

Lesson 7 11th March, 2018

Israel's Deliverance From Egypt

Lesson Scope: [Exodus 12:37-42; 13:17-14:31](#)

References in brackets refer to Lesson Scope unless noted otherwise

Lesson Focus

Weeks and months after God had promised to deliver Israel, Pharaoh continued to hold Israel captive. The plagues continued to destroy the land of Egypt. Pharaoh's servants advised him to let Israel go (10:7). Yet Pharaoh refused to let Israel go. The night that the firstborn died, Pharaoh finally told Israel to leave and take everything with them. Israel was free! The Egyptians urged them to hurry. They feared the consequences if they stayed in the land any longer.

Study the entire lesson scope to get a good grasp on the lesson. This story is not just an exciting history lesson but a demonstration of the power of our God. We may not know how God is turning the hearts of kings in our day in hardening them or moving them to fulfill His purpose. Use this lesson to inspire faith in our great God.

God's promise of deliverance will never fail. This conviction enables God's people to trust in Him though circumstances appear to be against them.

Lesson Aim: To see the work of God in fulfilling His promise of deliverance.

Theme Verse: [Psalm 37:28](#) For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.

Lesson Text

"All the Hosts of the LORD Went Out"

[Exodus 12:37](#) And the people of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children.

[Exodus 12:41-42](#) At the end of 430 years, on that very day, all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt. ⁴² It was a night of

watching by the LORD, to bring them out of the land of Egypt; so this same night is a night of watching kept to the LORD by all the people of Israel throughout their generations.

"The Egyptians Marched After Them"

Exodus 14:5 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?"

Exodus 14:10-14 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."

"The LORD Saved Israel"

Exodus 14:21-26 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."

Exodus 14:30-31 Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Is-

rael saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Questions for Study

"All the Hosts of the LORD Went Out"

1. Why did a mixed multitude leave Egypt?
2. Why was this night to be "much observed"?
3. What are some times that should be "much observed" in the Christian life? Why?

"The Egyptians Marched After Them"

4. What motivated Pharaoh to change his mind?
5. When does fear become sin?

"The LORD Saved Israel"

6. List the miracles that God performed to deliver Israel.
7. How could Israel know that God was leading them?
8. How can we know whether God is leading us?
9. Explain the difference between the fear of God and other fears.

Analyzing the Passage

The "night to be much observed" and "to be observed" in 12:42 refer to a night of watchfulness. God wanted Israel to carefully follow His instructions so that they could see His power and tell it to their children. It also refers to the Passover and the memorial that was to be kept that night, so that future generations would be reminded of God's power and love for Israel.

In 14:8 we are told that "Israel went out with an high hand." This means that they went out with great power.

The sojourning of Israel was four hundred thirty years (12:40-41). It seems that Israel's sojourn may have begun when Abram entered Canaan.

The "angel" in 14:19 is also referred to as "the LORD" in 13:21 and 14:24, and may have been the pre-incarnate Christ.

Principles and Applications

"All the Hosts of the LORD Went Out"

1. God is well able to deliver those who walk with Him (12:37, 41).

God delivered those who left Egypt that night. Not only did the Israelites leave, but also the Egyptians who believed the God of heaven left Egypt with Israel. God delivered those who followed Him regardless of who they were. God calls men today to leave this world and follow Him. He will deliver and provide for those who do His will.

2. God's deliverance is of great importance to those who have experienced it (12:42). Deliverance was important to Israel because it meant a new life and freedom from bondage. Their deliverance was also a manifestation of the mighty God. He delivered them and cared for them. When God delivers men today, it inspires faith and trust in the almighty God. Jesus asked Simon who would love most—the one who is forgiven much, or the one who is forgiven little (Luke 7:40-50).

"The Egyptians Marched After Them"

3. The enemies of God's people desire to return the righteous to bondage (14:5, 10). Pharaoh faced reality when he realized that his slaves were no longer under his control. What seemed wise the night his firstborn died, now seemed like a great loss. No longer afraid but angry, he hardened his heart and prepared to bring them back. The devil desires that all men serve him and motivates ungodly men to pursue those who do not conform to the world.

4. God's promise of deliverance is able to dispel fear of the future (14:13). Israel was at the end of their resources. The sea was ahead and the Egyptians came marching behind them. In their fear Israel forgot their mighty deliverance from Egypt. Moses' encouragement to "fear ye not" and to "see the salvation of the LORD" was what they needed to dispel their fear. When we fear, a reminder of God's great power and care in the past should quell our fear and inspire us to trust again. God desires that we cry out to Him in our distress rather than complain and blame others.

5. Human efforts are of no avail; only God can provide salvation (14:13). We might realize that we need help to solve our problems, but maybe we need to be told, "Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD." Then when God is ready, He opens the way and commands us to "go forward." There is a time to cry out to God for help, but He expects us to move accordingly as He reveals His will.

"The LORD Saved Israel"

6. Man's choices determine whether God's presence will produce light

and direction or darkness and distress (14:20). The same cloud that provided Israel with light and guidance brought darkness to the Egyptians. God's presence is comforting and enlightening to the child of God, but disturbing and unsettling to those who rebel against Him. "But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked" (Isaiah 57:20-21).

7. We may confidently follow the path that God provides for deliverance (14:21-22). The walls of water that provided an escape for Israel were walls of protection, but to the Egyptians they were walls to be feared and walls of destruction. Obedience and trust in God make deliverance a reality. Can we trust God to protect us and to meet our needs without purchasing insurance? Is it possible to be victorious in an increasingly evil world? The same God who delivered Israel still takes care of His people today.

8. The wicked rush unheedingly to their own destruction (14:23-25). The Egyptians failed to see the danger of pursuing Israel into the sea. Then it was too late, and destruction came before they could escape. "A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident" (Proverbs 14:16). "The heathen are sunk down in the pit that they made: in the net which they hid is their own foot taken" (Psalm 9:15).

9. God's deliverance inspires faith and trust (14:31). Israel's deliverance through the sea inspired respect for the mighty God who had delivered them. God wants men to trust Him for the unknown future. Complaining about life's hard circumstances or blaming others reveals a heart that does not trust God.

Important Teachings

1. God is well able to deliver those who walk with Him (12:37, 41).
2. God's deliverance is of great importance to those who have experienced it (12:42).
3. The enemies of God's people desire to return the righteous to bondage (14:5, 10).
4. God's promise of deliverance is able to dispel fear of the future (14:13).
5. Human efforts are of no avail; only God can provide salvation

(14:13).

6. Man's choices determine whether God's presence will produce light and direction or darkness and distress (14:20).

7. We may confidently follow the path that God provides for deliverance (14:21-22).

8. The wicked rush unheeding to their own destruction (14:23-25).

9. God's deliverance inspires faith and trust (14:31).

Answers to Questions

1. Why did a mixed multitude leave Egypt?

It appears that some Egyptians believed God and left with Israel.

2. Why was this night to be "much observed"?

This night they were to be watchful and ready to leave when Pharaoh told them to go. In the years following, they were to remember this night because it was the night that God miraculously delivered them from Egypt. God also used the Passover to reveal truths to them of the coming Messiah.

3. What are some times that should be "much observed" in the Christian life? Why?

Communion is important because it reminds us of Christ's death and resurrection. Our Lord's Day observance should keep alive the resurrection of our Lord and also the daily need to walk in newness of life. Our baptism should be a day to remember because it is a symbol of our commitment to crucify self and follow the direction of God through the Holy Spirit.

4. What motivated Pharaoh to change his mind?

The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart (14:4). The realization that these slaves would no longer build cities for them and increase the country's wealth seemed to change Pharaoh's mind. In 14:5 it would seem to suggest that Pharaoh blamed the people for pushing him to let them go.

5. When does fear become sin?

Fear becomes sin when it causes us to doubt God. Fear is sin when we fail to follow God. Fear is also sin when it motivates murmuring.

6. List the miracles that God performed to deliver Israel.

The Lord moved the cloud that was leading Israel from in front of them to between them and the Egyptians (14:19). The cloud gave Israel light, but brought darkness to the Egyptians (14:20). He parted the waters of

the sea and dried the earth under the sea (14:21). God troubled the Egyptians by removing their chariot wheels (14:25). He caused the water to return to flowing at the proper time (14:28).

7. How could Israel know that God was leading them?

God led Israel by a cloud. Each person could see the cloud and follow it. They could look at the cloud and know that Moses was following God.

8. How can we know whether God is leading us?

Each of us can read God's Word and follow it. We can safely follow our leaders as they follow God's Word. We can have the confirmation of the Spirit giving us peace.

9. Explain the difference between the fear of God and other fears.

If we fear God, we will obey Him and cry to Him for help. When we fear men or circumstances, we are tempted to complain, to accuse others, and to doubt God. If we fear God, we can follow Him in confidence and hope, but the fear of man brings a snare and instability.

Summarizing the Lesson

"O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together. I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed. This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him. O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him" (Psalm 34:3-9).

Research Guide

1. Numbers 33 gives a list of Israel's camping places.
2. Look up the verses linked to the lesson in your center column reference or Thompson Chain-reference Bible.