

June 4th, 2023
Pinecrest Baptist Church
a.m.

Sermon Series: Delivered; Rescued from Bondage
Sermon #20 Title: God Will Make A Way
Sermon #20 Text: (Exodus 14:15-31)

This morning we bring to a conclusion this series of messages by looking at the zenith moment! The pinnacle of a promise that God made to Moses, and to Israel, and even to Pharaoh.

In real time, it has been about a year in the making, since the Lord first called Moses out of Midian, now to only find himself at one of the most climactic moments in all of human history.

Philip Ryken in his book “Preaching the Word” points out that all major events in books come to a climax. The book of Exodus has three!

- 1.) The climax at the end of the book is when the Glory of the Lord fills the Tabernacle. – What a sight that had to be.
- 2.) The climax in the middle of the book is when the Lord God Himself inscribes the 10 commandments into a stone with His own finger at Mount Sinai.
- 3.) The climax here at the beginning, is this majestic moment, when the Lord makes the Red Sea stand at attention, while He parades His people out of bondage!

If there is nothing at all you get from these events; or that you take away from these messages, at the very minimum get this:

- God Moves Heaven and Earth to Keep His Word!

He made a promise to Moses and to the nation of Israel, (which is a repeated promise that He had made to Abraham) in 3:7-8 - “And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land, and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites...”

- It is here today, where we the Lord fulfill the first part of that promise to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians.

- And we find ourselves today, at the end of an era:

- Israel has been in bondage: - They are about to be set free; but not loose.
- Israel has been controlled and abused by a malevolent dictator; they are being delivered to be blessed by a Benevolent Guiding God.

What God did in separating Israel from Egypt; Jesus will do in separating the sinner from sin, from self, from society, and from Satan.

These events are entirely historical, intently revealing, and demonstrate for us outwardly in Israel; what Jesus did for us eternally at the cross.

Conclusion: - God Will Make a Way – to Go His Way! He is not obligated in any way, shape, form, or fashion, to make a way for you to go your way; or for me to go my way. Yet He will always make a way for us to go His.

God will make a way for you to go His Way. He does not “make a way” to help you get what you want, or go where you desire.

- He always makes a way that will keep His Word, and His promise.

God will make a way to deliver, when He’s promised to deliver.

God will make a way to destroy, when He’s promised to destroy.

also governs that which is “Physical.” – There are no “laws of Nature” there are only “Laws of God.”

3.) To Set the Watch – “all that night” – “the morning watch.”

*Note – Just like the Night of the Passover, this was the night of the Cross-over. Deliverance does not always wait until sunrise!

- The Lord had set both the timing and the time! *(there is much to be said for the man or the woman who can calmly eat at the “table the Lord has prepared in the presence of his enemies.”)*

The Lord has provided is Personal Security, His Physical Ability, and perhaps the most Miraculous to us of all, if we will but think about it. – His Intellectual Agility.

(There is nothing more foolish than playing chess with God.)

C. His Intellectual Agility – vs 23-25

1.) To Part the Waters – instead of having the children of Israel walk across the top like Jesus did Peter.

*Note – The Lord could have led the children of Israel a number of ways from this point forward – But He chose this one! - He could have just marched them across the top of it –

- Parting the waters may have had more to do with the judgment He had planned for the Egyptians, than it did getting Israel over yonder.

- It is here that God both, “baited the Egyptians” and “ended this enemy.”

- These are not allegories – but they do illustrate the same principles of sin, death, and salvation.

- These have not been parables – but these earthly moments have been saturated with living, lasting, Biblical truth for all ages.

- Don’t miss the History of it; for the Theology in it.

- Don’t miss the Theology in it; just by observing the history of it.

We open our text today on the Western side of the Red Sea. We have an ocean before us; mountains beside us, and an enemy behind us; but we also have a God that is with us!

Everything has come to this moment!

- What Pharaoh that was a trap for Israel’s demise was nothing more than a stage to display God’s glory!

As we examine the last part of this chapter, there are three general points we want to examine.

I. The Movement the LORD Commanded– vs 15-16

*Note – when we open up at verse 15 we find immediately a gaping hole in the text.

“And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me?”

- If you will notice, we have no record of Moses praying here!

- First, he obviously did, because the LORD addressed it.

- But we have no idea what he was praying?

- it was either a silent prayer of Moses heart, which the Lord hears by the way.

Or – it was a prayer, that the Lord didn't deem necessary for you or I to know about.

*Note – Here is what we know: - We know THAT He prayed, we don't know WHAT He prayed, and we know the LORD gives us a gentle, but firm lesson with Moses.

When the Lord expects movement, it is to be without Prayerful hesitation.

A. Without Prayerful Hesitation – “Wherefore criest thou unto me? Speak unto the children of Israel...”

“It's not me you need to be talking to, it's them!”

*Note – The Lord will never let prayer be a substitute for action, when action has been instructed.

1.) – You will never use Prayer as an excuse to keep from following instructions.

*Note – The Bible makes it clear, that “Men ought always to pray,” – but “praying” is not a substitute for obedience when the LORD's Word, Will, or Way has been made known.

In the Book of Joshua, when Israel had sinned at Ai – Achan had taken the Babylonian garment; Israel had gone on the attack without orders from God; Joshua fell on his face like a failure crying because he just didn't know where all things went wrong; and the Lord said to him

7:10 – “And the LORD said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face?”

Now here's the point and we'll move on. Are you still praying about something you should have acted on a long time ago?

1.) To Send the Wind – vs 21 – “and the Lord caused the sea to go *back* by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry *land*, and the waters were divided.”

a.) 15:7 – in Moses song, he declared this wind came from the nostrils of God – “And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, The floods stood upright as an heap, *And* the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea.”

Joel Hemphill wrote – “*My boat of life sails on a troubled sea
Whenever there's a wind in my sail. But I have a friend
Who watches over me When the breeze turns into a gale.
I know the Master of the Wind, I know the Maker of the Rain
He can calm the storm, make the sun shine again; I know the
Master of the Wind*”

*Note – Notice something about this wind. They are going to be travelling West – the Wind is blowing East. It is strong enough to move an ocean, yet tame enough not to harm Israel.

(The God that can blow away a neighborhood with a tornado, can leave a house standing untouched right in the middle. – We have all seen that.)

2.) To Stand the Waters – vs 22 – “...the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.”

- The God of goodness is the God of gravity. If there is anything that should have long been learned by now, it is the fact that not only Does God govern that which is “Moral”, He

- One nation was going “through it”
- One nation was going “to it.”

*Note – There is one other thing that you need to notice about God’s Personal Security here: The entire event moved at the Lord’s pace. There is no evidence that He was in a hurry. –

Cecil B. DeMille’s gave us a good picture of a hurry and scurry, but at this moment; friend the Lord could have kept all things as they were till both crowds fell asleep.

- The Egyptians weren’t going anywhere until God moved.
- The Israelites weren’t going anywhere until God moved.
- God had everyone right where He wanted them, and He would keep them there until He was ready for them to move.

It isn’t like you have to hurry, because Pharaoh’s is jumping like a chained dog to get through that pillar of fire.

Furthermore, it isn’t like you’re going to have to run through the red sea, because those walls of water are bound to get heavy...

- The Personal Security of God is as firm as the Personal Pace with which God chose to move!

B. His Physical Ability – vs 21-22

The sheer power of God over all things natural. Nature is obedient to the Word of God. – Creation functions by the Will, and Word of God.

Do you honestly believe that the Lord cannot see when we use praying as a reason not to act?

- There is a time to pray – before we act.
- There is time be praying WHILE we act
- There is no time, not to act, once the Lord has made His will clear through the praying.

The movement the Lord Commands is to be without prayerful hesitation: - But it is to be within:

B. Within the Provided Information

*Note- I cannot say for sure that the LORD is repeating Himself to Moses in verse 16 and 17; but it appears to me that He may have.

- Note the information given; Moses would not have known without asking. Yet the Lord gently rebukes him for asking; and so it appears to me that the Lord had already given Moses this necessary information:

- What is the information given:

1.) The Direction to Go – “Forward”

- a.) This is obviously “westward” because Egypt was behind them, eastward.
- b.) This is an instruction to begin moving toward the water.

*Note – Now I can hear someone say – “okay but how is this going to work?” Or – “hey wait a minute, tell us what’s going to happen?”

Here is I believe one of the most important lessons any Christian can learn. How many times does God have to say something, or do something, till you stop asking questions?

*Note – Note this: The instruction was not for them to get going – the instruction was for which way they were to go!

- He did not want them marching into battle with the Philistines. (Which was an earthly logic – fight or die)
- He did not want them dividing into smaller groups, and start climbing up the gorges in the mountains, and rendezvous later. (Which was an earthly logic – maybe we can escape that way)
- He wanted them marching toward the ocean!

*note – Remember this: When God does the Delivering – **LET HIM DO THE DELIVERING!** – He doesn't take input; He's not interested in your advice; and He will not use your plans to complement His!

It is amazing to me, how many people's lives fall apart, just because they have to have their say! It is an amazing thing for people not to be delivered simply because they will not just close their mouths, shut down their opinions, and just say, "Yes Lord!"

- When He gives the direction to go; it does not matter what's sitting in the way!

2.) The Instructions to Follow:

*Note – He gave two sets of instructions: one set for Moses and one set for the people.

The Lord's presence came moved to stand between the Egyptians and the Israelites.

*Note – Notice one thing that the Moses seems to emphasize for us.

- What was Light to the Israelites, was Darkness to the Egyptians!

- vs 20 – “And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness *to them*, but it gave light by night *to these*: so that the one came not near the other all the night.”

*Note – Friend, if you will just take God at His Word, you will see that here is a Biblical fact that explains so much in life. God explains to us that two peoples can look at the same God, and one see light, and the other see darkness.

Proverbs 4:18-19 – “But the path of the just *is* as the shining light, That shineth more and more unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked *is* as darkness: They know not at what they stumble.”

Proverbs 29:7 – “...*he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked.*”

The Lord both turns out the Egyptian lights, and blocks the Egyptian path!

- It appears that both nations were occupying the same land, that Israel's encampment was on. The only barrier between them was the Lord Himself.

- Both nations would enter the sea
 - One to life
 - One to death

known” that He is the Lord; and the second time He has specifically said “the Egyptians shall know.”

- He does not say that the Egyptians shall come to believe...
 - What they believe will become irrelevant –
 - They will “KNOW”

*Note – Preacher, the army will be dead... - Absolutely, and there will never be a time when God is more clearly known than after they are dead.

- The Living will know it’s true, (regardless of their faith.)
- The Dead will know it’s true, henceforth and forever more. – There will be no more confusion in their lives.

I. The Movement the Lord Commanded

II. The Meaning the Lord Included.

III. The Miracles the LORD Provided – vs 19-27

*Note – From this seashore to the next one, there is only one explanation. No man has any input, makes any contribution, or exercises any natural strength. – It is all totally and completely done by the Creator Himself.

A. His Personal Security – “And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them.”

1.) Both nations are now gathered right where the Lord wants them, and He visibly moves to stand between them.

- a.) His Word is to lead them in front.
- b.) His Presence guards them in back.

a.) For Moses – “speak,” – “lift” – “stretch”

*Note – Now remember, the Lord obviously has a reason for this. Jesus healed a multitude of ways. God judged Egypt several different ways. Here He wants Moses to physically do, what He said for Him to do.

- Speak to the people – “Go Forward”
- Lift up thy rod
- Stretch out your hand over the sea!

Doesn’t that sound easy!

- Not only did God tell Moses to “speak to the people” He told him what to say... That’s easy preaching...

b.) For the People – “go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.”

*Note – He said there is dry ground under all that water, and you are going to walk across it.

Now here’s the primary point. Once the Lord gives the Word, it is not merely to be believed, it is to be obeyed! – He did not enlighten them on the power of positive thinking – He instructed them in the power of getting off the can and on the stick.

I. The Movement the Lord Commanded.

II. The Meaning the LORD Included – vs 17-18

*Note – After the Lord commanded them to move, He explained to Moses, and to you and me what was going on in His mind.

(Note – God does not always explain Himself to us. But when He does, it is not because He has some kind of personal

respect for you; He does so, so that you can gain insight into the Divine Mind. – He is giving us a glimpse of His Sovereign involvement in human affairs.

As we said from the very beginning, God was both delivering and destroying. Here He has brought Two nations to the edge of the sea!

- One nation He is bringing through it!
- One nation He is bringing to it!

A. The Work He was doing On His Enemies – (leading them into judgment) – “**I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them:**” - vs 17

- 1.) This is the work that would come upon the Egyptians from the outside in!

*Note – We must remember that God is always at work.

- He is working Around you!
- He is working In You!
- He is working On You!
- He is working Through You!
- He is working FOR You! – To accomplish His ultimate righteousness.

His ultimate righteousness on you is either through Salvation in Jesus; or Destruction in hell – but all things are working For His ultimate righteousness in your life!

- If they would not fall on His grace from the inside out – then His Judgment will fall on them from the outside in.

- Know this: - Judgment is not ONLY an inside job!
Sometimes, God’s judgment may be to turn a man over to a reprobate mind; sometimes it is to drop an ocean on his head.

B. The Work He was doing Through His Enemies – “I will get me honour...”

- 1.) the Hebrew word for “honour” here means to “weigh heavily upon them” to my glory.

- this would not be merely a common victory over an enemy.

- This will be Victorious at the Expense of all Shame, and Humiliation, and death. The Victory, Honour, and Glory, that God would have over this enemy was the fullest demonstration of Egypt’s Worthlessness!

God demonstrated through Pharaoh, that the mightiest army on earth was not even worthy to exist, much less strut around the world with pomp, arrogance, and the fear and admiration of men.

- Glory, Honor, Fear, and Admiration belong solely and exclusively to God, not because He is egotistic, but because He is Pure Righteousness, and admiration and glorification belong no where but with Him. – Any where else, anyone else is a complete misplacement of virtue.

Isaiah 42:8 – “**I am the LORD: that is my name: And my glory will I not give to another, Neither my praise to graven images.**”

C. The Work He was doing In His Enemies – “the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord.”

- 1.) This is the third time throughout these events that the Lord has declared it “shall be