

Summer at the Sea – Red Sea – July 5, 2023

This crossing has been linked to the creation of the United States.

Early colonists believed their journey was like crossing the Red Sea.

- America/ promised land. Atlantic Ocean / Red Sea. Indians / Canaanites
- To build a new commonwealth on God's Covenant entered into Mt. Sinai.
 - o It's the foundation for believing U.S. is a unique nation blessed by God with a special role to play in the world.
- July 4, 1776, committee appointed to create a seal for the US – John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, & Thomas Jefferson.

Miracle of the Red Sea gives us 7 truths: (Exodus 13-14) 430 yrs/free

Exodus 13:17-18 – 17 When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt."
18 So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt ready for battle.

1 – God knows us . . . and He knows what He is doing.

- He knows our weaknesses, our thoughts . . . and knows how to get us where we belong.
 - o They weren't meant to be slaves in Egypt ... but we choose the familiar over the unknown . . . the comfortable over the hard.
 - The journey to top of the Mtn is hard, but worth it.

Ex. 13:21-22 - 21 By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. 22 Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

2 – God Leads and Never Leaves

- o We don't have to struggle to find our way. Follow where He leads.
 - You can't follow God if you aren't looking for Him, listening
 - Where He leads isn't always easy. But it's for our best.
- o God never leaves. You aren't alone. If there's distance, who left?

Ex. 14:1-4 – 14 Then the Lord said to Moses, 2 “Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon. 3 Pharaoh will think, ‘The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.’ 4 And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord.” So the Israelites did this.

3 – God’s Journey for us is Intentional

- Sometimes it may feel like you’re going in circles... God has a reason.
 - The reason may be for impact on someone else.
- Each step in our journey is preparation for greatness.
 - Led by God. . . not confused, but confident. Destiny

4 – God can work thru Anyone

- Good triumphs over bad. That means, bad exists.
 - Bad bosses . . . bad co-workers . . . bad teachers, neighbors, etc.
 - Pharaoh was an evil leader . . . God worked thru Him.
 - But God is greater, and He uses the bad to bring good.
 - Miracles happen from Messes!
- Note: People are fickle... Pharaoh changed his mind, pursued them.
 - Put your trust in God, not people.

Ex. 14:10-14 - As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord. 11 They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? 12 Didn’t we say to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians’? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!”

13 Moses answered the people, “*Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again.* 14 *The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.*”

5 – We see Obstacles, God sees Opportunities

- This is Point #1 – they wanted slavery over a new life. Saw no way.
 - People saw a problem, instead of a big God!

- Missing miracles b/c we're afraid...complaining...quit?
- God always has a way . . . Nothing is impossible . . .
- God will fight for you, God will open doors . . . Be still / Stand firm.
 - God doesn't want us to be afraid, He wants us to trust Him.
 - God can make your problem something you'll never see again!

Ex. 14:15-16 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. 16 Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground.

6 – God Moves . . . when we do

- God often asks for our obedience first... it shows faith & trust.
- Take a step forward in faith . . . God won't let you down.
 - The greatest victory in your life will come after the greatest challenge

Ex. 14:24-29 says God put the Egyptian army into confusion. . . jammed the wheels of their chariots so they couldn't drive. The Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

- Moses stretched his hand over the sea & at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were swept into the sea. Not one survived. "29 But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. 30 That day the Lord saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. 31 And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant."

7 – God Still Parts the Sea

- God is not done . . . He's the same yesterday... Miracles still happen.
 - We'll have Red Sea moments. God knows how to defeat enemies. He fights for You.
- Every challenge is an opportunity for us to put more trust in God.
 - **Eph 6:13** - "after you have done everything, just stand."
- Don't give up. Don't give in. Don't quit. **God has a miracle for you!**

Song/week - "Red Sea" – Shelly Johnson