

GOING TO THE DESERT WITH GOD

Exodus 33:14

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INTRODUCTION

- A. In 1956 Cecil B. DeMille produced the blockbuster movie "The Ten Commandments".
 - 1. Charlton Heston played the part of Moses.
 - 2. Yul Brynner played the part of Rameses.
- B. I'm told the movie was based on a true story!
 - 1. That true story is found in the book of Exodus.
 - 2. The actual departure from Egypt starts in Chapter 13.
- C. In the story of the Exodus we learn three things about God's dealings with His people when they go into the desert.

I. FIRST, GOD GOES WITH HIS PEOPLE INTO THE DESERT.

- A. He went with Israel into the desert.
 - 1. He promised he would go with them— **33:14.**
¹⁴ The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."
 - 2. His presence was portrayed in a dramatic way—**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.
- B. God goes with us too into our own deserts.
 - 1. There are different kinds of deserts—shattered relationships, financial difficulties, health problems, etc.
 - 2. God is there with us in our deserts, whatever they may be.
Matthew 28:20 And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
Hebrews 13:5 "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

II. SECOND, GOD DIRECTS HIS PEOPLE IN THE DESERT.

- A. God directed Israel when they were in the desert—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.....
- B. God still directs His people today.
Proverbs 3:6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.
- C. Notice three things about God's direction from the story of the Exodus.
 - 1. First, God directs us where He wants us to go, not where we want to go—**13:17-18—**
See Above.
 - 2. Second, God's direction isn't always the easiest way to go—**13:17—See Above.**
John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."
 - 3. Third, God's direction always requires faith to follow Him.
Deut. 32:20 (Song of Moses) ²⁰ "I will hide my face from them," he said, "and see what their end will be; for they are a perverse generation, children who are unfaithful.
Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

III. FINALLY, GOD NOT ONLY DIRECTS HIS PEOPLE, HE ALSO DELIVERS THEM.

A. God delivered Israel—14:10-14.

¹⁰ **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."**

B. Notice two things about God's deliverance of Israel and us.

1. First, God doesn't want us to be afraid--¹³ **Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid.....**

2. Second, God does want us to trust Him

13 ...Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today...

Proverbs 3:5 ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

CONCLUSION

A. We all must enter the desert at some point in our lives.

B. But remember what we learn about God from the Exodus.

1. God goes with us into the desert.

2. God directs us when we are in the desert.

3. God will deliver us in the desert—Not "from" the desert, but "in" the desert.

Psalms 23:4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.