

LIFE OF MOSES
STUCK BETWEEN PHARAOH AND THE SEA
EXODUS 13, 14

I. GOD DID NOT LEAD THE ISRAELITES BY THE QUICKEST WAY 13:17

A. NOT BY THE WAY OF THE LAND OF THE PHILISTINES

B. Why did God not lead them that way?

1. People might change their minds when they see war
2. God had some lessons to teach the Israelites could only be learned this way
3. God was working on Pharaoh's heart

C. God led the people around by the way of the wilderness v. 18

1. Which way did they travel?
2. How long did it take?
3. What was it like?

D. The LORD was with them however 13:21,22

1. God led them by a pillar of cloud by day
2. God led them by a pillar of fire at night
3. What does that mean for the Israelites?
4. What should these pillars have given the Israelites?
5. Notice that the pillars never left the Israelites v.22

II. PHARAOH CHASES AFTER THE ISRAELITES 14:1-12

A. God told Moses to tell the Israelites to turn back v1,2

1. It was God initiating it

B. God told Moses what Pharaoh will do v.3,4

1. Pharaoh will think the Israelites are trapped v.3
2. God will harden Pharaoh's heart so he will chase after them
3. Why?

C. Pharaoh's response v. 5-9

1. "What is this we have done, that we have let the Israelites go"
2. He took 600 select chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with him v.6,7
3. Pharaoh overtook the Israelites as they were camping by the sea v. 9
 - a. v. 8 as they were going out boldly
 - b. v. 9 as they were camping
 - c. What happened?
4. Notice the response of the Israelites to Pharaoh v. 10
 - a. What did they see?
 - b. They became very "frightened"
 - c. They cried out to the LORD
5. Their words to Moses v. 11,12
 - a. "is it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness?"
 - b. Notice, " Why have you dealt with us this way?"
 - c. "Is this not the word that we spoke to you in Egypt saying leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians?"
 - d. Their lack of gratitude to Moses is amazing

D. What is wrong with them?

1. Their perspective of the situation was based on a horizontal perspective
2. They could not see what God was up to through this
3. They had forgotten all that God had just done
4. Their trust was in themselves not God and in life going the way they wanted
5. Do we do the exact same things?
6. Earlier they had blamed Moses for their problems Exodus 5:20-22

III. MOSES' DIRECTIONS TO THE PEOPLE 14:13-15

A. "Do not fear" v.13

1. The only way to not be afraid is to know that God is with you
2. That He is in complete control and has allowed this

B. "Stand by" and see the salvation of the LORD" v.13

C. "See the salvation of the LORD" v.13

1. He will accomplish for you today
2. For the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see again forever"
3. "see"=
4. There is a retrospective sense to the word see

D. "Keep silent" v.14

1. Moses' instruction was for them to keep still while God fought
2. Why is that so hard to do?
3. What would have happened if they did not listen but decided to fight?
4. Pharaoh's army was God's problem not theirs

5. Many of the battles of life that we fight were never ordained by God for us to fight

E. Which of those four is the hardest for us to practice and why?

IV. GOD'S RESPONSE V.15-31

A. God's words v.15-18

1. "Why are you crying out to Me?"
 - a. Who is you?
2. "Tell the sons of Israel to go forward"
 - a. forward? which way?
3. notice that first God told Moses to move forward and then God told him what he would do in v.16
4. "lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea"
 - a. and divide the sea
 - b. so the sons of Israel shall go through the midst of the sea on dry land
 - c. Had Moses or the Israelites ever seen such a thing?
5. "I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so they will go in after them" v. 17
 - a. Had the Egyptians ever seen such a thing as the water splitting?
 - b. Yet they are emboldened to go in after the Israelites
 - c. Why would all this happen?

B. God's actions v. 19-22

1. The angel of God moved behind them
2. The Egyptians did not come near the Israelites all night

C. Moses stretched out his hand over the sea

1. The LORD swept the sea back by a strong east wind all night v.21
2. Turned the sea into dry ground
3. How far up the sea did this happen?

D. The waters became like a wall to the Israelites v.22

E. The Egyptians pursued v. 23-25

1. All the chariots and went into the midst of the sea v.23
2. The LORD brought the Egyptian army into "confusion"v.24, 25
3. The Egyptians recognized that it was God fighting for the Israelites v.25

F. God told Moses to stretch out his hand over the sea v. 26-29

1. The waters returned to their normal state
2. The entire Egyptian army that had gone into the sea was destroyed
3. Remember God's words in 14:13b
4. "But the sons of Israel walked on dry land through the midst of the sea" v. 29

G. The result? v. 30,31

1. "The LORD saved Israel that day" v.30
2. "The people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD"
3. "and "believed" in His servant Moses"
4. They sang a great song of victory and praise to God Ch. 15

V. LESSONS

A. IT IS GOD WHO LEADS US INTO TOUGH SITUATIONS

1. The key is can we trust him?

2. Psalm 46
3. God has a purpose for those tough situations
4. Did they rejoice in the way God was leading them?

B. Sometimes, God's leading seems strange and not what we would do

1. How do you respond when that happens?
2. Where do we turn for God's guidance?
 - a. Word of God 2 Timothy 3:16,17; Joshua 1:8; Psalm 119:9,11
 - b. The Holy Spirit John 16:13
3. God led the Israelites step by step not showing tomorrow
4. They only needed to be concerned where the pillar was at the present

C. God created us with the emotion of fear

1. It is part of being human
2. However, God never intended for us to stay in fear
3. Isaiah 41:10.

D. We are not in control, but God is

God self
fear
loneliness
anxiety
anger

E. Which of God's steps for handling difficult situations do you need to apply to your life right now?

1. Do not fear
2. Standby/still
3. See the salvation of the LORD
4. Keep silent
5. Go forward

G. Look at how much Moses has grown over the past 40 years

1. What is important is not what have been your failures but what you have learned and how you have been changed
2. We just see now and our failures

F. What other lessons should the Israelites have learned from this?

G. What other lessons can we learn from this?