

The Final Victory! *(Exodus 14)*

Purpose: to show the listeners that victory comes through struggle and to encourage them to respond the right way.

Everyone loves to hear the word Victory! But, there is a simple principle that is always connected with victory:

Victory always comes through struggle!

In Exodus 14 we will see that even though the children of Israel have been freed from Egypt and are leaving, the crisis is not over. Here are the 6 things that we are going to focus on in this chapter:

God's instructions
Pharaoh's thoughts
Pharaoh's actions
The children of Israel's response
Moses' response
God's response to Moses

After these 6 things, then we will see God move!

God's instructions (verses 1-4)

- God told them where to go – v. 2
- God told Moses what Pharaoh was going to do – vs. 3, 4

Pharaoh's thoughts (verses 5-8)

- He was told that the people had fled
- His heart was turned against the Israelites
- The Egyptians said "Why have we done this..."
 - This is often what happens when we harden our hearts. Even when God has clearly shown Himself, we go against reason.
 - Their entire country has been destroyed! Why would you pursue them?
 - Pride!
 - Control

Pharaoh acts (verses 6-9)

- He took 600 choice chariots and all the chariots of Egypt
- The remaining horses (those that had not been destroyed)
- His horsemen
- His army
- He overtook them!

The children of Israel's response (verses 10-12)

1. They lifted their eyes and saw the Egyptians
 - a. We need God to open our eyes!

2. They were afraid
3. They cried out to the LORD
4. They complained to Moses (not to God. We often think that we are not complaining to God when we complain to our leaders, but we actually are!)
 - a. They blamed him – “...you have taken us away to die...”
 - b. They questioned him – “Why have you so dealt with us...?”
 - c. They reminded him – “Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'?”
 - d. They mistrusted his judgement – “...For *it would have been* better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.”

Moses' response (verses 13,14)

1. Do not be afraid
2. Stand still
3. See the salvation of the LORD
4. The LORD will fight for you
5. You shall hold your peace

God's response to Moses (verses 15-18)

- Moses was inwardly praying
- God had already answered!
Why do you cry to Me?
- God told Moses what they needed to do
“Tell the children of Israel to go forward.”
- God told Moses what he needed to do
“...Lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it.”
- God told Moses what was going to happen
Exo 14:16 - *But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.*
Exo 14:17 - *And I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. So I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen.*
Exo 14:18 - *Then the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained honor for Myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.”*

God moves! Verses 19-29

Three instruments that God uses to fight in this battle:

Angels –

Exo 14:19 - *And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them.*

Elements –

Exo 14:21 - *Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided.*

Moses –

Exo 14:27 - *And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it. So the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.*

The result:

Exo 14:30 - *So the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.*

Exo 14:31 - *Thus Israel saw the great work which the LORD had done in Egypt; so the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD and His servant Moses.*

Before every great victory is a great struggle. How do you respond in a crisis? Are you in control, or is God in control?

Remember, you can always tell who is in control by who calls the shots!

- Don't be afraid!
- Don't complain!
- Don't question God's instruction!
- Stand still!
- See the salvation of the LORD!
- Let the LORD fight for you!
- Hold your peace!