

Series: The Life of Moses

# THAT GREAT WORK WHICH THE LORD DID EXODUS 14:5-31

Text: Exodus 14:31

## ***Exodus 14:31***

<sup>31</sup> *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.*

Introduction:

At this point in the story he has led God's people from slavery to freedom, and all 2-3 million of them are marching toward the Promised Land. It's the Exodus from Egypt!

Free at last for the first time in over 400 years.

They are marching out, rejoicing in their new freedom when suddenly they encounter...

- The Problem

Being a Christian doesn't insulate nor isolate us from the problems of this sin cursed world?

God brings us detours along the way, and they are for our benefit. A straight line from Egypt to Canaan would have been about 150 miles NE and would take less than 2 weeks to travel.

But God takes them SE...the long way around.

Note:

***Exodus 13:21***

*<sup>21</sup> And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:*

The cloud seems to be leading in the wrong direction. The same happens to all of us. We have a goal, a destination in our mind, some place we want to go, something we want to become or achieve. Sometimes we even know that God is in it and wants us to get there, but we just can't understand why it's taking so long.

Remember:

God's delays are not denials. Don't be discouraged if God has you on a detour route...He knows what He's doing!

Another lesson: God knows what we can handle. If He led them in the straight line to Canaan, they would

have passed right thru the land of the Philistines, brutal warriors who were blood thirsty. But God's people were not ready for that. They weren't seasoned warriors, they were slaves w/ no weapons of war.

Well, as if this detour God has them on isn't enough, God then leads them right to the banks of the Red Sea, just as the Egyptian Army is sent to pursue them. Now they're hemmed in and pinned down. There's no way out. Mountains of either side of them, a sea in front of them, and Pharaoh's military is fast approaching. It's a dead end. Their back is against the wall.

There problem now turns to:

- The Panic

**Exodus 14:10-12**

*<sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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? <sup>12</sup> 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 basically said, “Moses we told you this would happen.”

They’re questioning his leadership. God has used him to lead them to freedom from slavery, and now they’re questioning his ability to hear from God and do the right thing.

Note the commands given to the children of Israel:

***Exodus 14:13-14***

<sup>13</sup> *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.*

<sup>14</sup> *The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.*

- Fear Not

It’s the same thing the angel said to the Mary when she learned she was with child.

It’s the same thing Jesus said to His disciples in their little boat in the midst of a great storm.

It’s the same thing the angel said to Mary Magdalene when she was troubled at Jesus’ body missing from His tomb.

To each of these God was saying, “You may not understand your circumstances right now, but don’t worry, I’m still in control!”

There are times that we experience fear.

Illustration:

A little boy had 1 line to deliver in the church play, but his knees were knocking back stage. He just had to walk out and say, “It is I, be not afraid”. He walked out and saw the big crowd and said, “It’s me, and I’m scared!”

Fear is when we can’t see God thru our circumstances.

Faith is when we see our circumstances...but thru God!

The children of Israel looked left and right. They looked in front of them and behind them.

They saw no way out, but they should have another direction – they should have looked up.

I believe God wants our backs against the wall sometimes so we’ll do just that. You see, He gives water to those who are thirsty, not full. He heals the sick, not those who are well.

Note not only were they commanded to “Fear Not” but also they were commanded to:

- Stand Still

We don’t like to be told to wait.

Too often we want to help God out or help ourselves out.

Just standing still is unthinkable in our society today. The most popular words in advertising today are: Now, Instant, Immediate, Fast.

We don’t like to wait. If someone is ahead of us in line, we are pacing. No wonder the concept of waiting on God is foreign to us. But the Bible says...

***Psalm 27:14***

*<sup>14</sup> Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.*

Waiting on the Lord is when we quietly and calmly trust Him until He provides clear direction. It is the opposite of panic. It’s different than trying to fix things or make things happen.

Stand still, stay with God, and don’t get ahead of Him. You could try in your own strength to swim across the

Red Sea, but if you would have just waited He was just about to part the waters for you.

Note not only were they commanded to “Fear Not” and “Stand Still” but also they were commanded to:

- See the Salvation of the Lord

When our back is against the wall is when God does His very best work.

I want to draw attention to the miracles in this story.

## **1. THE DIVERTING OF THE CLOUD**

### ***Exodus 14:19-20***

*<sup>19</sup> 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: <sup>20</sup> 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.*

Notice

God gave them a cloud, not a map, compass, or gps. This cloud served 2 purposes.

- To Guide and Shelter Them

They were in an arid desert place, very hot by day, very cold by night. This cloud sheltered them from the searing sun and then it turned into a heavenly heater at night a pillar of fire.

- To Protect Them

The cloud moved behind them like a wall between them and their enemies. And He's not only our Savior, He's also our protector! David in the Psalms said:

***Psalm 18:2***

*<sup>2</sup> The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.*

***Psalm 144:2***

*<sup>2</sup> My goodness, and my fortress; my high tower, and my deliverer; my shield, and he in whom I trust; who subdueth my people under me.*

The second miracle in this story was:



## 2. THE DIVIDING OF THE WATER

### ***Exodus 14:21-22***

*<sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> 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.*

Illustration:

Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School.

Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge, and all the people walked across safely. He used his walkie-talkie to radio headquarters and call in an air strike. They sent in bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved.

"Now, Joey, is that REALLY what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked.

Well, no, Mom, but if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!

What a day that was when God separated the waters of the Red Sea and the children of Israel walked across on DRY ground.

Can you imagine being there for this great miracle?

Note not only the Diverting of the Cloud and the Dividing of the Water but lastly:

### **3. THE DROWNING OF THE EGYPTIANS**

#### ***Exodus 14:23-28***

*<sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> 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, <sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> 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.*

Pharaoh was reaping what he had sowed. For what was it that Pharaoh had done to all the male Jewish babies?

Drowned them!

Remember:

***Galatians 6:7***

*<sup>7</sup> Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*

Maybe your back is against the wall. Be encouraged, fear not, stand still, and see what God can do. God didn't deliver His people from slavery only to drown them when they were cornered. And God didn't save you only to forget about you now.

Close:

“Got any rivers that seem uncrossable?  
Got any mountains you can’t tunnel through?  
God specializes in things thought impossible.  
And He knows a thousands ways to make a way for  
you!”

The problem and the panic led to this miracle and then  
the praise followed, which we’ll look at next week.  
What Red Sea has God brought you thru?

What giant body of water are you still facing?

How can we encourage one another?