

You Need Only To Be Still

Exodus 14:5-31

I. God has two main purposes in redemption.

- A. Exodus is a type representing the exodus of redemption.
 - 1. Purpose #1: To bring glory to himself (Exodus 14:18).
 - 2. Purpose #2: To redeem a people for himself (II Samuel 7:22-24).
- B. Is God being selfish or arrogant?
 - 1. No, he's being God.
 - (a) His glory is the highest good for him and for us!
 - (b) It is a great grace to be called to be his people!
- C. God will sovereignly direct circumstances for these purposes.
 - 1. He will show Pharaoh and Egypt that he alone is Lord.
 - 2. He will rescue his people "with an outstretched arm."
- D. Pharaoh will finally tell the Israelites, "Go."
 - 1. Without any weapons he has defeated the Superpower.
 - (a) He even sends his people out with plunder.
 - (b) He sovereignly moves the Egyptians to willingly give it.
 - 2. But God will harden Pharaoh's heart.
 - (a) Pharaoh will regret releasing Israel.
 - (b) He will pursue them with his chariots.
 - (c) In a moment God will wipe out the entire army.
 - (d) That completes God's judgment of Egypt.

II. God is birthing a nation. Its citizens will be his people.

- A. God's goal has always been to raise up people who love and trust him.
 - 1. He made us in his image to reflect him.
 - (a) To reflect his character.
 - (b) To live out his values (love, loyalty, faithfulness).
 - 2. God's image in us was marred by sin.
 - (a) The process had become a redemptive process.
 - (b) He needed to rescue us and transform us.
- B. So, when Israel leaves Egypt, they are entering a discipleship process.
 - 1. Discipleship is the process through which God forms and transforms us.
 - (a) The goal is that we become like him.
 - (b) We bring glory to God as we live like him.
- C. The discipleship process develops faith (trust).

- 1. Relationship with God often starts with a "honeymoon."
 - (a) During "honeymoon" relationship with God can seem easy.
 - (b) Everything seems new and wonderful.
 - (c) We have not yet been challenged.
 - (d) How did the Israelites feel on their first day of freedom?
- 2. We are somewhat shocked when we hit our first struggle.
 - (a) "God are you still there? Do you still love me?"
 - (b) God provides and allows trials to strengthen us.
- 3. God did not send Israel to Philistia (Exodus 13:17-18).
 - (a) They were armed for battle but not ready for war.
 - (b) Their first trial will be the threat of death, though.

III. The Red Sea experience is faith training.

- A. God is making his presence known (Exodus 13:21-22).
 - 1. He specifically places Israel between desert and sea.
 - 2. Here come the Egyptians (Exodus 14:9).
- B. The Israelites have their back to the sea.
 - 1. They see the Egyptians charging.
 - (a) Israel is hemmed in with nowhere to go.
 - 2. Have you ever had your life threatened with no way out?
 - (a) Maybe in war. Maybe in another circumstance.
 - 3. Chariots are like tanks (blitzkrieg weapons).
 - (a) People on foot were no match for chariots.
 - 4. They've already experienced the brutality of the Egyptians.
 - (a) These are the people who lost their firstborn sons.
 - 5. The Israelites are terrified (Exodus 14:10-12).
 - (a) Immediately they abandon faith in God.
 - (b) They blame and accuse Moses.
- C. Moses reacts very differently than the other Israelites.
 - 1. Why? Because he has greater experience with God.
 - (a) He has seen God prove himself faithful many times.
 - (b) He has seen God do the impossible over and over.
 - 2. Moses has grown in his ability to trust God (Ex. 14:13-14).
 - 3. God's perspective: (Exodus 14:15-16).
 - 4. I think he would say the same thing to us.
 - (a) Why are you crying out to me...?
 - (b) The Lord fights for you! (Exodus 14:23-25)
 - 5. A celebration and a prophecy: (Exodus 15:11-13).