

# Old Testament Lessons

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## The Red Sea

(Ph 4:19)

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good Afternoon
  - a. Greeting...
2. Our recent series (Old Testament Lessons)
  - a. Last week we discussed Daniel In The Lion's Den
  - b. Today we will look at the account of the "Red Sea"
3. Life's biggest question is answered in this account.
  - a. Why does God allow us to be put in troubling situations?
  - b. Situations that seem sometimes to almost drive us to despair.
    - i. **Ha 1:2; Jb 3:11-26**
5. Please open your Bible to **Ex 14**.

### I. God's Plan (Ex 14:1-4)

- A. God's plan was not to lead them to safety, at least not right away
  1. God directs them to a place just south of several Egyptian strong holds, north of the desert, on one side is the Red Sea, and on the other side is the Egyptian army.
- B. The reason: So God could be glorified (v4)
  1. God put his people in a difficult situation to demonstrate His power.
  2. Should we not view difficult times in the same way?
  3. The world is watching.
    - i. **Ja 1:3-4** "knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."

### II. The People's Reaction (Ex 14:10-12)

- A. They reacted in two ways.
  1. They looked up.
  2. And they lashed out.
- B. We react the same way often.
  1. It is God's fault we are going through so and so.
- B. Notice the "example" of Jesus while suffering.
  1. **I Pt 2:21** "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps"

### III. God's Protection (Ex 14:13-30)

- A. God was busy working on their behalf
  1. At times it was obvious.
  2. At other times it was subtle.
- B. Notice some of the things He did
  1. He protected them by the cloud/fog.
  2. He slowed the progress of the Egyptians.
  3. Finally, He destroyed them in the Sea.

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- C. We need to remember God will not over extend us
  - 1. **I Co 10:13** "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."
- D. We need to remember God is not tied to our time schedules
  - 1. The Red Sea opened and closed at God's command, not at the command of the people.
    - i. **Ha 1:2-4** "O LORD, how long shall I cry, And You will not hear? Even cry out to You, "Violence!" And You will not save. 3 Why do You show me iniquity, And cause me to see trouble? For plundering and violence are before me; There is strife, and contention arises. 4 Therefore the law is powerless, And justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; Therefore perverse judgment proceeds."
    - ii. **Rv 6:10** "And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?""
  - 2. He will deliver us, but not until He has accomplished what He wanted to accomplish.
- E. We need to remember that deliverance may not be temporal but eternal
  - 1. **Da 3:17-18** "If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. 18 But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."
  - 2. **He 11:8-10** "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

## IV. The People's Reaction (Ex 14:31)

- A. The difficulty led to reverence & belief in God
  - 1. **Ps 119:67, 71** "Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word. 71 It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes."

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## CONCLUSION

1. Some of the lessons we can learn from this account are
  - a. Glorify God in difficult times
  - b. When surrounded on all sides, look up
  - c. God will bring deliverance to his people
  - d. Allow difficult times to strengthen your faith
2. There is a story used to illustrate this by A. W. Tozer called “The Root of the Righteous”
  - a. “The hammer is a useful tool, but the nail, if it had feeling and intelligence, could present another side of the story. For the nail knows the hammer only as an opponent, a brutal, merciless enemy who lives to pound it into submission, to beat it down out of sight and clinch it into place. That is the nail’s view of the hammer, and it is accurate except for one thing: The nail forgets that both it and the hammer are servants of the same workman. Let the nail but remember that the hammer is held by the workman and all resentment toward it will disappear. The carpenter decides whose head shall be beaten next and what hammer shall be used in the beating. This is his sovereign right. When the nail has surrendered to the will of the workman and has gotten a little glimpse of his benign plans for its future, it will yield to the hammer without complaint.”
3. We all need to realize that God will always be there for us as long as we are always striving to be there for Him.
4. Invitation