



#6

GOD FIGHTS

8.13.2017

EXODUS 14:10-15:21

- **The LORD chose the people of Israel long ago when it was just Abraham.** After he had many descendants, the people became enslaved in the land of Egypt. The story narrative of the book of Exodus details how God *SAW* their suffering, *SENT* a savior, *JUDGED* idolatry in Egypt, *REDEEMED* Israel from slavery, is *LEADING* them toward the promised land. & the LORD leads them between a rock & a hard place. They are between the Desert and the Red Sea. & what's more, their former slaves masters are charging at them with chariots! They're trapped—so what do they do? **THEY. FREAK. OUT.**

1. ISRAEL FREAKS OUT

EXODUS 14:10-12 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.

1ST: THEY ASSUME THE WORST (vv. 11)

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?”

- **When things get tight**, when they're in a position that seems like unavoidable destruction, they assume the worst.
Q. Did you and the LORD just want us dead, Moses, but you didn't want to deal with the bodies?
- **Q.** Can you imagine the face Moses made? “Are you kidding me?! I feel like I'm taking crazy pills. HE JUST FREED YOU FROM SLAVERY THROUGH 10 MONUMENTAL PLAGUES AND HAS BEEN LEADING YOU!”
- **What the Israelites really need was a good dose of what happened at PASSOVER:** If they stopped and thought about the way God had miraculously set them free causing His judgement to pass over them through the blood of the Lamb, wouldn't that have jogged them into some kind of trust? What about the fact that God had additionally LEAD them? Or that He had literally JUST PROMISED that He was going to destroy Pharaoh?
- **Just so we're clear, this is a good example of how NOT to react.** **Q.** But isn't this our reaction many times?
- **Q.** Think about the last time you were in a tough situation—or just overwhelmed; how did you feel, what was going through your mind?
- **When we are just like the Israelites here, which we are many times, if we're honest... We need a heavy dose of THE CROSS.** If we would stop and think; we'd remember that for all who are in Him through faith, Jesus has already SECURED our eternal redemption through His work on our place. **The penalty for sin?** Paid in full on the cross. **The slavery to sin we were in?** We've been freed from that by God the Holy Spirit as He applies the gospel to us. **The power that sin wields over us?** We're being freed more and more each day, until one day Jesus will free us from it's very presence. **WE HAVE THESE PROMISES.**
- **The Apostle Paul says it much better than I can in Romans 8:32** “He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”
- I've said it before and I'll say it again and again: **Jesus has paid to high a price for you, Christian, to leave you in the lurch!** The LORD didn't bring the Israelites out of Egypt to let them die on the way to Canaan and He hasn't brought you out of your sin to you die on the way to Heaven.
- **We often assume the worst.** But, if our faith is in Jesus and we would think about His Gospel, we should often assume the BEST. If God is for us who can be against us? He makes all things work together for good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.

2ND: THEY LIE TO THEMSELVES (AND TO THE LORD!) ABOUT THEIR PAST (vv. 12)

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.”

- **Q.** Do we realize what we're doing when you look back to our former ways? Things were better when I was a slave. They forget God's grace; lie about their past, act like they'd rather be slaves. **Q.** What would you do? What does He do?

2. THE LORD FIGHTS FOR THEM

EXODUS 14:13-14, 30 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.”

- In His commentary on Exodus, Douglas Stuart points out 5 things Moses teaches us about the LORD here, “(1) God is a dispeller of fear. (2) God is a deliverer from distress. (3) God invites & expects His people to trust Him. (4) God removes danger. (5) God is a warrior against the forces of evil.”
- **Q. And what did God require of them? A. “Stand firm.”** Don’t run away. “See the salvation of the LORD.” Look to Him and what He’s doing! “You have only to be silent.” Shut your mouths and trust My promises!
- God **REDEEMS** His people by grace, **LEADS** them by grace, and **FIGHTS** for them by grace: it’s all free!

THIS TEACHES US AT LEAST TWO THINGS: Teaches us about (1) THE GOSPEL, & (2) THE CHRISTIAN LIFE. WHAT DOES THIS STORY TEACH US ABOUT THE GOSPEL—THE GOOD NEWS?

- The Gospel is not about God helping those who help themselves through their works; The Gospel is about God saving those who can’t save themselves through Jesus’ work in their place!
- **Q1. How are we, though sinners in & of ourselves,** ever going to stand before God and counted righteous? How are we going to be declared “Justified”? **A1.** Through Jesus’ perfect life without sin as our representative.
- That’s why Paul writes this to the Church at Rome in Romans 4:4 “4 Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. 5 And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness.”
- That sounds an awful lot like, “Stand firm...See the salvation of the LORD...You have only to be silent.”
- **Q2. Again, how are we, though guilty of cosmic treason—SIN AGAINST GOD—going to be forgiven?** **A2.** Through Jesus’ death in our place for our sins and resurrection to eternal life, paying our debt to God.
- That’s why the Apostle Peter writes this the Churches in 1 Peter 3:18, “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.”

In the message of the gospel, because of what **HE’S DONE**, Jesus is saying the same thing to us: “Stand firm...See the salvation of the LORD...You have only to be silent.” **Q. Is your faith in Jesus?!**

WHAT DOES THIS STORY TEACH US ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN LIFE—FOLLOWING JESUS AS WE PUT OUR FORMER SIN AND SLAVERY MORE AND MORE TO DEATH?

- Just like the good news of our justification, the good news of our sanctification is **NOT** found simply in our ability to work and fight (THOUGH WE DO FIGHT!); The Good News about our sanctification (following Jesus as we pit our sin to death!) is that the same God who fought to redeem us, fights to sanctify us—setting us more and more free from slavery to sin and death!
- **Q1. How are we, though we are often trapped, tempted; though we often doubt God’s plan and goodness; though we often, if we’re honest, want to slip back into our comfortable sin,** going to continue following Jesus, continue to put our sin to death and live to righteousness?!
- **A1.** Through the **constant intercession of Jesus** on our behalf & through **the work of God the Holy Spirit** in us!
- That’s why the writer to the Hebrews writes this in Heb. 7:25, “Consequently, [Jesus] is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.”
- And that’s why Paul writes this to the Church at Rome in Romans 8:11, “If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.”

Q. What happened after God parted the Red Sea and lead Israel safely through? Look at 14:30! 30 Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, & Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.

There will come a day, Christian, when you Jesus makes everything new. He will redeem the entire earth, & you pass into His redeemed Creation—& on it, you will see your **SIN** dead on the seashore.

So Paul says in Romans 16:20 “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.”

1 MORE THING: As you follow Jesus, He's probably going to lead you into areas where you feel utterly trapped & you want to despair. Why? So that you will remember He's ALL YOU'VE GOT, and you're sunk without Him.

3. ISRAEL PRAISES THE LORD AND KEEPS FOLLOWING HIM

The Song of Moses

15 1 Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying,

"I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.

2 The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.

3 The Lord is a man of war; the Lord is his name.

4 "Pharaoh's chariots and his host he cast into the sea, and his chosen officers were sunk in the Red Sea.

5 The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone.

6 Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power, your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.

7 In the greatness of your majesty you overthrow your adversaries; you send out your fury; it consumes them like stubble.

8 At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up; the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.

9 The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them. I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.'

10 You blew with your wind; the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters.

11 "Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?

12 You stretched out your right hand; the earth swallowed them.

13 "You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

14 The peoples have heard; they tremble; pangs have seized the inhabitants of Philistia.

15 Now are the chiefs of Edom dismayed; trembling seizes the leaders of Moab; all the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away.

16 Terror and dread fall upon them; because of the greatness of your arm, they are still as a stone, till your people, O Lord, pass by, still the people pass by whom you have purchased.

17 You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain, the place, O Lord, which you have made for your abode, the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established.

18 The Lord will reign forever and ever."

19 For when the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his horsemen went into the sea, the Lord brought back the waters of the sea upon them, but the people of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea.

20 Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing. 21 And Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;

the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea."