

Exodus 14
Passage to Pilgrimage

I. Prelude on perspective

- A. We see more in this passage than those of old due to Jesus. We read the OT in light of the NT
1. Rom 15:4 *For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.*
 2. 1 Cor 10:11 *Now these things happened to them as a warning, but they were written down for our instruction, upon whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let any one who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.*
 3. John 5:39 *You diligently study the Scriptures ¹because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me,*
 4. Luke 24:27 *And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.*

II. Puzzling Providence

- A. ***14:1 Then the LORD said to Moses, 2 "Tell the people of Israel to turn back and encamp in front of Pihahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, in front of Baalzephon; you shall encamp over against it, by the sea. 3 For Pharaoh will say of the people of Israel, 'They are entangled in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.' 4 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host; and the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD." And they did so.***
- B. Notice that God often leads us through difficulties to strengthen and purify our faith.
- C. In effect God leads them into harm's way to show forth his glory and increase their faith.

III. Petulant Pursuit

- A. ***5 When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the mind of Pharaoh and his servants was changed toward the people, and they said, "What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?" 6 So he made ready his chariot and took his army with him, 7 and took six hundred picked chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them. 8 And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt and he pursued the people of Israel as they went forth defiantly. 9 The Egyptians pursued***

¹In this case scripture refers to the O.T. since the N.T. Had not yet been written when Jesus spoke these words.

them, all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and his horsemen and his army, and overtook them encamped at the sea, by Pihahiroth, in front of Baalzephon.

- B. Evil does not take holidays.
 - 1. Notice it is intense
 - 2. It is unrelenting
- C. Most people are less devoted and dedicated to holiness than the wicked are to wickedness.

IV. Plaintive Panic

A. *10 When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them; and they were in great fear. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD; 11 and they said to Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, in bringing us out of Egypt? 12 Is not this what we said to you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness."*

- B. Notice how they struggle in their hearts:
 - 1. Slavery is preferred to freedom
 - 2. Fear eclipses faith
- C. Do they really want salvation or merely safety?

V. Proclaimed Prescription

A. *13 And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. 14 The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be still." 15 The LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. 16 Lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go on dry ground through the sea. 17 And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. 18 And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."*

- B. Prescription = God's a gonna trouble the water, fear not
- C. Other examples of this pattern: Wood and water bring them salvation and blessing:
 - 1. **Noah and the Ark:** 1 Peter 3:20 *God's patience waited in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.*

Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you.

2. **Ex 15:23** *When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter; therefore it was named Marah. And the people murmured against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" And he cried to the LORD; and the LORD showed him a tree, and he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet.*
3. **Ex 17:5** **The LORD answered Moses, "Walk on ahead of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel.**
4. **Joshua 3:13** *And when the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan shall be stopped from flowing, and the waters coming down from above shall stand in one heap."*

VI. Primary Passage

- A. **19** *Then the angel of God who went before the host of Israel moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, 20 coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness; and the night passed without one coming near the other all night. 21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. 22 And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.*
- B. There is a start here. They have come forth from Egypt but are not, by that fact, in the promised land.
- C. So for us, Baptism is a beginning, a birth. We must journey through the desert and have our faith perfected before we enter heaven

VII. Plenary Perdition

- A. **23** *The Egyptians pursued, and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. 24 And in the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down upon the host of the Egyptians, and discomfited the host of the Egyptians, 25 clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily; and the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from before Israel; for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians." 26 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen." 27 So Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its wonted flow when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled into it, and the LORD routed the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. 28 The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen and all the host of*

Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not so much as one of them remained. 29 But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

- B. The enemy is totally destroyed.
- C. Yet as we shall see, Egypt, though destroyed remains in the people.

VIII. Principle Product

- A. *30 Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the seashore. 31 And Israel saw the great work which the LORD did against the Egyptians, and the people feared the LORD; and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.*
- B. Principle Product = faith
- C. But note this is baby faith. It will be tested and found often wanting.