> Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

Just as Pharaoh had suppressed every Truth placed before him so it is also true of the unsaved. God has given revelation to them concerning His existence, but they have made the choice to suppress the Truth.

So, what is Light to us is Darkness to the unsaved. Let us notice a few contrasts.

**1 Corinthians 1:18-24**

<sup>18</sup> For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

<sup>19</sup> For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.

<sup>20</sup> Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

<sup>21</sup> For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

<sup>22</sup> For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

<sup>23</sup> But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

<sup>24</sup> But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

The cross, the blood of Jesus Christ and the preaching of the Gospel is all foolishness/darkness to the unsaved. It condemns them in their sin, and it sentences the soul to eternal damnation. But to us it is Light/life. The cross brings freedom to our souls.

**Romans 6:3-7**

<sup>3</sup> Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

<sup>4</sup> Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup> For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

*<sup>6</sup> Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

*<sup>7</sup> For he that is dead is freed from sin.*

It is the cross that sets us free from the power of sin. It is the blood that washes us clean from the stains of sin.

**1 John 1:7**

*<sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

Let me give you one more contrast.

Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd for us Who leads us beside still waters, but to those who die in their sin He will be their Judge at the Great White Throne Judgment.

## **2. The driving of the destruction.**

**Notice Exodus 14:17, 23**

When the cloud lifted, and the Egyptians could see they drove the chariots right down into the dry Seabed. When we read this, we can clearly see the blindness of the Egyptians. What they were looking at was a miracle like the world had never seen before. It was so obvious that the Egyptians were fighting against God and not Israel. They should have bowed the knee to God when they saw the parting of the Red Sea. But this is what spiritual blindness does to people. This magnifies the danger of the path on which the unsaved walk today.

Many have rejected and suppressed the Truth given to them for so long that it would make no difference what God placed before them they still would not believe.

Let us step into the conversation between Abraham and the rich man who died and went to hell.

**Luke 16:24-31**

*<sup>24</sup> And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.*

*<sup>25</sup> But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.*

<sup>26</sup> *And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.*

<sup>27</sup> *Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:*

<sup>28</sup> *For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.*

<sup>29</sup> *Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.*

<sup>30</sup> *And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.*

<sup>31</sup> *And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.*

Abraham said that if this man's family would not believe the Word of God then neither would they believe if one was resurrected from the dead. One did rise from the dead, Jesus Christ, and they still did not believe.

The headlong rushing of the Egyptians is just like many sinners today who rush headlong into destruction. The writer of Proverbs describes a man going after an adulteress woman the same way.

### **Proverbs 7:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> *He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks;*

<sup>23</sup> *Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.*

As believers we too need to be very careful, for we still have a sin nature and if we allow him to lead, he will lead us into sin while we ignore the obvious consequences.

### **3. The disturbance in the destruction.**

### **Notice Exodus 14:23-25**

There is much here to consider. One thing we need to notice is the words "THE LORD UNTO THE HOST OF THE EGYPTIANS".

Do you remember when you were young, and your mom would give you "THE LOOK" and when she did you knew you were going to get it?

Notice the words of Maclaren on this statement:

*"We can all identify with the great effect of just a look from someone. It can rejoice and bless, or it can put untold fear into one's heart. There is something very terrible in the phrase "THE LORD LOOKED THROUGH THE PILLAR". It curdles the blood as no detail of narrative would do."*

God had told Moses He would fight for Israel.

**Notice Exodus 14:13-14**

God did fight for them, for we see in the Red Sea God caused the wheels of the chariots to fall off. That is not all He did, however. The Psalmist describes how frightening the events were.

**Psalm 77:14-20**

*<sup>14</sup> Thou art the God that doest wonders: thou hast declared thy strength among the people.*

*<sup>15</sup> Thou hast with thine arm redeemed thy people, the sons of Jacob and Joseph. Selah.*

*<sup>16</sup> The waters saw thee, O God, the waters saw thee; they were afraid: the depths also were troubled.*

*<sup>17</sup> The clouds poured out water: the skies sent out a sound: thine arrows also went abroad.*

*<sup>18</sup> The voice of thy thunder was in the heaven: the lightnings lightened the world: the earth trembled and shook.*

*<sup>19</sup> Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known.*

*<sup>20</sup> Thou leddest thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.*

When I read this, I am reminded that the Egyptians had many opportunities to repent. They had the Ten Plagues and Pharaoh had all the conversations with Moses and Aaron. But they allowed them all to get away. Now here in our text they find themselves in another storm of judgment. The wheels are literally falling off, they are getting stuck in the mud as the rains begin to fall and they are in so deep that they cannot get out. They had gone too far!!

4. The death in the destruction.

Notice Exodus 14:26-31

This was why the Lord had led Israel to the Sea. He wanted them to see His power so they could draw strength for the journey.

**Application/conclusion:**

Let us remember that God cares more about our growth than He does our comfort. So, think it not strange when you are led down a path of great pressure. God has a plan and He wants you to get stronger in your faith so that you will be strengthened for the journey. One of the ways we become stronger in our faith is by walking through the Red Sea experiences of life. They are not easy paths to walk by they are the places where our faith is exercised and strengthened. From what we see in Exodus 14 let us hold onto the Truth that the Lord will fight for us.

**Romans 8:31, 38-39**

<sup>31</sup> What shall we then say to these things? **If God be for us, who can be against us?**

<sup>38</sup> For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

<sup>39</sup> Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.