

Introduction: God always does what He says; but, almost never in the way we expect He would. Followers of Jesus know that everything they get from Him comes with some suffering, because that is how they get to take up their cross and follow after their crucified Savior. *** A hindrance for those living in America to fully trust God to do what He has said is our materialism, trust in 'so called' science, which leads to a skepticism of all miracles. But, the history in the Bible shows this has always been so concerning the true Covenant God, Yahweh. People are always more comfortable with 'gods' they have created in their own image, who they hope will give them what they want. *** The deliverance of the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt is a perfect illustration of God always doing what He says, in spite of people. *** Yahweh gave Abraham His word that his descendents would possess the land of Canaan, but only after they were enslaved for four hundred years in a land that was not their own (*Genesis 15*). After the four hundred years, Yahweh called Moses to deliver His people, but his first encounters with Pharaoh only made matters worse for the Israelites (*Exodus 3-6*). Then Yahweh sent ten devastating supernatural plagues on the nation of Egypt while His people saw what He did (*Exodus 7-13*). This sets up the events in our chapter which finds Israel between 'the devil' (Pharaoh) 'and the deep blue' (Red) 'sea'. First they fear, then they pray, but they end up complaining and confronting Moses. Even after the supernatural plagues on Egypt they still did not believe God's word, namely: *The salvation of God's people is also judgment on His enemies*. Let's look closer.

I. When the Egyptians pursue Israel, they fear and complain; but, Yahweh reassures them and divides the sea so they go through on dry land, but the Egyptians are drowned. (*Exodus 14:5-7, 10-14, 21-29*)

A. The Egyptians pursue and draw near the Israelites, causing them to fear and criticize Moses; but, he reassures them with a word from Yahweh. (*Verses 5-7, 10-14*)

1. When Egypt's king was told that the people fled, then his heart was changed to the people, and he and his servants said, 'What have we done that we dismissed Israel from slavery?' (*Verse 5*)

Pharaoh's change of heart: When all the firstborn had died, Pharaoh commanded Israel to go forth from them (*Exodus 12:29-38*); but, now he realizes he is losing cheap labor!

2. He made his chariot ready to attack, took his army, many chariots, and officers over all. (*Verses 6-7*)

Recapture: His goal is to recapture the people of Israel as slaves for Egypt.

3. Pharaoh came near and the Israelites lifted up their eyes, and behold, Egyptians marching after them; then they feared greatly and cried out to Yahweh. (*Verse 10*)

Prayer: This was the best thing they could do. Whenever we are afraid, we should pray.

4. They said to Moses, 'Is it because no graves in Egypt you have taken us to die in the wilderness? What have you done, bringing us out of Egypt? Did we not say in Egypt leave us, let us serve Egypt? Because better for us to serve Egypt than to die in the wilderness.' (*Verses 11-12*)

Complain: God set them free through Moses, but they are complaining to God's servant.

Choose slavery: They say they are choosing to be enslaved again, in spite of God's word to them that He would take them out of the harsh work of slavery to their own land.

God calls His children out of slavery

5. Moses said, 'You will not fear, stand firm, see the salvation of Yahweh, He will do for you today'. (*Verse 13a*)

Salvation: With three commands, the first in the form of the Ten Commandments they would later receive, Moses says Yahweh will give them salvation of victory and prosperity that day.

6. Because the Egyptians you see today, you will not see again continuing forever to eternity. (*Verse 13b*)

Enemies fate: Yahweh will remove the Egyptians from their sight forever and ever, and longer!

7. Yahweh will fight for you, and you will hold your peace – be silent. (*Verse 14*)

Yahweh: Yahweh will fight to save Israel and permanently remove Egypt. Five hundred years later, perhaps remembering this word, David told Goliath, 'The battle is Yahweh's' (*1 Samuel 17:47*).

People: If God's people will keep quiet, standing in faith of Yahweh rather than fear of circumstances, they will see Him miraculously save them.

Application: We must memorize and live by this promise-command of God: He will fight for His people when, based on human reasoning, there is no hope; but, they must stand silently in faith while He fights for them.

B. Yahweh divides the sea with a strong wind and the Israelites go through the sea on dry land; but, as the Egyptians follow, they are covered by the water. (*Verses 21-29*)

1. Moses stretched his hand over the sea and Yahweh drove back the sea all night by a strong east wind, and the sea was made dry land and the waters were divided. (*Verse 21*)

Miracle: This is a great miracle. In Mark's Gospel the word for divided is used twice: when the sky was torn open as The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus (*Mark 1:10-11*) and when the veil in the Temple was torn from top to bottom when Jesus died on The Cross (*Mark 15:38*). The miraculous salvation from physical slavery at the Red Sea is surpassed only by the miraculous salvation from sin Jesus gave on The Cross.

2. The Israelites went in the midst of the sea on dry land, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and their left. (*Verse 22*)

Application: The author of Hebrews wrote: 'By faith they passed through the Red Sea as though *they were passing* through dry land' (*Hebrews 11:29*, NAS). Notice, by faith they took the way God had already provided for them.

The dividing of the waters was God's miracle of grace. Their faith applied God's gracious miracle to save them from Egyptian slavery. May we have the faith of Jesus to be saved from sin by the miracle of what Jesus did on The Cross.

3. The Egyptians pursued and went in after them, all the horses and chariots, in the morning watch Yahweh looked down on the Egyptian host from the pillar of fire and cloud and troubled the host as ‘the wheels came off’ so they said, ‘let us flee because Yahweh is fighting for them’. (*Verses 23-25*)
Pursue: Pharaoh and the Egyptians will let nothing stop them in their pursuit to re-enslave Israel.
Yahweh troubles: But Yahweh troubled (confused, destroyed) them through their chariots.
Egypt flees Yahweh: They now try to flee Yahweh, but it is too late.
4. Yahweh told Moses to stretch out his hand over the sea; and, the water came back on Egypt and the chariots; and, the sea returned to its usual level; and, the waters covered all the Egyptians and their weapons; and, not so much as one remained. (*Verses 26-28*)
Yahweh to Moses: Yahweh caused the miraculous drowning of His enemies, the Egyptians. He allowed Moses to participate with Him by stretching out his hand.
Egypt judged: The salvation of Israel from slavery was also the judgment of Egypt for opposing God and enslaving His chosen people.

The salvation of God’s people is also judgment on His enemies

5. And the Israelites went in the midst of the sea on dry land, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and their left. (*Verse 29*)
Repetition: By the exact repetition of how their faith applied God’s gracious miracle to save them from Egyptian slavery, The Holy Spirit is emphasizing how amazing Israel’s miraculous salvation was. And God’s salvation of His people is also judgment on their enemies and His.

The salvation of God’s people is also judgment on His enemies

II. Joseph is commanded to flee to Egypt with Jesus and Mary because Herod intends to kill Jesus; Joseph obeys and they stay until Herod dies that the word of the prophet may be fulfilled. (*Matthew 2:13-15*)

- A. An angel reveals the danger to the young child in a dream to Joseph and commands them to flee to Egypt. (*Verse 13*)
 1. After [the wise men] departed, behold, an angel of the Lord is revealed to Joseph in a dream. (*Verse 13a*)
Dreams: God often reveals truth in dreams, even to people not belonging to Him (*Genesis 20:1-8*). Four times in Matthew Joseph receives a revelation from God in a dream, and the wise men are also warned in a dream. (*Matthew 1:20; 2:12, 13, 19, 22*)
 2. Saying, ‘Having been raised up, you must take the young child and his mother and you must flee to Egypt, and you must be there until I speak to you’. (*Verse 13b*)
Commands: After God raises him up, Joseph must do three things: Take Jesus and Mary, then flee to Egypt, and be there until whenever the angel of the Lord speaks to him.
 3. Because Herod is about to seek the young child with the intention to destroy him. (*Verse 13c*)
Reason: There is great danger coming: Herod wants to seek and kill Jesus while He is still a toddler.
- B. Joseph obeys and they stay until Herod dies to fulfill what was spoken by The Lord through the prophet. (*Verses 14-15*)
 1. After he had been raised up, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt. (*Verse 14*)
Obedience: Joseph obeyed the commands to take Jesus and Mary and go to Egypt.
 2. And he was being there until the death of Herod. (*Verse 15a*)
Not long: Herod died about a year after Jesus was born.
 3. This happened in order that it might be fulfilled the [word] having been spoken by the Lord through the prophet. (*Verse 15b*)
Word fulfilled: God is always working to fulfill His Word given to people by His spokesmen.
 3. Who is saying: Out of Egypt I have called My Son. (*Verse 15c*)
Hosea: This prophecy is from Hosea (*11:1-9*). We looked at it in August. The nation descended from Israel often turned from God and refused to repent. Jesus came to be true Israel and to do His Father’s will (*John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38*). God called Him out of Egypt to call us out of slavery to sin.

God calls His Son out of the land of slavery

Conclusion: When the Egyptians pursue and draw near to the Israelites at the sea, they fear and complain. But, Yahweh reassures them He will deliver them and they need only be silent and see. Then He divides the waters so they go through on dry land, and the Egyptians are drowned.

The salvation of God’s people is also judgment on His enemies

Fifteen hundred years later Joseph is commanded in a dream to take Jesus to Egypt to escape king Herod who wanted to kill Jesus. The family was staying in Egypt until Herod died, then God called His Son out of Egypt.

God calls His Son out of the land of slavery