

Let the Journey Begin

a study in the book of Exodus

God's Presence - Exodus 14:19,20

Lesson 11

In Exodus 14:13, Moses instructed the people to *stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD*. This instruction was followed by a night where God separated the Egyptians from the Israelites by a pillar of cloud. We see in our lesson today, God holding back the enemy. The cloud that had been their guide would move to be their guardian. May you discover a new appreciation of both God's guidance and His protection over you as you ponder these verses.

Read Exodus 14:19,20

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *Israel (one)* and *the Egyptians (other)*.

Key Words: *God, Israel, Egyptians*

3. Describe the *cloud* as it related to:

Israel

the Egyptians

- a. Using the verses 19,20, what is your understanding of the purpose of the *cloud*?

Read Exodus 14:19

1. Exodus 14:19 is the second mention of the *pillar of cloud*. What does Exodus 13:21, 22 add to your understanding?

2. The *pillar of cloud* represented the presence of God. Until Exodus 14:19, it preceded the children of Israel. What position did it *move* to?

3. Imagine the scene. Ponder if the cloud continued to only be a guide to lead Israel forward and not a barrier between them and *the Egyptians*. What might have happened?
 - a. Record God's glorious promise in Exodus 23:20

 - b. What does this teach you about the protective heart of God?

4. Isaiah 58:8 ends with the words, *the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard*. Thoughtfully write the words of verse 9.
 - a. What are your thoughts?

5. Describe the phrase, "I've got your back," as it relates to God's care for you.

Read Exodus 14:19

1. The Bible contains many verses that relate to God's presence. Record each of the following verses and share something that speaks to you about each one.

Exodus 33:14

Joshua 1:9

Psalm 16:11

Psalm 23:4

Psalm 139:7

1 Corinthians 3:16

Hebrews 13:5

Revelation 21:3

2. The knowledge and awareness of God's presence is important. What have you personally discovered to be the difference between knowing about His presence and being aware of it?

Read Exodus 14:20

1. Exodus 14:19 reveals that the *pillar of cloud stood behind the camp of Israel*. What does verse 20 add to your understanding of its position?

2. This same *cloud* took on two forms of light. What was the *cloud* to the:
Egyptians

Israelites

3. According to the last phrase of Exodus 14:20, what was its purpose?

a. Consider what it must have been like for both peoples to be within reach of one another, yet separated. What do you think were some of the thoughts of the:

Egyptians

Israelites

Read Exodus 14:20

1. Exodus 14:20 ends with the words, *all that night*. What are some lessons you have learned when God has placed you in a position of waiting?

5. Record what the following verses declare about God's power:

1 Chronicles 29:11

Psalm 62:11

Jeremiah 32:17

Romans 4:21

a. In what ways does knowing God's power strengthen your faith?

Review Exodus 14:19,20

1. What is one thing you will take away and apply to your life from this lesson?

2. Record some thoughts regarding your appreciation that God protects His children.

*... the path of the just is like the shining sun,
That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.*

*The way of the wicked is like darkness;
They do not know what makes them stumble.*

- Proverbs 4:18,19

Observation Worksheet

Exodus 14:19-20 And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. ²⁰ So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness to the one, and it gave light by night to the other, so that the one did not come near the other all that night.