



Way Point Chronicles

Traveling through the Old Testament by Chronological Stories

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night, from before the people. God's presence, ever with them night and day.

II- Pharaoh's Pursuit:

Pharaoh, grieving from the loss of his firstborn during the death angel passing over, has told Moses to leave and to do it immediately. After a short time God tells Moses that Pharaoh was going to begin pursuit of them.

Exodus 14:3-20 For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, They are entangled in the land, the wilderness hath shut them in. 4 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, that he shall follow after them; and I will be honoured upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host; that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD. And they did so.

Notice the reaction of Pharaoh when he realized that they had loosen stakes and pulled out of Egypt. Pharaoh and his advisers questioned their own thinking ***Exodus 14:5 And it was told the king of Egypt that the people fled: and the heart of Pharaoh and of his servants was turned against the people, and they said, Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us? 6 And he made ready his chariot, and took his people with him: 7 And he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over every one of them. 8 And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued after the children of Israel: and the children of Israel went out with an high hand. 9 But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pihahiroth, before Baalzephon.***

Pharaoh has been pursuing the children of Israel at a breakneck speed with his horses and chariots. He catches up with them when they are camped by the Red Sea.

Can you imagine the terror in the camp of Israel as they see the dust cloud rising in the distance? They are trapped between the sea and the advancing army of Pharaoh. They are no match for either. They can't swim across the water for it was too wide and cannot begin to match military might with Egypt.

III- Cries of Israel:

Notice the cry that went out from the camp. ***Exodus 14:10 And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD.*** Now this

may sound good and spiritual but notice how quick it turns from a cry to the Lord to an accusation against Moses and God's leadership



Coordinates:

Exodus 13:17-14:31

Sights to See:

- 1- God's presence with us day by day may not be as dramatic as the fire and cloud but we can see it if we will only look.
- 2- God knows us so well He even knows the fears of our heart and how we will react.
- 3- Sometimes the corners we find our self in has been painted by the hand of God so we will learn to trust Him.
- 4- God still fights the battle for His people who walk in His will and way.
- 5- In a crisis situation or time of stress it is often easy to blame God and the leadership for what is perceived as failure.
- 6- God had provided a way of escape that they could not see. We need to stand still at times and see the avenue that God had for us to travel when the road looks blocked.
- 7- Great things for the Lord can only be accomplished with great steps of faith.
- 8- The deliverance of God in one situation should move us to increasing faith in His care for the future.



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Exodus 14:11 *And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt? 12 Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness.*

They claimed they had wanted to stay in Egypt and serve instead of being forced to come with Moses. Now, it was his fault that they were going to die. My question in this situation has always been who painted them into this corner. Was it Moses and his bad leadership? May I suggest that God has painted them into this corner so they will learn to trust Him more? Notice Moses response to their murmuring.

Exodus 14:13 *And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. 14 The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.*

Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. Fear not, I am going to destroy your pursuers. The Lord is going to do the fighting. The call was for faith, for them to believe.

IV- Instruction for Advancement:

Still, we have the army on one side and the sea on the other. Which way were they to go? Moses is given the instruction for advancement.

Exodus 14:15 *And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: 16 But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.*

Moses is told that Pharaoh will even pursue them into the sea but not to worry.

Exodus 14:17 *And I, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them: and I will get me honour upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen. 18 And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten me honour upon Pharaoh, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.*

The cloud of protection for Israel is now identified as the angel of God. **Exodus 14:19** *And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them: 20 And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night.*

Now the cloud has become a hedge of protection for the Children of Israel. Instead of leading them, it now moves to the rear for protection. God has built a hedge of protection about them. We can find evidence that today as evidenced by **Hebrews 1:13-14** *But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? 14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?*

So with the protective hand of God behind them Moses is told to lift up his rod over the sea and it will divide and allow the children of Israel to advance.

V- Wall of Water:

The very act of holding up the rod over the water was another in a long line of steps of faith that Moses had to take. He complied and then we see the time honored and well told story of the crossing of the Red Sea.



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Exodus 14:21-31 And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. All night long the wind blew and dried up the land that had been formally under water.

The next day they ventured forth, an act of faith as I am sure that the wall of the water stood above them as a nemesis. ***Exodus 14: 22 And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.***

Just as God had told Moses that he would, Pharaoh pursued them into the sea. This would have required the cloud to have been lifted that had given them protection.

Exodus 14:23 And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. 24 And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, 25 And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians.

They are not in the midst of the sea and their chariot wheels had come off and they wanted to be anywhere else at that time. God tells Moses to stretch forth his rod again and the sea will collapse on Pharaoh and his army. ***Exodus 14:26 And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen. 27 And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. 28 And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them.***

God drowned the army of Pharaoh and according to evidence of ***Psalms 136:15 Pharaoh as well. But overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red sea...***

Now notice how the children of Israel crossed according to the promise of God. ***Exodus 14:29 But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. 30 Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore.***

The result of the events moved the children of Israel to fear and faith in the Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. ***Exodus 14:31 And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses.***

God delivered the children of Israel with a cloud by day and fire by night and then a wall of water. The psalmist said it best in ***Psalms 136:10-16 To him that smote Egypt in their firstborn: for his mercy endureth for ever: 11 And brought out Israel from among them: for his mercy endureth for ever: 12 With a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm: for his mercy endureth for ever. 13 To him which divided the Red sea into parts: for his mercy endureth for ever: 14 And made Israel to pass through the midst of it: for his mercy endureth for ever: 15 But overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red sea: for his mercy endureth for ever. 16 To him which led his people through the wilderness: for his mercy endureth for ever.***

Indeed His mercy endureth forever... Praise God