

## Exodus 13-15 – Deliverance and Re-creation

### 1. Introduction

If you have been here for the last few weeks you will have begun to see, I hope, that the book of Exodus is a great book for Christians. It is not only a great story about how God worked in ancient history, but it is also a story which anticipates God's greater deliverance in Jesus. When God appeared it anticipated the arrival of Jesus who also called himself "I am". When God delivered Israel from Egypt at the Passover it anticipated Jesus, the Passover Lamb of God. The physical, geopolitical deliverance of Israel at the Exodus is a foreshadowing of the spiritual, eternal, death-transcending deliverance which Jesus achieved in his cross and resurrection. This is not just a bit of ancient history it is a story about us. And today there is something very important to learn. We have seen how God appeared to Moses, and brought judgement on Egypt, and delivered his people at the Passover, but how is going to treat them now that they are on the road freedom? This is of massive importance to us because Christians are on the same road. Jesus, our Passover Lamb has died for our sins and we are set free. But we are not yet in the promised land. We are not yet home. And as for Israel the hostile powers of this world are still very potent and very threatening.

How will God deal with Israel? How will God deal with us?

### 2. God works in mysterious ways



**Exo 13:17a**

#### ☞ *Exodus Route*

Purple route – probable route of the Exodus

Green roads – other highways

Highway along the coast "the way to the land of the Philistines"

#### **First a roundabout path**

Exo 13:17 – not the way to the Philistines



**Exo 13:18**

Don't know precise route

Because don't know what Bible means by "Red Sea"

Literally – "Sea of Reeds"

Map – marshy part of Nile delta

Other suggestions –

net work of lakes,

Gulf Suez – Red Sea proper

"Ready for battle"

Rest of the story – definitely not ready for battle

Not trained in warfare

Did not have chariots

Probably means – “in ranks” “in an orderly fashion”

### **Then a hopeless path**



**Exo 14:2**

Note “by the sea”

The Lord is cornering them with the army one side, and the sea the other.



**Exo 14:9**

### **With understandable consequences**

Terror –



**Exo 14:10a**

Crying out – but hardly in faith



**Exo 14:10b-12**

Complaining

- We cannot understand our lives in advance – or even at the time.
  - Steve Jobs – join the dots.
  - Even the whole of our life may be confusing!!!
  - If you want a planned life:
    - Read the seven habits of highly effective people
    - Take out every insurance policy possible
    - Employ a life coach and write a life plan
    - AND HEAR GOD LAUGH!
  - If you want a planned life – don’t entrust yourself to God

## 3. What is God doing?

### **He is accommodating to our weakness –**



**Exo 13:17**

The Philistines were well armed, and organised

NOTE: The Israelites do not know God’s purpose

At most it is a private word with Moses

More likely it is a retrospective revelation to Moses – since this explanation of God’s providence is not given to Israel at the time.

Not surprising that the Israelites were unimpressed by Moses and God.



**Exo 14:11-12**

- Our reaction too?
  - Get converted – but far from a smooth easy life it is full of trouble?

- Theresa of Avila bucked off her horse into a river
- “If this is how you treat your friends it is no wonder you have so many enemies.”
- Is God really working for our good?
  - Not all that is going on
    - The real viciousness of evil – Satan – human depravity
  - But God is working for our good in all situations.
    - Rom 8:28 – in all things for the good of those who love him.
    - God may withhold wealth – because would become ensnared by it
    - God may stop you rising high at work – the assaults of pride would be too much for you.
    - 2 Cor 12:7 – “in order to keep me from becoming conceited I was given a thorn in the flesh”
    - That trial in your life:
      - Who knows what spiritual sickness your soul would have fallen into if your life had only been easy?
      - Who knows what beautiful, glorious, eternal characteristics God wants to build into you through this difficulty?
  - It is not that we know what he is doing
    - WE OFTEN DO NOT KNOW WHAT HE IS DOING AT THE TIME.
    - But verses like Exodus 13:17 are given to help us trust.

### **He is judging his enemies**



#### **Exo 14:1-4**

Pharaoh has long since hardened his heart in implacable hostility to God

Now God is confirming and even consolidating it.

Will lead to final judgment



#### **Exo 14:26-28**

Judgment on all who oppose him – “not one of them survived”

- He loves to work against the odds
  - Ex 14:7 – “best chariots” = Egyptians constant technological innovators
  - This confirmed Pharaoh in his hardness of heart 14:8
  - And it will demonstrate his greatness even more amazingly
- The world will always look more powerful than God’s people
  - First four hundred years of church
    - Powerful Roman emperors
    - Powerless church out lived, and out influenced Rome
  - The people of the world will always despise God’s people – that is part of God’s hardening of their hearts

- God's people will always appear to be the weaker party, but enjoy God's hand of deliverance

2 Corinthians 4:7 (NIV)

<sup>7</sup> [We are] jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

### **He is demonstrating his power in re-creation**



#### **Exo 14:21-22**

Interesting language – dividing the waters to create land

Last described in Gen 1

A miraculous re-creative work – as well as a deliverance work

We have already said – the exodus serves as a picture of God's greater work in Jesus.

For example – Luke 9

a moment when Jesus shone like the pillar of fire mentioned here

when a cloud appeared

the transfiguration!

Moses and Elijah appear, speak with Jesus about his EXODUS – Luke 9:31

- This parting of the Red Sea anticipates
  - Jesus' death – a passing through the waters of death
  - Jesus' resurrection – God's great work of re-creation
  - It is HIS EXODUS
  - It anticipates OUR EXODUS
    - God will raise us too
    - God will create a new heaven and new earth

#### 4. What should we do?

##### **Stand firm and trust**



#### **Exo 14:13-14**

- You are safe in the hand of God
  - That safety extends to the whole of your life
  - That safety is ultimately your assurance of resurrection life
- “don't be afraid”
  - The commonest admonition of Jesus in the gospels
  - Don't yield to fear
- “stand firm”
- you have seen your deliverance in Jesus
- “you need only be still”

##### **Rejoice – Exodus 15**



He will bring you home

**Exo 15:17-18**