

## Exodus Lesson #6, Chapters 14-15

“Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord which He will accomplish for you today (Exodus 14:13).” Oh, there’s so much in this lesson! Take the time to ask the Lord for eyes to see, ear to hear, and a will to do all that God has for you here.

1. As chapter 14 opens, where were the Israelites camped according to Exodus 13:20?
2. In Exodus 14:1-2 God gives Moses some specific directions for the Israelites. What does God want Moses to do?
3. What is God’s purpose in directing the Israelites as He did? See Exodus 14:3-4.
4. Pharaoh once again changes his mind, continuing to harden his heart against the Lord, despite the devastation, destruction, and sorrow his stubbornness created. What is Pharaoh’s motivation in chasing after the Israelites according to Exodus 14:5-9?
5. Describe what the Israelites saw from Exodus 14:6-9.
6. Though Moses had told the Israelites that Pharaoh would chase after them (see Exodus 14:4), what happened when the Israelites caught sight of the rapidly advancing army? See Exodus 14:10-12.

7. In spite of all God had done for them during His judgment on Egypt with the plagues, the Israelites' faith was still small to nonexistent. In what ways did their unbelief reveal itself in verses 10-12?
  
8. We don't have to look far in our own lives before we discover similar faintheartedness. Just like Israel, we've been the recipients of the Lord's intervention and deliverance in many ways in the past, yet when tested by new circumstances we can struggle to believe that God will rescue us *again*. Each test brings with it new opportunities to trust the Lord. From the verses that follow, list what you learn about gaining courage when your heart grows faint: Deuteronomy 31:6; Joshua 1:7-9; Psalm 27:1-14; 43:1-5; Luke 12:22-34; John 16:33; Romans 4:18-21; 1 Peter 4:19.
  
9. How did Moses respond to the people's unbelief? See Exodus 14:13-14. What faith-building elements are contained in his message to the people?
  
10. Notice the verbs in Moses' command to the people in verses 13-14, then note *who* is to do the action. Though we may face different circumstances, our response to them should still be framed in much the same way. How do those truths line up with other admonitions from the Scriptures? See Deuteronomy 31:6-8; Psalm 27:1-3; 37:7; 46:1-3; 56:1-4; Isaiah 41:10-14; 1 Corinthians 10:13.
  
11. Publicly, Moses reminded the people of God's promise to deliver and His power to do so. Privately, in his interaction with the Lord, what can you surmise was going on in Moses' heart? See Exodus 14:14-18.

12. *The leader needed encouragement too.* What specific things did God do for Moses to strengthen his heart during this intense time of testing? See Exodus 14:15-18. In answering this question, look for elements or principles God used to strengthen His fearful leader.
  
13. God always intended the Red Sea crossing to be an instructive and soul-strengthening time for the people of God. Read the following Scriptures, then consider what God wants us to take away from this amazing wonder: Nehemiah 9:9-15; Psalm 66:5-7; 78:9-13; 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 11-13; Hebrews 11:29.
  
14. List God's wonders on behalf of the Israelites from Exodus 14:19-31.
  
15. Read through the Israelites' song of praise to the Lord in Exodus 15:1-18. Notice and then list the attributes of God they focus on and how He is described in the song.
  
16. Eager Beaver: Check these other references to the songs of Moses: Deuteronomy 31:19, 22; 32:1-43; Revelation 15:2-4. What observations can you make about Moses, the songwriter, from our texts in Exodus, Deuteronomy, and Revelation? How are the songs similar?
  
17. Psalm 103:2 reminds us that we bless the Lord when we "forget none of His benefits." Take some time right now to look for and review the Lord's many acts of kindness, intervention, and even rescue, in your life. Just like He intended for Israel, God desires His works to encourage you to a greater love and trust in Him. Bless God by writing out a prayer of praise and trust in a similar fashion to Israel's song in Exodus 15.

18. The final scene of the Red Sea crossing is described in Exodus 15:19-21. How is verse 19 a fitting summary to the Lord's deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt?
19. We're told in 1 Corinthians 10:11, "Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come." What lessons for life can you glean from the Israelites' story that will help you live your own to the glory of God?
- a. Here's one to get you started: The Israelites were surprised to find themselves stuck between the Red Sea and Pharaoh's army, yet God had led them to that very spot. You may find yourself in a fearful spot too, yet you are exactly where God intends you to be also. In fact, He has led you here. The difficulties you are facing are part of His sovereign plan for you.
  - b. What else can you glean from their story?
  - c. Anything else?
20. If only we could end the study on this triumphant note with Israel trusting the Lord and praising Him for His deliverance. Unfortunately, that wasn't the case. What happened next in the Israelites' journey according to Exodus 15:22-24?
21. Charles Spurgeon said, "Their first trouble was too much water, the second is too little; our trials are of all kinds."<sup>1</sup> Sometimes the littlest things discourage us, so we grumble and complain against the Lord. How does an active remembrance of the Lord's past dealings protect us from unbelief and lack of faith? See also Deuteronomy 7:17-19; 8:2-3; Psalm 27:13; 63:6-8; 143:5-6.

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<sup>1</sup> C. H. Spurgeon, *The Interpreter: Spurgeon's Devotional Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1964), 85.

22. Exodus 15:25 says God *tested* the Israelites. As you read the verses that follow, consider God's purpose in testing the hearts of his children. What do you learn from Exodus 16:4; Deuteronomy 8:2, 16; Ps 66:10; Proverbs 17:3; Isaiah 48:10; 1 Peter 1:6-7?
23. What is God's desire for His children according to Exodus 15:26? What would be God's purpose in giving consequences for unbelief and disobedience? How is Hebrews 12:5-11 the same?
24. From our brief look at these two chapters, what truths stand out to you to take to heart?

"Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord."

— Exodus 14:13

These words contain God's command to the believer when he is reduced to great straits and brought into extraordinary difficulties. He cannot retreat; he cannot go forward; he is shut up on the right hand and on the left; what is he now to do? The Master's word to him is, "Stand still." It will be well for him if at such times he listens only to his Master's word, for other and evil advisers come with their suggestions. Despair whispers, "Lie down and die; give it all up." But God would have us put on a cheerful courage, and even in our worst times, rejoice in His love and faithfulness. Cowardice says, "Retreat; go back to the worldling's way of action; you cannot play the Christian's part, it is too difficult. Relinquish your principles." But, however much Satan may urge this course upon you, you cannot follow it if you are a child of God. His divine fiat has bid thee go from strength to strength, and so thou shalt, and neither death nor hell shall turn thee from thy course. What, if for a while thou art called to stand still, yet this is but to renew thy strength for some greater advance in due time. Urgency cries, "do something. Stir yourself; to stand still and wait, is sheer idleness." We must be doing something at once—we must do it so we think—instead of looking to the Lord, who will not only do something but will do everything. Presumption boasts, "If the sea be before you, march into it and expect a miracle." But Faith listens neither to Presumption, nor to Despair, nor to Cowardice, nor to Urgency, but it hears God say, "Stand still," and immovable as a rock it stands. "Stand still;"—keep the posture of an upright man, ready for action, expecting further orders, cheerfully and patiently awaiting the directing voice; and it will not be long ere God shall say to you, as distinctly as Moses said it to the people of Israel, "Go forward." Charles Spurgeon<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Charles H. Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening: Daily Readings*, Complete and unabridged; New modern edition. (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2006).