

Lesson 12 – “God Will Deliver in His Own Way”
Exodus 14:21-29

*“Way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper, light in the darkness
My God, that is Who You are ...”*

(From “Way Maker,” song written by Christian artist Sinach)

- Way Maker: He made a way for the Israelites to cross the Red Sea when there was no way.
“I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King. Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea and a path through the mighty waters ...” Isaiah 43:15-16
- Miracle Worker: The Israelites had seen first hand all of the miracles God had performed through the plagues that were beset on the Egyptians, while the children of Israel were kept safe.
*“ ... I will remember the years of the right hand of the most High. I will remember Your wonders of old. I will also meditate on all Your work, and talk of Your deeds.”
Psalm 77:10-12*
- Promise Keeper: The Lord kept all of the promises He made to the people through Moses, most notably that they would walk on dry land across the sea. God keeps His promises.
“For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him, Amen, to the glory of God through us.” 1 Corinthians 1:20
- Light in the Darkness: He was their pillar of light (fire) that guided them as they crossed the sea, and that same pillar of fire would continue to guide them throughout their journey.
*“The Lord my God will enlighten my darkness.” Psalm 18:28
“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?” Psalm 27:1
“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” John 8:12*

Our scriptures today tell the miraculous story of one of the greatest events in Biblical history. As we know from what we’ve studied so far, the Israelites were trapped between the sea and the army of Pharaoh which was pursuing them. Let’s read our scriptures today in Chapter 14:21-29.

Crossing the Red Sea was not like crossing any ordinary river or lake or stream. This was a great body of water, and our scripture says it took them all night. Last week, Marina talked about how the pillar of cloud that, up to now, had gone before them, had now moved to the rear of them and become a guard between the Israelites and the Egyptian army pursuing them. God, the Creator of light and darkness, allowed the pillar to be a light for the Israelites on one side, and a foreboding veil of darkness to the Egyptians on the other.

Now Moses goes into action and follows the command the Lord had given him in back in v. 16. He stretches out his rod over the water, and God creates one of the most dramatic scenes in the Bible ... He causes a mighty wind to part the waters of the Red Sea, a wind so strong that it even dries the land between the waters, allowing the people to cross on dry ground. We can only imagine their fear as they walked through those great walls of water on either side of them. It had to be terrifying to see and terrifying to hear, since the whole time they were crossing, that loud, powerful wind had to keep blowing in order to hold the walls of water back. And yet, somehow they managed to continue, just as we read in Hebrews 11:29: *“By faith they passed through the*

Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.” The key words there, of course are “*by faith!*”

If the Lord had just delivered the people by allowing them to arrive safely on the other side of the sea, that, in itself, would have been a wondrous and marvelous thing, but God did not stop there! We all know that He Himself had said He would harden Pharaoh’s heart (v. 17), so that he and his army would go after the Israelites, and so in v. 23 we see that they indeed did. In v. 24 we’re told, “*that the Lord looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud ...*” It amazes me that the Lord was watching everything that was taking place, and it should be a source of great comfort to us to know that He is always watching and ready to move on our behalf.

The rest of the scripture tells us that the Lord caused chaos among the Egyptians by taking the wheels off their chariots and, even then, they continued their pursuit! God then tells Moses to stretch his hand out over the sea so that the waters will return to their full depth. The same dry land that the Israelites were able to walk across now turned into a watery grave for every single Egyptian that had pursued them ... even Pharaoh!

“Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained. But the children of Israel had walked on dry land in the midst of the sea, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.” Exodus 14:28-29

Needless to say, after witnessing God’s power over the mighty sea, the Israelites now feared the Lord with a greater reverence than ever before. We can assume that at this point, their faith must have grown by leaps and bounds, and they must have been sorry for all their murmurings and complaints and doubts. Would they remain as penitent as they were now? As we’ll see in lessons to come – sadly, no. We can read about this in Psalm 106:7-8 where the psalmist writes: “*Our fathers in Egypt did not understand Your wonders; they did not remember the multitude of Your mercies, but rebelled by the sea – the Red Sea. Nevertheless He saved them for His name’s sake, that He might make His mighty power known.*” The Israelites did not deserve God’s mercy, anymore than we do today, and yet, God continued to love them and care for them and call them His people, just as He loves us and is faithful to us. That is the character of God; it is Who He is. He shows us unconditional love, even when we don’t deserve it. Whether the Israelites deserved it or not, they knew in their hearts that God would, without a doubt, do what He said He would do; that His power was unlimited, and that they would indeed reach the promised land!

The Israelites were not the only ones in awe of what had God had done. The event was so epic that word of what happened spread throughout the land. In the first two chapters of the book of Joshua, for example, after the death of Moses, we read that God spoke to Joshua and told him to go forward and possess the land He had given to the Israelites. Joshua did indeed take up the reins but, before proceeding, he sent out two spies to go and snoop around the city of Jericho. They came to the home of Rahab, a prostitute, who decides to hide them, saving them from the King’s soldiers who had come looking for them. Why did she risk her life and the lives of her family when it would’ve meant certain death for all of them if what she did had been discovered? It was because she had heard about how God had saved His people at the Red Sea, and she had believed! “*I know that the Lord has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt ...*” Others, like Rahab, no doubt also began to fear God and believe. After all, what could the God Who was able to part the Red Sea NOT do?

While the astounding account of the parting of the Red Sea is considered one of the most significant and impactful events in Bible, there will always be skeptics who seek to refute whether it really happened or not, just as they try to deny other great works of God in the Bible. In order to understand and believe, one has to have an understanding of God’s sovereignty and His unlimited power and the fact that what He is capable of doing transcends any physical laws of this world ... this world which He created and, of course, sadly, they do not or cannot or will not.

The lesson for us in today's scriptures is not only that God parted the Red Sea for the people of Israel, as phenomenal as that was, but it is also a metaphor for us that God can bring us through any difficulty, no matter how great or insurmountable that difficulty may seem to be. But don't take my word for it, look at what the scriptures say:

"Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for you." Jeremiah 32:17

"...with God all things are possible." Luke 19:26

"For I am the Lord, I do not change ..." Malachi 3:6

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." Hebrews 13:8

Our God can make a way where there seems to be none, just as He did for the Israelites. Those who choose to follow Him and accept His gift of salvation will always find Him faithful to His promises. Moses, God's great (although at times reluctant) ambassador, was vindicated at the Red Sea. This was the end of Pharaoh, with whom Moses had pleaded on behalf of his people, only to be mocked and rejected. The great Pharaoh and his mighty army were now in their graves at the bottom of the Red Sea. God had had the final word!

*"He turned the sea into dry land; they went through the river on foot.
There we will rejoice in Him." Psalm 66:6*

*"He divided the sea and caused them to pass through;
and He made the waters stand up like a heap." Psalm 78:13*

*"He rebuked the Red Sea also, and it dried up;
so He led them through the depths, as through the wilderness." Psalm 106:9*

*"To Him Who divided the Red Sea in two, for His mercy endures forever;
and made Israel pass through the midst of it, for His mercy endures forever;
but overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea, for His mercy endures forever." Psalm 136:13-15*

What does God's parting of the Red Sea look like for us today?

Physical healing for you or a loved one?
Deliverance from an addiction for you or a loved one?
Strength to overcome depression or a tragedy or grief?
The need for God to fight a battle for you?

Whatever it is, believe! Believe in God's saving power and His divine intervention on behalf of His people throughout all of history. And always remember that He made a way for us; a way for us to receive eternal life through Jesus Christ. When we were drowning in our own sins, He parted the waters for us, too. In John 14:6, Jesus said, *"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."* He IS the way; He's our way maker!

*"For this reason, I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed,
for I know Whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep
what I have committed to Him until that Day." 2 Timothy 1:12*

