

EXODUS

PURCHASED BY GOD FOR GOD

The Great Deliverer

July 26, 2020

Open: How was your patience tested in the last week? How did you respond?

Read & Discuss: Exodus 13:17-22

1. Why didn't God take the Israelites on the shortest route? Perhaps drawing on your own experiences, what are some reasons God might choose to send us on "detours" through life?
2. God guided the Israelites by a pillar of cloud and a pillar of fire (vv. 21-22). How, specifically, does God guide Christians today? In what ways is God's leading today better than how He led the Israelites? What do you find challenging about how we experience God's leading?

Read & Discuss: Exodus 14:1-7, 10-14.

3. From verse 3, what appears to prompt Pharaoh to chase after the Israelites? In verse 1-14, God reveals His plan to Moses, which will involve the death of many Egyptian soldiers. How would you explain to someone how God's plan is just?
4. What does the Israelites' reaction to the pursuit of the Egyptians reveal about the Israelites (vv. 10-12)? How does Moses' response in verses 13-14 contrast with that of the Israelites? We're all prone to be anxious like the Israelites. How can we learn to respond like Moses does here?

Read & Discuss: Exodus 14:15-18; 21-29.

5. What did God's plan for the Israelites require of them? Think about a time when you may have felt trapped between circumstances as the Israelites did here. What did you do and why? How do we know when God is calling us to do something as drastic as stepping into the Red Sea?
6. At the end of Exodus 14, based on all their experiences so far, what should the Israelites have believed about God? About Moses? About themselves? About the Egyptians?

Apply: How can this passage help you when faced with trials or threatening experiences?

Pray: Ask God to help us respond with boldness and courage when faced with tests of our faith.

Exodus 13:17-22. ^[17] When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near. For God said, "Lest the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt." ^[18] But God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. And the people of Israel went up out of the land of Egypt equipped for battle. ^[19] Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for Joseph had made the sons of Israel solemnly swear, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones with you from here." ^[20] And they moved on from Succoth and encamped at Etham, on the edge of the wilderness. ^[21] And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. ^[22] The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.

Exodus 14:1-7; 10-14. ^[1] Then the LORD said to Moses, ^[2] "Tell the people of Israel to turn back and encamp in front of Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, in front of Baal-zephon; you shall encamp facing it, by the sea. ^[3] For Pharaoh will say of the people of Israel, 'They are wandering in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.' ^[4] And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, and the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD." And they did so.

^[5] When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the mind of Pharaoh and his servants was changed toward the people, and they said, "What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?" ^[6] So he made ready his chariot and took his army with him, ^[7] and took six hundred chosen chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them...

^[10] When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD. ^[11] They said to Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? ^[12] Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." ^[13] And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. ^[14] The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

Exodus 14:15-18; 21-29. ^[15] The LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. ^[16] Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. ^[17] And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. ^[18] And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen..."

^[21] Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. ^[22] And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ^[23] The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. ^[24] And in the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, ^[25] clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from before Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians."

^[26] Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen." ^[27] So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the LORD threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. ^[28] The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. ^[29] But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.