

Dead Upon the Sea Shore

Exodus 14:10 – 31

~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God concluded our last report with Israel helpless and defenseless - caught between the devil and the deep blue sea. If you have not read our previous report and, indeed, all fourteen reports from the Book of Exodus, then I highly suggest you go back and do so now. The Egyptian army was being led by a mad man who initially refused to let Israel go, had subsequently driven them out - but now was chasing them down to re-capture them or kill them. Pharaoh is simply reacting in panic and despair to the wrath of God upon Egypt. There's no going back for Israel - but the Red Sea is in front of them. They are unable and unequipped to defend themselves. This doesn't look good at all. In fact, it looks like the end because there is no man to help them....

10 And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD.

11 And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt?

~ If we were standing where with the children of Israel were standing at the time in which we are studying, we would see great pyramids and thousands of tombs because we would, in fact, be standing on a massive burial ground on the fringe of the Egyptian wilderness. Israel thinks Moses has made a deal – or perhaps he had been tricked – by Pharaoh into bringing them out here into the wilderness to be slaughtered. Remember, they had cried out in Egypt and they wanted to be delivered from their bondage. Here they have the opportunity, but with the realization of impending doom they would rather turn and go back to slavery. Helpless and hopeless they stand and without the aid of God they are finished. God will have to be their deliverer at this point – because there is no other way out or forward for them.

If we could see mankind correctly, we would see a lost humanity struggling with his sin. Overall, the world is a pretty hopeless place; it's really nothing but a great big graveyard; and death entered this world by man. Man has been "evolving" for five thousand years plus – marching straight to his funeral! Life spans may have increased slightly; but that's not progress. Quality of life and the world, in general, are not a very nice thing or place - even when that place is luxurious. Apparently, mankind is the most colossal failure in God's expansive universe. The very brevity of man's life indicates abject failure. The uncertainty is extremely indicative of a failure to maintain self-control. The children of Israel will NEVER move from this place of deliverance if God Himself does not get involved. You and I could never be redeemed unless God did it for us. Redemption and salvation are of the Lord. Jonah said that. David said that, and it is the message of the New Testament just short of but accompanying the Gospel itself! ~

12 Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness.

13 And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.

~ Fear ye not and STAND – and standing is what Paul will tell us to do in Ephesians. It is God Almighty that works for us and He has wrought our salvation. The Lord Jesus Christ is the only One Who can bring us the peace that our sins have been forgiven. His redemption gives us peace by the Word of God. Paul says, "... put on the armor of God and, having done all, stand!" All that Israel is required to do is accept and receive the promise of God! God also tells the Israelites they need to say their final good-bye! We cannot lift one finger to participate in working out our salvation. All we can do is say good-bye to the slavery of sin. The question today is: have we accepted what God has done for us? If we have, we will not be seeing the Egyptians anymore....

14 The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

15 And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward:

16 But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

~ Myriad natural explanations abound for the parting of the Red Sea and, naturally, about how the children of Israel actually crossed over. I think all reputable, conservative theological historians agree now that the Exodus did, in fact, happen the way it was recorded as a historical event. Well, we have the record as a wall of water on both sides. Was it a wind event as we think of them? I doubt it; a miracle is recorded here in what we consider the Word of God and we will either accept it or we will reject it. The document we are examining is the historical record of Israel crossing the Red Sea; and that record is that they went over on dry ground. When they walked through the midst of the sea it was no different at all from walking the sands of the desert. Maybe there were a few extra seashells lying around – I don't know. I do know that the ground was dry, and their toes and feet didn't even get damp. Irrespective of how it happened, only a miracle could explain that. So, as we stand here on the waters edge of the seashore the Egyptians are not half-hearted about this chase; no, they're ready to annihilate the Israelites. Of course, the heart-hardening issue comes up again now with Pharaoh. God, again, is forcing him to do the thing that is in his heart. Well, the Egyptians are going to do what is in their hearts alright - and they'll all die....

17 And I, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them: and I will get me honour upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.

18 And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten me honour upon Pharaoh, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.

19 And the angel of God, the pre-incarnate Lord Jesus Christ, 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:

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.

21 And 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 dry land, and the waters were divided.

22 And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

23 And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

24 And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians,

~ The working of the Lord through the cloud represents the Holy Spirit. God works through the Holy Spirit which speaks of the things of Christ. The things of Christ are only found in the Bible. Here we find God moving through the pillar of clouds – the Holy Spirit – same as it ever was! Israel is being led here as the child of God should be led today – by the Spirit of God....

25 And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians.

26 And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.

27 And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.

28 And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them.

29 But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

30 Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore.

31 And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses.

~ Our Spiritual Safari has just witnessed a miracle, friends. There is no natural explanation that can account for what we have just read. We have many people that are truly born-again Christians and who are in Christ – but – they need a natural explanation for this account. When our expedition through the entire Word of God takes us walking on dry land in the midst of the sea, we claim a miracle! Period. The end. Walking on the water with Peter was fun - but this is something else altogether. I can never get a mental image of water walls on the right and left. I've seen it depicted many ways; I'm not impressed by art. It will not be explained on a natural basis.

The entire purpose of the acts of God in this written record, since the beginning of their wilderness escape, has been to demonstrate His power. God delivered Israel by blood and power out of Egypt; and God will do it the same way every time He delivers anyone throughout the ages. So, there they go off across the Red Sea - and then they break out in song. A dear friend always tells me to sing out in song to the Lord. The Lord is my

strength and my song; but you probably don't want to hear me sing. The Lord is a Man of War – just like the song says.

Is this the same crowd we were just with a moment ago on the other side of the Red Sea? Weren't they moaning and crying out and wanting to go back to slavery and bondage in Egypt? Weren't they questioning Moses motives for bringing them out there in the wilderness in the middle of the night? Well, Paul says all these things happen to Israel as examples unto us. These things are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the age are come. Paul says he doesn't want us ignorant – because we ARE ignorant – about how all were under the pillar and passed through the sea; all were baptized to Moses in the cloud and in the sea. How were they baptized unto Moses? – Well, it's not in water, that's for sure. They didn't get enough water to dampen a washcloth to wash their faces with. The Egyptian army was the one that got wet. Baptism here means they were identified as Gods chosen people. Those who got wet were NOT the Children of God.

Of course, we believe in water baptism today as an identification process whereby we receive the Holy Spirit publicly. The immersion – or whatever mode you want to use – is your public announcement that you're now in Christ Jesus. These Israelites were complaining on one side of the ocean, but they are now singing songs to Moses on the other side! Israel has now been delivered. It was by faith they crossed the Red Sea; which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned. Obviously, these children of Israel didn't have any faith until God acted first and they crossed over! They were then identified with Moses and it was the faith of Moses that brought a great nation out of slavery. Moses smote the Red Sea and it was Moses that lifted them up in song because they have now seen the salvation of God!

This is what happens when we trust the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior. He miraculously takes us out of Egyptian bondage and the darkness of slavery of and to the things of this world. God leads us across our own spiritual Red Sea towards liberation and in deliverance. His salvation and redemption bring us to the place where we can lift up a song in thanksgiving; and we become baptized and identified with Christ - the Son of God. By One Spirit are we all baptized into One Body! It's a wonderful life to be joined to Him

eternally. We aren't going to slip through His fingers if we ARE one of His fingers; we're one body of members in Christ Jesus. All of these spiritual scenes we are examining on our Spiritual Safari happened to them for our example. This is what the Spirit of God does when we trust Him with our lives; when we trust the Lord Jesus as our Savior ~

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