

Timeless Issues to Consider

1. Hard-heartedness in God's people

READ Exodus 14:11, 31 & 15:24 & 17:1-4

Q.8 What do these verses reveal about human nature?

CONSIDER Hebrews chapters 3 & 4. Note the verses that warn and encourage Christians on the topic of hard-hearted rebellion against God.



2. The Exodus pattern of salvation

God acts for Israel on the basis of his covenant and promise to Abram. That same promise was at work in sending Christ to bring God's salvation to all (Ephesians 3:6). God acts consistently in his saving work. Note the similar patterns in the Exodus and in the death and resurrection of Christ:

God's plan in the Exodus	God's plan in the death of Christ
To bring glory to His name & display his Lordship (14:4, 18)	See John 17:1-5; Ephesians 1:19-21; Philippians 2:9-11
To save/redeem His people (14:30)	See 1 Peter 2:10; Titus 2:11-14; 3:3-7; Romans 5:1-10
To generate faith and trust in God (14:31)	See John 7:21; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Ephesians 3:10-12

3. Living gratefully

Q.9 Recognising that we have, as it were, the "greater Exodus" through Christ and have crossed over from "death to life" (John 5:24), what sort of thankful responses should we make to God? (e.g. Romans 12:1-2; 1 John 3:14; Hebrews 10:19-25; Romans 6:3-11; 1 Corinthians 10:1-11)



#5 5 Drowning not Waving

Exodus 14:5-31

Exodus 14:31

And when the Israelites saw the great power the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

The God of Freedom

Introduction

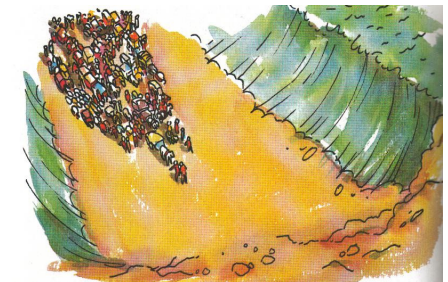
Chapter 15 of Exodus and also Psalms 105, 106 and 77 all mark this occasion in song. 400+ years of hard labour and unjust imprisonment was to be shattered by the Lord God's miracle of mercy. After that fearful night when the last of 10 plagues hit the Egyptians hard because of the hardness of Pharaoh's heart, the Israelites made their journey towards freedom. They were guided by the presence of the Lord. The form of the Pillar of fire by night and the cloud by day and the angel of the Lord in the midst were symbols of assurance to the people. (For the relationship between the 'angel of the Lord' and the signs of God's presence see: Exod. 14:9, 23:20-23, 33:9-11, Ps. 99:6-7, Isa. 63:8-9, Mal. 3:1, and compare Exod. 3:2)

READ Exodus 13:17-18

There are many theories as to the exact route the escaping Israelites travelled. What's significant about the journey is that it was entangled and difficult in nature; therefore yet another evidence to all and sundry that it was not Israel, but their God who directed them and was the instigator of their freedom.

A Change of mind

Some want to claim that only 5000 made the journey. The scholarly estimate worth considering says some 2 million were in existence (note the large array Pharaoh dispatches to search them out in v 7).



Warm Up

Q.1 What song or hymn is most likely to be sung at your church when it's time to give thanks for something God has done? What do the lyrics of that song speak of?

Q.2 Does your church have a history written about it? What significant points of thanksgiving to God are mentioned in that publication?

Getting into the Text Exodus 14:1-31

READ 14:3-14



Note the boldness (lit. 'with a high hand', defiantly— see Numbers 15:30) with which the Israelites now are moving out in vs. 8. It's as if they are 'high fiving' each other.

Q.3 What might such boldness indicate? Did their confidence lie in God's presence and actions (see vss. 10-12 and also Exodus 17:1-4)?

Q.4 How would you describe Moses' response to the fear and faithlessness of the Israelites this time?

Note Moses' three-fold admonition for them:

1. "Do not be afraid" v.13 (see Genesis 15:1, 26:24, Joshua 1:9, 8:1)
2. "Stand firm" and see God's delivering power for you v. 14 (see Nehemiah 4:20, Psalm 35:1)
3. "Be still" (cf. Genesis 34:5, 2 Kings 19:11; Psalm 5:3, 83:1)



READ 14:15-18

Q.5 What do you notice about the Lord's attitude to Moses and the people in vs. 15?

Q.6 Compare vss. 1-4 and vss. 17-18. Why is it so important for the Lord to "gain glory" and to demonstrate His Lordship to the Egyptians?

ACTIVITY

Watch chapters 25-27 of the DVD "Prince of Egypt" from Disney — the people pass through the waters of the Red Sea and the Egyptian army is engulfed by the waters.

EXERCISE

Note the differences when you compare the presentation in the movie to what is written in chapters 13 and 14 of Exodus in the Bible. Consider the differences in how God and Moses are depicted in each and where the emphases lie in each. What is deficient in the movie version?



READ 14:19-29

As we have seen in our earlier studies, God employed symbols and actions that to the Hebrew indicated clearly God of Creation at work; the God of their ancestors. God divided land and sea in the creation account of Genesis 1. Moses raised his staff and the people walked on dry land through sea. In the demise of the Egyptian army, God's authority over life and death and God's sovereignty to show mercy are displayed once again as in the plagues.



READ 14:30, 31

Q.7 Who deserved the praise? What was the people's response?

SOME NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTS ON EXODUS 14:

- Acts 7:35-37- Moses points to Jesus' coming
- 1 Corinthians 10:1-11- Exodus events an assurance and a warning
- Romans 9:17,18 - God has mercy on whom He will in order to advance the promise for the sake of all
- Hebrews 11:29 - Faith in God, from God, got them through the sea (see Psalm 78:13)
- Revelation 15:3- the song of Moses and the song of "the Lamb" are sung in heaven.