

Let the Journey Begin

a study in the book of Exodus

Give God Time to Work - Exodus 14:11-14

Lesson 9

Matthew Henry wrote: "In times of great difficulty and great expectation, it is our wisdom to keep our spirits calm, quiet, and sedate; for then we are in the best frame both to do our own work and to consider the work of God. Exodus 14:10 records that the people *cried out to the LORD*. But rather than wait on Him, they reflected their fear by blaming Moses. Moses responded by refocusing them upon the LORD, who, in spite of circumstances, was still their deliverer.

Read Exodus 14:11-14

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*, *Moses*, and *the children of Israel*.
Key Words: *LORD*, *Moses*, *Egypt/Egyptians*, and pronouns referring to *the children of Israel/people*
3. List the complaints made by the children of Israel.

Read Exodus 14:11

1. Record the last sentence of Exodus 14:10.

a. *Fear* led them to *cry out to the LORD*. What do you think they prayed?

b. The children of Israel *cried out to the LORD*. But the LORD did not immediately answer them. So, they turned on Moses, the man they blamed for leading them out of Egypt. What two questions did they ask Moses in verse 11?

1.) What might we determine was their motive in their prayer by considering their quick reaction to blame Moses?

2. The children of Israel *lifted their eyes* (verse 10) and their response to what they saw was *fear*. Thoughtfully write the words of Psalm 56:3.

a. Why is it so important to *trust* the LORD when we are *afraid*?

b. Express to the LORD a few words of gratitude that He understands that circumstances can provoke fear, and He does not rebuke us for that initial reaction.

3. Given the predicament of being hemmed in by the Red Sea and the vast Egyptian army, the children of Israel thought they were going to *die*. They determined they might as well have *died* in Egypt. Consider a time when you wondered why God did something in your life, only to feel like it wasn't turning out the way you expected, possibly thinking you were better off before. What was the fallacy of your thinking?
 - a. Think about the words of Joseph to his brothers in Genesis 50:20. What can we learn from this?

Read Exodus 14:12

1. Their complaint continues in verse 12. What did they say?
2. After Moses and Aaron met with Pharaoh requesting that he release Israel, Pharaoh increased the workload of the children of Israel. No longer would they be supplied with straw; they would have to find their own. Yet their workload would not be reduced. When the people went to Pharaoh and questioned his decision, he blamed Moses and Aaron. What did the people say to Moses and Aaron in Exodus 5:21?
 - a. Often, when the LORD is beginning a work in our life and we submit to it, life gets more difficult. Why do you think that happens?
 - b. What encouragement do you see in Job 23:10?
3. The word *complained* is found twenty times during the account of the Exodus journey. What profit is there in complaining?
 - a. Although God rarely uses the same form of judgment, God's perception of *complaining* has not changed. Record the first sentence of Numbers 11:1.
 - 1.) In what ways should knowing how your complaining affects the LORD, deter you?

Read Exodus 14:13

1. Rather than rebuke the children of Israel for their challenging words, Moses sought to address their *fear*. What did he say?
 - a. What is the lesson in this?

2. What three things did Moses tell them to do?
 - a. Moses told them to *stand still*. What are we sometimes inclined to do when we are *afraid*?

3. What did Moses promise them they would *see*?
 - a. Who would *accomplish* their *salvation/deliverance*?

 - b. Record the encouraging words of Lamentations 3:26.
 - 1.) Describe what *waiting on the LORD* looks like.

4. Record the last sentence of Exodus 14:13.
 - a. This promise far exceeded what their minds could conceive. What victory has God given you that is so much more than you ever expected?

Read Exodus 14:14

1. Reflect upon the words of verse 14 as you write them.
 - a. What do they say to you?

2. After the crossing of the Red Sea, Moses wrote a song of praise. It contains the words of Exodus 15:3. What are they?
 - a. Imagine Moses as he sung those words – what do you think his thoughts might have been?

3. During the entire time of the Egyptians *drawing near*, the cloud of God's presence remained. Record the words of Exodus 13:22.
 - a. How does knowing the LORD's presence encourage you in times you feel threatened?

4. The responsibility of the children of Israel was to *hold their peace*. Using your own words define this phrase.
 - a. What helps you to *hold your peace* when all around you seems to be crumbling?

Review Exodus 14:11-14

1. What did you learn from this lesson about:

Complaining

Trusting the LORD

God's desire and power to deliver His people

Standing still and holding your peace

2. What is your favorite thought about this lesson?

*For thus the LORD has spoken to me: "As a lion roars,
and a young lion over his prey (when a multitude of shepherds is summoned against
him, he will not be afraid of their voice nor be disturbed by their noise),
So the LORD of hosts will come down to fight for Mount Zion and for its hill."*

- Isaiah 31:4

Observation Worksheet

Exodus 14:11-14 Then they said to Moses, "Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? ¹² Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians?' For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness." ¹³ And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."