



RESCUED FROM DISASTER

Exodus 13:17-22; 14:1-31

- *“When Pharaoh finally let the people go, God did not lead them along the main road that runs through Philistine territory, even though that was the shortest route to the Promised Land. God said, ‘If the people are faced with a battle, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.’ So God led them in a roundabout way through the wilderness toward the Red Sea.”* (Exodus 13:17-18)
- **The Lord sometimes leads us through “detours” so He can test and toughen us.**
- **When going through “detours” initiated by the Lord we can be assured that:**
 - **God hasn’t forgotten about us**
 - **God’s delays are not His “denials”**
 - **God’s presence will be with us**
 - *“The Lord went ahead of them. He guided them during the day with a pillar of cloud, and he provided light at night with a pillar of fire. This allowed them to travel by day or by night.”* (Exodus 13:21)
 - **God will give us His provision and protection (Psalm 37, Psalm 91)**
- **Sometimes in following the Lord we will wind up in disastrous situations where we have to fully trust in the Lord’s provision and protection (Exodus 14:1-31).**
- **What are some things that we can expect when we’re following the Lord?**

When We’re Following The Lord We Can Expect To Experience:

SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS IN OUR LIVES (Exodus 14:5-12)

- *“When word reached the king of Egypt that the Israelites had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds. ‘What have we done, letting all those Israelite slaves get away?’ they asked. So Pharaoh harnessed his chariot and called up his troops. . . . The Egyptians chased after them with all the forces in Pharaoh’s army.”* (Exodus 14:5-8)

Sometimes In Following The Lord We Find Ourselves:

● **DEALING WITH FOES**

- *“The Egyptians caught up with the people of Israel as they were camped beside the shore near Pi-hahiroth, across from Baal-zephon.”* (Exodus 14:9)
- **God’s people can expect to regularly experience opposition and persecution from others.**

- Jesus - *“The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you.”* (John 15:19)
- *“Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”* (2 Timothy 3:12)

Sometimes In Following The Lord We Find Ourselves:

● DEALING WITH FEAR

- *“As Pharaoh approached, the people of Israel looked up and panicked when they saw the Egyptians overtaking them. They cried out to the Lord, and they said to Moses, ‘Why did you bring us out here to die in the wilderness? Weren’t there enough graves for us in Egypt?’”* (Exodus 14:10-11)
- **Lots of people struggle with fear because of the obstacles or opposition they experience in their lives.**
- **Giving in to Fear will rob us of joy, peace, strength, hope and productivity in our lives.**
- **Fear causes us to believe that God is really not big enough to take care of us (Philippians 4:19, Romans 8:31).**
- The Lord – *“I command you – be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”* (Joshua 1:9)

Sometimes In Following The Lord We Find Ourselves:

● DEALING WITH FRUSTRATION

- *“They said to Moses, ‘Why did you bring us out here to die in the wilderness? Weren’t there enough graves for us in Egypt? Why did you make us leave Egypt? Didn’t we tell you this would happen while we were still in Egypt? We said, ‘Leave us alone! Let us be slaves to the Egyptians. It’s better to be a slave in Egypt than a corpse in the wilderness!’”* (Exodus 14:11-12)
- **A lot of people move from dealing with “foes” to fear to frustration, which will lead to conflict and compromise in our lives.**
- **The Lord has called us to “son-ship” rather than “slavery” in our lives.**
- Jesus - *“If the Son sets you free, you are truly free.”* (John 8:36)
- **What kinds of “significant problems” am I experiencing in my life, and how are they affecting me?**

When We’re Following The Lord We Can Expect To Experience:

SUPERNATURAL PROVISION FOR OUR LIVES (Exodus 14:1-4, 13-31)

- **Sometimes we feel hopeless because of the obstacles or opposition we experience in our lives, but there is always hope with the Lord.**
 - *“Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. Don’t be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with My victorious right hand.”* (Isaiah 41:10)
 - *“If you are suffering . . . keep on doing what is right, and trust yourself to the God who made you, for He will never fail you.”* (1 Peter 4:19)

Regardless Of Our Obstacles And Opposition:

● GOD IS CARRYING OUT HIS PLANS

- The Lord - *“Order the Israelites to camp by Pi-hahiroth between Migdol and the sea. Camp there along the shore . . . Then Pharaoh will think, ‘The Israelites are confused. They are trapped in the wilderness!’ . . . I have planned this in order to display my glory through Pharaoh and his whole army. After this the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord!”* (Exodus 14:2-4)
- **The Lord is already working, in spite of obstacles and opposition, to work miracles for our good and for His glory.**
- *“You can make many plans, but the Lord’s purpose will prevail.”* (Proverbs 19:21)

Regardless Of Our Obstacles And Opposition:

● **GOD’S PRESENCE WILL BE WITH US**

- *“But Moses told the people, ‘Don’t be afraid. Just stand still and watch the Lord rescue you today. . . . The Lord himself will fight for you. Just stay calm.”* (Exodus 14:13-14)
- **The Lord has promised that He will always be with His people to help us.**
- *“God is our refuge and strength, and a present help in time of trouble.”* (Psalm 46:1)
- **Sensing the Lord’s presence in our lives brings peace to our lives (John 14:27).**

Regardless Of Our Obstacles And Opposition:

● **GOD WILL EXTEND HIS POWER TO US**

- The Lord to Moses - *“Pick up your staff and raise your hand over the sea. Divide the water so the Israelites can walk through the middle of the sea on dry ground.”* (Exodus 14:16)
- **The Lord is all-powerful and there is nothing He cannot do.**
- *“Oh, Sovereign Lord! You have made the heavens and earth by your great power. Nothing is too hard for you!”* (Jeremiah 32:17)

Regardless Of Our Obstacles And Opposition:

● **GOD WILL PROVIDE US WITH PROTECTION**

- *“Then the angel of God, who had been leading the people of Israel, moved to the rear of the camp. The pillar of cloud also moved from the front and stood behind them. The cloud settled between the Egyptian and Israelite camps. As darkness fell, the cloud turned to fire, lighting up the night. But the Egyptians and Israelites did not approach each other all night.”* (Exodus 14:19-20)
 - **The Lord will stand between us and our enemies when our trust is in Him.**
 - *“God . . . is a shield for all who look to Him for protection.”* (2 Samuel 22:31)
- *“Then Moses raised his hand over the sea, and the Lord opened up a path through the water with a strong east wind. . . . So the people of Israel walked through the middle of the sea on dry ground, with walls of water on each side!”* (Exodus 14:21-22)
 - *“Then the Egyptians - all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and charioteers - chased them into the middle of the sea. . . . But the Lord twisted their chariot wheels, making their chariots difficult to drive. ‘Let’s get out of here’ . . . the Egyptians shouted. ‘The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt!’”* (Exodus 14:23-25)

- **When we put our faith and trust in the Lord, He will “fight for us”, bringing the provision and protection we need to overcome our enemies and our obstacles.**
- *“When the people of Israel saw the mighty power that the Lord had unleashed against the Egyptians, they were filled with awe before Him. They put their faith in the Lord and in his servant Moses.” (Exodus 14:31)*
- **We can learn from the “Red Sea” story that:**
 - **In difficult times and situations we are to live by faith rather than by fear.**
 - **God sometimes brings us to the point of desperation to bring us to complete dependence on Him so that He can bring deliverance to our lives.**
 - **Trusting God is the key to overcoming problems and panic in our lives.**
 - Paul – *“We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God.” (Romans 8:28)*
- *“Don’t be afraid. Stand still and watch the Lord rescue you today.” (Exodus 14:13)*
- ***What is the Lord communicating to me through this message, and how am I going to respond to it?***