

# Let the Journey Begin

## a study in the book of Exodus

### Acknowledge Your Enemy - Exodus 14:5-9

#### Lesson 7

Have you ever felt pursued? Oppressed? Sensed the devil nipping at your heels? Have you ever found yourself to be, what seemed like, hemmed in with nowhere to go? Then you can probably relate to the children of Israel as they faced the powerful Egyptian army on one side and the depths of the Red Sea on the other. Join God's people and walk with them as their journey becomes contrary to what they had believed.

#### Read Exodus 14:5-9

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 the *LORD*, *Pharaoh/people of Egypt*, and *Israel/the children of Israel*.  
  
Key Words: *LORD, Pharaoh/people of Egypt, Israel/the children of Israel, chariot(s), and overtook*
3. Exodus 14:3 is God's word that Pharaoh will again change his mind about setting Israel free. Using Exodus 14:5-9, summarize the fulfillment of this.

**Read Exodus 14:5** *The heart of Pharaoh turned*

1. Consider what the land of Egypt must have been like after her slaves, the children of Israel had been set free. The last phrase of this verse could be interpreted as, "We have lost our slaves!" Share your thoughts.
  
2. Satan, the enemy of our souls, lost when he lost his grip on you. Before you were saved, you were a resident of the kingdom of darkness. What did that kingdom lose when it lost you? (consider the effect or non-effect you had on others.)
  
3. *The heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people.* Confirm this using Psalm 105:25.
  - a. Using Exodus 1:11-14, describe the reaction of the people of Egypt toward the children of Israel.
  
  - b. Describe what a heart is like that is *turned against* someone.
  
4. Notice the phrase, *we have let Israel go.* Throughout our Exodus journey, we will see God's sovereign hand upon His people. The people did not see God's hand in the release of His people. How does it effect you when you take a moment and acknowledge God's intervention in your life?
  
5. After the plague of hail, Pharaoh plead with Moses for relief. Then, what did he do after the *hail ceased?* See Exodus 9:4,35
  - a. What does Exodus 10:1,2 add to your understanding?

- 1.) In addition to God keeping His promise to free the children of Israel, record His goals using these two verses.
- 2.) Why is it important for us to remember God's goals as we journey?

**Read Exodus 14:6 *Pharaoh making ready***

1. Record the words from this verse that describe Pharaoh's reaction to realizing the result of setting the children of Israel free.
2. Often, there is a period of time between when we determine to do something and when we are *ready* to carry it out. What have you learned to do with your first inclinations?
3. Share your thoughts as you reflect upon the truths of Proverbs 21:31.

**Read Exodus 14:7 *Pharaoh's weapons***

1. Using verse 7, describe the resources Pharaoh used to come against the children of Israel.
2. The children of Israel had no chariots and probably very few weapons, if any. What can be the result of looking to our resources before we take action whether they be many or be few?
3. Reflect on the words of Psalm 20:7 as you record them.
  - a. Describe what it means to *trust* in the strength of our resources.



4. Record the last phrase of Exodus 14:8.
  - a. In Exodus 33:1, Moses reviewed the journey of the children of Israel. What did He say about their *departure* from Egypt?
  - b. As we continue in our study of Exodus 14, we will see that Israel lost that *boldness*. What are some things that strip you from a *boldness* you might have begun with?

Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answer

### **Read Exodus 14:9 *Pharaoh's pursuit***

1. *So the Egyptians pursued them...* What happened next?
  - a. Define the word *overtook* as it relates to this verse.
2. Imagine the scene. Pharaoh and his tremendous army suddenly appeared to Israel. They were hemmed in by the Red Sea. What do you think were some of their thoughts?
3. Our study this week leaves us with the children of Israel in an extremely precarious place. The song of Moses, written after the fact, reflects the glorious intervention of the LORD. Record the words Exodus 15:4 and 19.
  - a. Although Pharaoh and his armies were powerful, their power did not compare to the power of God. In the same way, Satan is a powerful being. Rejoice as you compare his power to God's power.

## Review Exodus 14:5-9

1. Consider the parallels between Pharaoh and Satan. What did you discover?
2. In what way did you identify with Israel's dilemma?
3. How was your confidence strengthened as you considered the care and power of God?

*Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea  
and a path through the mighty waters, Who brings forth the chariot and horse, the  
army and the power (they shall lie down together, they shall not rise;  
they are extinguished, they are quenched like a wick)*

*- Isaiah 43:16-17*

## Observation Worksheet

**Exodus 14:5-9** Now it was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled, and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people; and they said, "Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?" <sup>6</sup>So he made ready his chariot and took his people with him. <sup>7</sup>Also, he took six hundred choice chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt with captains over every one of them. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the children of Israel; and the children of Israel went out with boldness. <sup>9</sup>So the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping by the sea beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon.