

# FACING SEAS

Read [Psalm 105:26-38](#).

Background leading up to [Exodus 14](#):

- Israel and Egypt's history started out well, but then Egypt turned against them as Israel multiplied ([Psalm 105:24-25](#)).
- Eventually God responded to their cry and remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob ([Exodus 1:23-24](#)).
- God sent Moses and Aaron to Egypt for the purpose of liberating His people ([Exodus 3](#)).
- The Pharaoh and Egypt were hit by God with 10 plagues ([Exodus 7-12](#)).
- God's people (600,000 men besides women and children) exited Egypt having plundered the Egyptians ([Exodus 12:36-37](#)). This also included a mixed multitude ([vs. 38](#)). The Lord delivered His host of people.
- God's people were in Egypt for 430 years ([Exodus 12:40-41](#)).
- God did not lead them by the Philistines, lest they see war and return to Egypt ([Exodus 13:17](#)), though they were prepared for battle ([vs. 18](#)).
- God led the people by day in a pillar of cloud and by night in a pillar of fire ([Exodus 13:22](#)).

Brethren, how good is life right now? The day has finally arrived. You've got your family together. You're leaving all burdens behind. God has provided all things necessary. **You're liberated.** Start writing your songs, right? Sing them at the top of your lungs as you defiantly leave Egypt! God is good. God is trustworthy. God is loving . . . all these lovely things we think and feel when life is peachy.

You're untouchable and ready for anything . . . or so you think.

**Didn't See That Coming:** [Exodus 14:1-4](#).

- Imagine being Moses and hearing that! [Romans 9:14-23](#). God had the right to make an example out of Pharaoh in order to send Egypt a message: "I am Jehovah and there is none like Me." I'm sure Israel wasn't complaining about their salvation, were they? They were followers of God, but it's not as though they were without any criticism. At the end of the day, we're all saved by God's mercy and grace.
- Not only is God showing His power, authority, and wrath through His handling of Egypt, but His goodness and protection of those whom He loves. He hears and delivers His children who cry out to Him. He remembers His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He does not forget. When He makes a promise - He keeps it. That is, by the way, the

major point in the complicated **Romans 9** passage. Just go back and read it carefully - you'll catch it. It's about God's promise.

#### **Facing Seas:** **Exodus 14:10-14**

- **They rebelled.** Where to begin? Fear? Disappointment? And is it wrong to have fear and experience disappointment? I don't believe so, but it's what we do with it. It's how we react to the fear and disappointment. Now, let's be careful about this lest we condemn ourselves. However, we do need to address this. Serving and praising God when things are going your way is easy and we all do it (**Psalm 106:12** *Then they believed His words; they sang His praise.*) We need to take note of something: **they rebelled against God.**
  - **Psalm 106:6-8** *Both we and our fathers have sinned; we have committed iniquity; we have done wickedness. Our fathers, when they were in Egypt, did not consider Your wondrous works; they did not remember the abundance of Your steadfast love, but rebelled by the sea, at the Red Sea. Yet He saved them for His name's sake, that He might make known His mighty power.*
  - Someone will say, "Yeah, but could you imagine having children by your side as you watch an army coming at you?" That's right - it was a tough position to be in, but that was kind of the point. The Psalmist would ask, "Did you not consider how He just freed you with His mighty hand?" It's funny when you read the Psalms about this event: some remember what God has done and it fuels them while others forget and they tank.
- **God's not done with you.** God wasn't done with Israel. Naturally, we don't want conflict. We want peace, and the thing is, God wants that as well. But, sometimes God sees something in you that you can't see . . . something He needs to address. Not only would God get glory, but His people desperately needed this experience. This isn't like the 10 plagues where God's children were protected many times. They needed to face their enemy head on and see what God would do. When He says He's going to do something, He will. Emphasis on what HE will do - the power is in His hands.
  - By the way, and I overlook this, we forget what He didn't do: He didn't send them by the Philistines and make them physically fight on their way out. No, this battle they're about to face, God will handle. The text says He would "work" or "fight" for them. He was going to work these guys over. As He said, "You have only to be silent." He knew that would be too much for them at that point. Let's not forget this before we continue. He will not allow overwhelm you with waters. He will not allow you to be tempted beyond your ability. He will provide a way of escape. (**1 Corinthians 10:13**).

#### **Walking Through Them:** **Exodus 14:15-31**

- **They Crossed.** You've heard this so many times. Israel definitely heard it - many more times than we have I'm sure. But hearing about it isn't the same as being there. Let's give this generation credit for their faith at least at this point, because the Hebrew writer did:
  - **Hebrews 11:29** "By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned."

- Could you imagine what that had to be like? God says, "I'll do my part, but they must do their's . . . tell the people of Israel to go forward." Can you imagine looking at your neighbor at that point? Brothers . . . imagine looking over at your wife. What would you say, "Ladies first!" On one hand you've got to trust in the Lord, right, but on the other hand . . . what if it all comes crashing down? I've tried to imagine what that was like. Movies have attempted to capture it, but you can't duplicate that. You can't smell the salt water. You can't know what's it's like to hear a strong/raging wind through the night separating a sea. You can't see the look on your child's face. And on it goes. You can't duplicate that. But, they did, and they walked.
- **He's not trying to kill you, but rather kill all doubt as to who He is.** His goal isn't to kill the enemy, but rather kill any doubt in who He is and to what length we can trust in Him. Such lesson should result in loyalty to Him, because we've learned that He has a purpose behind what He does or allows.
- **This was God's mercy and grace.** "Nope", you say as you shake your head. Yes, it was. Because they came out then other side having learned a lesson. "Israel saw the great power that the Lord used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in His servant Moses." (*vs. 31*).
  - It's how the Psalmist sees it: *Psalm 136:10-15 to Him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, for His steadfast love endures forever; and brought Israel out from among them, for His steadfast love endures forever; with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, for His steadfast love endures forever; to Him who divided the Red Sea in two, for His steadfast love endures forever; and made Israel pass through the midst of it, for His steadfast love endures forever; but overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea, for His steadfast love endures forever;*
    - Think there were adulterers, liars and thieves in that group of 1-2 million people? Yet, God, out of love saved them that day.
- *Psalm 77:10-20 Then I said, "I will appeal to this, to the years of the right hand of the Most High." I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember Your wonders of old. I will ponder all Your work, and meditate on Your mighty deeds. Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God? You are the God who works wonders; You have made known Your might among the peoples. You with Your arm redeemed Your people, the children of Jacob and Joseph. Selah When the waters saw You, O God, when the waters saw You, they were afraid; indeed, the deep trembled. The clouds poured out water; the skies gave forth thunder; Your arrows flashed on every side. The crash of Your thunder was in the whirlwind; Your lightnings lighted up the world; the earth trembled and shook. Your way was through the sea, Your path through the great waters; yet Your footprints were unseen. You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.*
  - Don't every think, when you come out the other side, that because you only saw your feet walking the road that God wasn't there. The power wasn't in Moses or

his rod. It wasn't in the people. It was God and God alone. Yes, you go forward, but God has fought the battle and won. You just have to figure out who's side you're on.

- So, as God told Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Go forward!"
  - **Colossians 2:6-7** Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.
  - One more warning: did the Egyptians have faith in God? They saw what God was doing and walked on dry ground, but they didn't do it in faith. Why? It wasn't for the purpose of truly serving Him. They were taking advantage of His power and love for Israel, but God wasn't looking to save them because they did not serve Him. Remember, going through the actions doesn't mean someone is a follower of God. So, when you walk, do it by faith.
  - Let's not forget that we're saved by grace through faith. Let's not forget what He has done. He's liberated us from Satan's grip through His Son, our Christ. You know, the next passage in Hebrews 11 skips forward 40 years. Why? Because that generation who crossed the sea forgot their God and hardened their heart. They died in the wilderness and did not enter the rest.
  - God was with them the whole time (1 Corinthians 10:1ff). God is with you. Don't stop walking. Jesus walked that road to Calvary for you. The people would see His death and say, "Well, where's the victory now? Where's the help now? He's defeated?" Because, obviously, there's no possible way around their logic. He's dead! But God smiles and says, "Get it a few days and you'll see."