

CROSSING THE RED SEA
The Old Testament Today
Banska Bystrica, 23rd May 2021

Exodus 14

יְהוָה יִלָּחֵם לְךָ וְאַתָּה תִּשָׁמֵר

Ex 14:14 The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

Οὐ θέλω γὰρ ὑμᾶς ἀγνοεῖν, ἀδελφοί, ὅτι οἱ πατέρες ἡμῶν πάντες ὑπὸ τὴν νεφέλην ἦσαν καὶ πάντες διὰ τῆς θαλάσσης διήλθον ² καὶ πάντες εἰς τὸν Μωϋσῆν ἐβαπτίσθησαν ἐν τῇ νεφέλῃ καὶ ἐν τῇ θαλάσῃ ³ καὶ πάντες τὸ αὐτὸ πνευματικὸν βρῶμα ἔφαγον ⁴ καὶ πάντες τὸ αὐτὸ πνευματικὸν ἔπιον πόμα· ἔπινον γὰρ ἐκ πνευματικῆς ἀκολουθούσης πέτρας, ἡ πέτρα δὲ ἦν ὁ Χριστός. ⁵ Ἄλλ' οὐκ ἐν τοῖς πλείοσιν αὐτῶν εὐδόκησεν ὁ θεός, κατεστράωθησαν γὰρ ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ

1Cor 10:1-5 I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness

OUTLINE

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0. INTRODUCTION

- Today (22-May-21) – Pentecost
- Os Guinness: the Passover in Egypt → talk of freedom? → No! → Moses speaks of *children*!¹

0.1. THE DRAMA OF SALVATION

- Is theology dull? Irrelevant? → History of salvation gives us illustrations of how dramatic salvation is in reality.

[SAYERS *Creed or Chaos*] Surely it is not the business of the Church to adapt Christ to men, but to adapt men to Christ. It is the dogma that is the drama—not beautiful phrases, nor comforting sentiments, nor vague aspirations to lovingkindness and uplift, nor the promise of something nice after death—but the terrifying assertion that the same God who made the world lived in the world and passed through the grave and gate of death.

¹ The Eric Metaxas Show 2021

0.2. HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

- About 2.5 mil. of people left Egypt (left Sinai?)
- The Gulf of Aqaba(?)
- Sinai → in the land of Midian; in Arabia (Galatians)

1. DRAMATIC EVENTS

1.1. MIRACLES AND HISTORY

- the greatest miracle after the Resurrection of Christ (what about Creation?)
 - **Ephesians 1:19-20** what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places
- can we believe this?? → (1) imagination; (2) emotions; (3) application...
- use it as a PARABLE – only it is a real piece of HISTORY...

1.2. THE GREAT ESCAPE

- the essence of all great stories with a good ending → liberation; justice; the weak over the powerful...

1.2.1. CONTRASTS

- → Egyptian army, power, state apparatus *vs.* a group of slaves without weapons or trained leadership...
 - **Ex 13:18** Hence God led the people around by the way of the wilderness to the Red Sea; and the sons of Israel went up in martial array from the land of Egypt.

1.2.2. NUMBERS

- **Ex 12:37-38** And the people of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. ³⁸ A mixed multitude also went up with them, and very much livestock, both flocks and herds.

1.2.3. URGENCY

- **Ex 12:33** The Egyptians were urgent with the people to send them out of the land in haste. For they said, "We shall all be dead."

1.2.4. SUSPENSE

- Passover → leaving with the "blessing" of the Egyptians
 - **Ex 12:35-36** The people of Israel had also done as Moses told them, for they had asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry and for clothing. ³⁶ And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians (וַיִּנְצְלוּ אֶת-מִצְרָיִם).
- Direction changed → not the shortest way to Canaan
 - **Ex 13:17** 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."
 - **Ex 13:18** But God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. → a trap?
- → Pharaoh's change of mind → pursued by the army (Exodus 14:3 "they have lost their way.")
- Leaving Egypt (freedom) → entering wilderness; locked in by the sea
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- Moses – a great leader → Moses hesitating on the seashore...

- **Ex 14:15-16** The LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me (מִה־תִּצְעַק אֵלַי)? 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.

1.2.5. RELIEF

- The song of victory (Ex 15)

1.2.6. ROLLER COASTER EMOTIONS

- (1) Great fears (2) Great joy (3) Great anger
- **Exodus 14:11-13** 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.
- **Ex 15:11** "Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?"
- **Ex 15:24** And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?"
 - **Mark 6:49-52** but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, ⁵⁰ for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." ⁵¹ And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, ⁵² for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

2. DRAMATIC DOCTRINES

2.1. BAPTISM

- **1Cor 10:2** all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea
- the Passover → eternal life; the Red Sea → separation from the world (Christian baptism in the muslim countries → death)
- **Ex 14:31** the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses...
 - **2Cor 6:17-18** Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, ¹⁸ and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.
 - **1Cor 5:9-10** I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people - ¹⁰ not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.
 - **J 17:15** I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.

2.2. SPIRITUAL WAR

- Eph; Rev; 2Cor 10
- **Exodus 13:21-22** 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. ²²The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.

2.3. WORKINGS OF FAITH AND FEAR

- Goal → THE GLORY OF GOD **Ex 14:4** I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host (בְּפָרְעָה וְאֶכְבְּדָהּ)

[SPURGEON *No.541*] GOD'S great design in all His works is the manifestation of His Glory. Any aim less than this were unworthy of Himself. He cannot act for the good of His creatures as an ultimate aim, for that were for God to be impelled by a motive less great than His own Nature.

- **Ex 14:13** Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD,
- **Ex 14:31** Israel 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.
- **Ex 15:24-26** And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" ²⁵ And he cried to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a log, and he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. There the LORD made for them a statute and a rule, and there he tested them, ²⁶ saying, "If you will diligently listen to the voice of the LORD your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, your healer."
- **2Cor 4:8-9** We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;

2.4. THE PRESENCE OF GOD

- (today – Pentecost) → **John 14:18** I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you
- **Ex 14:19-20** Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, ²⁰ coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night.
- **Ps 34:7(8)** The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them...

3. TO REMEMBER

- Our salvation is no less a drama in the spiritual realm than the escape of Israel from Egypt was in the physical realm.
- The world never lets its slaves go free without some form of pursuit.
- The escape route may seem impossible but the Presence of the Lord goes before and after us to get us safely on the other side of the sea.
- Faith knows when to *stand still* and look and when to *go forward* and escape.