

Stand Still

Exodus 14:10-15



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FOCAL Read Responsively Exodus 14:10-15 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? {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. {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:****

If you want to see a wonderful illustration as to how much God loves His people the best place you can turn is to His Israel. It is in the Gospel of John that we read **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son”**, but it is in the Old Testament that we see God visibly loving His Beloved. If you want to see how long-suffering and patient God is with His people, look to Israel. It is to Israel God said **“All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people” (Romans 10:21)**. What vivid language! **All day long** God plead with His Israel,

begging her to trust in Him. God's Israel should have been overcomers, striding through this world with head held high. That nation of slaves cried out to God in her bondage and He heard her cry. Through a series of ten plagues the Eternal God, the Great **I AM** ripped these people from Pharaoh's grasp. Before God ever called and commissioned Moses to be His ambassador the Lord told him:

Exodus 3:19 And I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not by a mighty hand.

God knew that Pharaoh would resist Him, even unto the death. God knew that it would take ten plagues, each more horrific than the last, to force that old idolater to let His people go. But God also knew this – Pharaoh was going to let His Israel go free. Though it would look like Pharaoh and Egypt would win the day, the Dayspring from on High would triumph in the end (**Luke 1:78**). At the end of the day Pharaoh and his army would lie crushed and drowned under the waters of the Red Sea. Israel's enemies would be defeated. Israel believed in the Lord and because of her belief she was delivered from Egypt. Egypt's great claim to fame was her pyramids, huge tombstones erected over kings graves and built by slave labor. God freed Israel from death and slavery. She was led from Egypt by a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day, the visible manifestation of God. The Lord had every intent of leading His people to a land **flowing with milk and honey (Exodus 3:8)**, just as He had promised His servant Moses. What stopped them? What kept God's people from triumphantly entering the

Promised Land? What caused a journey of just a few weeks to turn into a death march through the desert? What caused the first generation of Israel – along with the Great Prophet Moses and Aaron – to die just short of the Promised Land? What enemy destroyed Israel?

Israel destroyed Israel. The greatest enemy of the Christian is not the world around him, nor is it the devil himself. The greatest enemy we will ever battle is that enemy within. **God is able** to overcome all things for you, dear believer, just as He did for Israel. But God expects you to love Him, to worship Him, and most of all *to heed Him* in all things. God does not save us from Egypt just to let us wander free. When He saves us (and we are saved by faith in Jesus) we become **“the sheep of His pasture” (Psalm 100:2-4)**. What does God expect of His people?

Psalms 100:2-4 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. {3} Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. {4} Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

Israel had been released from a land of death. You who are believer have been released from a land of death. We can say with the Apostle:

1 Corinthians 15:54-55 ... Death is swallowed up in victory. {55} O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

Jesus Christ took our death on His Cross so that we could have eternal life. **He has given unto us who believe eternal life, and we shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck us out of His hand (John 10:28).** Freed from death, we belong unto the Great Shepherd. Let us **serve the Lord with gladness. Let us come before Him with singing.** Israel should have been singing, not murmuring. Israel should have looked up and, seeing the Egyptian army coming, she should have begun to look with joyous expectation toward God. Would God have saved her only to abandon her at the edge of the Red Sea? Absolutely not! God did a great thing in saving her, and He would do greater things now. Are you saved by faith in Him? Can you go back in time to a moment where you stood before the Almighty God and confessed yourself to be a sinner? Can you remember the day you called on the Name of the Lord for salvation, and can you remember Him delivering you? **(Acts 22:16).** If so, you who are saved are called to **“walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4).** God saved Israel so that she could serve and love Him. God saved you so that you can serve and love Him. **We who are saved, whether Israel or the Church, have passed from death to life (1 John 3:14).** We are now to live each day looking unto God and loving God with all our hearts.

If you are not saved – if you still abide in Egypt – then

today is the day of salvation. Call upon the Name of the Lord. Believe in Him, and cast your soul upon Him. Trust your today, your tomorrow, your every day unto Jesus.

1. God Never Abandons Those He Has Saved

FOCAL Exodus 14:10-12 **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? {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.**

This first generation of Israel, saved by God's mighty hand, would die over a forty year period as they wandered in the wilderness.

Why did the first generation of Israel die in the wilderness?

They would not die because God was faithless. They would die because they could not *believe* that God is faithful. Each time a trial came – beginning at the Red Sea – these people rebelled and played the blame game.

They persisted in following a strange and yet predictable pattern of rebellion. Yet if they had paid attention they would have understood that God *never saves and then abandons those whom He has saved*. There are two titles the Scripture gives to God. He is first of all **faithful**:

Deuteronomy 7:9 Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

He is **not just God, but the Faithful God**. God is a covenant keeping God. He made a promise to **Abraham** many years before, and long after Abraham was dead He sent **Joseph** to Egypt to keep His promise. Several hundred years passed and yet **God, the Faithful God** never forgot His covenant with Abraham. He saved a young child named **Moses**¹ - “**he who is drawn out (of water)**” - and raised that child up in the King's Palace. At the appointed time the **Faithful God** called Moses from a burning bush, and sent him to Egypt with the Divine mandate of “**Let My people go**”. This Faithful God delivered His people from Egypt with a mighty hand. Which brings us to another Name of God:

Isaiah 43:3 For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Savior: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for

1 H4872, מוֹשֶׁה, mōsheh, *mo-sheh'*, From H4871; *drawing* out (of the water), that is, *rescued*; *Mosheh*, the Israelitish lawgiver: - Moses.

thee.

God is not only Faithful, but **He alone is the Savior of His people.**

As Jonah said (**Jonah 2:9**) “**Salvation is of the Lord**”. The Lord saves His people. He is the Savior. When God saved Israel from Egyptian bondage He showed them that He is the Faithful Saving God. Our Lord never saves and then abandons those whom He has saved. God cannot go contrary to His Divine Nature. What He is, He must always be. He is faithful, and He is the Savior. If He did any less for Israel at the edge of the Red Sea He would cease being God. This cannot be! The Scripture tells us:

Psalms 37:39-40 But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble. {40} And the LORD shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.

God not only will save, but He *must* save. But let's go one step further. If you have been saved, then God *must* try you, *must* test you else He is not God. The Bible tells us that **God is love**:

1 John 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for

God is love.

When we enter the Christian Way of life we *enter the Family of God*. God is our Father, Jesus – our Elder Brother, and the Holy Spirit our constant Comforter and Guide. We are literally bound to God. God's people are

Ephesians 5:30 For we are **members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.**

We not only belong to God – **in His eyes we are a part of Him. We are His Body, His people – and He will not abandon those whom He has saved.** God loves His people just as a Parent loves a child. The child must be allowed to grow. God must allow – nay even bring – trials so that we can become stronger in our faith.

The saved are called to partner with God. God does not save us just so He can wait on us. It is us who are to wait on God. Israel should have waited on God. This is what the Lord calls His people to do:

Psalms 27:14 **Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.**

Israel did not wait on God, but immediately began blaming God's Messenger Moses. **“Why did you lead us this way Moses? It would have been better had we stayed in Egypt. At least in Egypt we would have lived. You've brought us here to die!”** Oh Beloved, God would not be so cruel as to save then abandon. God

saves and keeps on saving – we must just trust in Him.

2. What Shall I Do In The Midst Of Trials?

FOCAL Exodus 14:13 ... **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.**

What shall we do in the midst of the trial? Moses' advice to Israel is still good advise for the believer today: **“Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord”.**

The Lord led His Israel to this area, going before them as a Pillar of Fire by night and a Pillar of Cloud by day (**Exodus 13:21**). He *visibly led them* to this point. Israel saw this – yet now in the midst of trials they stopped seeing the reality of God and began to entertain many dark messengers.

Their chief messenger was called “Fear”. This is usually the first messenger to appear when we fall into the fire of trial. Moses told the Israelites **fear ye not²** - literally **“quit being afraid”**. When fear comes, reason departs. You are God's Children, just as Israel was God's people. The Scripture says:

2 Qal Imperfect of H3372, **אָרַךְ**, *yârê'*, *yaw-ray'*, A primitive root; to *fear*; morally to *revere*; causatively to *frighten*: - affright, be (make) afraid, dread (-ful), (put in) fear (-ful, -fully, -ing). (be had in) reverence (-end), X see, terrible (act, -ness, thing).

Romans 8:15-17 For **ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. {16} The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: {17} And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with [him], that we may be also glorified together.**

When God promised Israel the land of Canaan it was theirs at the moment of promise. God cannot lie, nor does He change His mind. What God has decreed will stand. Israel on the banks of the Red Sea was safer than they were when they were back in Egypt. **Perfect love casts out all fear (1 John 4:18)**. The believer choking in fear on the brink of trial is the believer who does not understand the love of God. **God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son (John 3:16)**. We were **reconciled to God by the death of His Son (Romans 5:10)**. Would God bring us this far just to abandon us at the edge of the River? Did God abandon the Baby Moses in the River Nile? If not, would He abandon those He so mightily saved now? You were saved to partner with God. Cast out fear, and believe that He loves you.

FOCAL Exodus 14:13 ... 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.

Moses also told Israel **stand still**. Here is the **dark messenger called busyness**. When the trial comes and fear washes over us, the next thing we are prone to do is **something – anything – just so long we stay busy**.

Why are we busy, rather than seek His face in prayer?
Stand still and pray, praising His Name.

Some justify this busyness by saying “**we must put feet on our prayers**”. Beloved, we are called to do nothing unless first we pray about it and seek His Face. Step into the water – but only when God says “**Go forward**”. Too many presume upon God, believing that it is best to ask for forgiveness than to ask for permission. This is a dangerous attitude. **Stand still**. Cry out to God. It is He that is God, and not us. Call unto Him. Listen to His Word:

Psalms 50:14-15 **Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High: {15} And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.**

Too often in trials we play the blame game as Israel did.

“Why has God abandoned us? Why is Satan attacking us? Why has Moses forced us to this place?” This is not what God commands of us. **Offer unto God thanksgiving.** Thank God for saving you. Thank God for giving you life. Thank God for loving you enough to get you to the edge of your Red Sea. As the **Imperials** sang:

“Praise the Lord – He can work with those who Praise Him, Praise the Lord – Our God in Heaven reigns, Praise the Lord – and the chains that seem to bind you will drop powerless behind you when you praise Him.”

Thank God. Keep your vows to Him. Call upon Him and expect His deliverance. Then glorify God no matter what. **Stand still and call unto Him.** Look for His deliverance, and believe that He is able to do

Ephesians 3:20 ... **exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,**

Too often we receive no answer in the day of trial because we are busy being busy.

We presume on God, saying **“I will march into the sea and expect a miracle”.** Moses told Israel **“Don't you do it! Stand still, quit murmuring, and begin to pray. Trust that God will be God and believe in Him. He will give you rest.”**

Do not cower! **Stand still! Stand upright like the Godly man or woman you are.** If you are not careful fear will cause you to **become entangled in the land (Exodus 14:3).** You will revert back to your old way of life, a way which is unto death and most unproductive. **Stand still.** The soldier of the Lord stands at attention awaiting further orders. I remember going through boot camp, and remember that many soldiers would not learn to march in step. The commander would call “left” “right” and some would be stepping out “right” “left”. We must learn to march to the orders of our Commander. **Stand still.** Do not heed the cries of the dark messengers, but listen to the Voice of God.

Moses also said:

FOCAL Exodus 14:13 ... **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.

Look to God our Savior. **See³ the salvation of the Lord.** The Prophet said **“Joyfully look for His hand. See His salvation!”** The Scripture tells us:

3 Qal Imperative of H7200, רָאָה, rā'âh, raw-aw', A primitive root; to see, literally or figuratively (in numerous applications, direct and implied, transitively, intransitively and causatively): - advise self, appear, approve, behold, X certainly, consider, discern, (make to) enjoy, have experience, gaze, take heed, X indeed, X joyfully, lo, look (on, one another, one on another, one upon another, out, up, upon), mark, meet, X be near, perceive, present, provide, regard, (have) respect, (fore-, cause to, let) see (-r, -m, one another), shew (self), X sight of others, (e-) spy, stare, X surely, X think, view, visions.

Proverbs 3:12 For **whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.**

If you are saved by faith in Him **God like a Father delights in you. He corrects you** to cause you to grow in your faith. Look for His hand of deliverance. Believe that He loves you, and will save you out of the fire. Has He not promised:

Psalms 46:1-3 ... **God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. {2} Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; {3} Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.** Selah.

Israel was to *watch as God delivered them*. As they passed through the waters of the Red Sea on dry land they were to learn that **God would see them through**. God expects His people to have faith in Him. He expects us to look beyond the trial and **see the salvation of the Lord**. The people of God are to be *visionary* – ever looking forward – never looking away from God.

3. God Loves You And Wants You To Grow In Your Faith

FOCAL Exodus 14:14-15 **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:**

Why does God allow trials to come our way? Why does He send them?

As God brings trials on His people He expects us to *grow in our faith* as we come through that trial. The Bible tells us that we should rejoice in trials, for trials of faith ...

1 Peter 1:7 ... **are much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:**

Trials are brought by a loving God to His children for our benefit. They are not attacks of the devil, uncontrolled and destructive, but they are tests that we must pass if we want to move into the deeper Christian life. **You cannot partner with the Eternal until your mind is focused on the Eternal**. You cannot live victoriously for Christ in this life until you grab the horns of faith, trusting God through the good times as

well as the bad.

If Israel could not trust God at the brink of the Red Sea, do you think she would be able to trust Him when she crossed the Jordan River? Why or why not?

God had promised Israel the land of Canaan, but they would have to cross the River Jordan to enter the Promised Land. They would have to face enemies every bit as fierce as the Egyptians if they wanted to inherit the land. They had to learn once and for all that God is in charge of all things - of water, people, and problems – and they had to learn to trust and obey God no matter what He said. Trials met and *learned* prepare the believer for greater things. **C.H. Spurgeon** said:

“A man whose life shall be one even and smooth path, will see but little of the glory of God, for he has few occasions of self-emptying, and hence, but little fitness for being filled with the revelation of God. They who navigate little streams and shallow creeks, know but little of the God of tempests; but they who “go down to the sea in ships, and do business in great waters, these see the works of the Lord”

God does not reveal glorious things to those who have but a shallow faith. It was not until **John the Revelator** was castaway on the Isle of Patmos that God revealed great things to him. We see the greatest of God while we are in the midst of trials. We see His deliverance, and learn the lesson that the **Apostle Paul** learned when God told him

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 ... **My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.** Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. {10} Therefore **I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.**

God wants His believers to learn to trust Him in fair weather and in foul. Israel crossed over the Red Sea while her enemies were destroyed. Did she **stand still and see the salvation of the Lord**. Did she learn to trust the Lord in this encounter? No, for we see that in **Marah** the nation:

Exodus 15:22-27 (KJV) "... **found no water.** {23} **And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter:** therefore the name of it was called Marah. {24} **And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?** {25} **And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD showed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them”**

We see God's people following the *same pattern of unbelief*. They now faced not *too much* water, but *too bitter* water. Rather than **fear not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord** they once more murmured and doubted. They failed this test. God in His abundant Grace gave them water to drink and loved them. Yet the Lord still wanted for His people to grow in Grace and in faith. They would have to grow before they could enter the Promised Land. The Lord led them to **Rephidim**:

Exodus 17:1-7 "And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the LORD, and pitched in Rephidim: and there was no water for the people to drink. {2} Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD? {3} And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?

and again they failed the test. This nation would never enter the Promised Land – they weren't *looking for God*. They were led by a man named **Moshe** – **snatched from the water** – out of Egypt. God took Israel over the Red Sea by parting the waters for them. Israel came to a place where the **water was too bitter to drink**, and God made

it sweet. They came to a place where there was **no water, but the Lord brought water out of the Rock**. Time and time again God sent a trial and asked His people to lovingly trust Him. Time and time again they murmured, complained, and turned their faces away from faith. In time God condemned them to wander in the desert for forty years, uselessly surrendering their lives to the sand. They could have entered the Promised Land, but they refused Him. They refused to obey Jesus Christ.

God is calling you to lovingly obey Him this very day. Will you follow the path of the first generation of Israel, or will you follow the path of the second? God loves you, and has proven His love for you each and every day. God calls you from Eternity to a place of eternal life. Will you believe on Him? Will you partner with Him? **He is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance**. Will you trust Him? Will you follow Him where ever He leads? Will you make your life of obedience, doing as God has said? **Fear not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord**.

May God touch your hearts with His Word.