

Show Me Your Glory

Lessons from the Life of Moses

Lesson 7 Exodus 13–14

Day One: The Infallible Guide

The final blow had fallen; all the firstborn throughout the land of Egypt had died. Each year God's people were to remember His great power and deliverance by observing Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Then God instructed Moses that every firstborn throughout Israel—both man and animal—belonged to Him. They were to be consecrated, or set apart for God's service. When future generations would ask why, they would be told it was to commemorate the slaying of the Egyptian firstborn and the rescue of the firstborn of Israel. They were redeemed, set apart to serve God.

Read Exodus 12:40–51 for review, along with Exodus 13.

1. When was the *law of the firstborn* to take effect? v. 11

The donkey could not be offered as a sacrifice because it was considered an unclean animal, but because it was valuable for work it could be redeemed by a lamb. Later on Moses would explain everything in greater detail (see Leviticus 12 and Numbers 18:14–19). In time the tribe of Levi would be substituted for the eldest sons, designated to serve as priests in the Tabernacle. The success enjoyed by God's people would ultimately be dependent upon their willingness to obey His commands.

2. By what way did God choose to lead His people? Why? vv. 17–18
3. What did Moses take with him? v. 19
 - a. What does this reveal about Joseph? Genesis 50:24–25; Hebrews 11:22
 - b. How might the awareness of Joseph's faith in God's promise to deliver His people have been encouraging to the Israelites during their years of suffering in Egypt?
 - c. Personal: Can you think of how someone else's faith has encouraged *you* during a difficult time?

Scripture records the city of Succoth (v. 20) as the starting point of the Exodus. From there the most direct way out of Egypt was the main road that ran along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. The shortest route to Canaan was estimated to be about ten days, but because it ran through Philistine territory, the Lord did not tell Moses to go that way.

4. What form did God's presence take before His people? vv. 21–22
 - a. Why do *you think* it was important for them to know He was always with them?
 - b. Personal: Do *you* have the comfort and assurance that God's presence is always with you? If not, would you like to? You can by praying and asking the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive you of your sin and to come live inside your heart today. If you take that step tell someone about it.
 - c. As His child, what are you promised? See Hebrews 13:5; John 14:15–17; and Matthew 28:20b.

When it was necessary for the Israelites to travel at night, the *pillar of fire* lighted their way in the darkness; and when they walked in the glare and heat of the desert afternoons, the *pillar of cloud* rested over them as a comforting, protective canopy. All the way to the Promised Land the pillar of fire and cloud would lead them. With God as their guide, the unfamiliar *way of the wilderness* was safer than a known way.

Selah . . . Psalm 84:11 says, “the Lord is a sun and a shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will he withhold from those who walk uprightly.” At this present moment in time the Lord is your Light—your Shield—and your Guide. What is it that you need from Him?

Heartbeat . . . “Do not be afraid. Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you . . . The Lord will fight for you and you shall hold your peace.” Exodus 14:13–14

Day Two: It Would Take a Miracle

Read Exodus 14. Today we will focus on verses 1–14.

1. What does God tell Moses will take place by the Red Sea? Why will He allow this to happen? vv. 1–4

Pharaoh changed his mind about the letting the Israelites go! He took off in hot pursuit, accompanied by six-hundred chariots and the best of Egypt's army. The Lord continued to strengthen Pharaoh's resolve as he chased after the people who had escaped so defiantly.

2. Record the mindset of the people as Pharaoh and his army drew near to the children of Israel:
 - a. v. 10
 - b. v. 11
 - c. v. 12

Fear and panic set in, followed by much complaining and expressions of “I told you so!” and, “Our Egyptian slavery was better than dying here in the wilderness!” Facing their first test, God’s people wanted to turn and run back to what was familiar.

3. Personal: What does it take to shake your faith—just a little or a lot? Is your first impulse to turn and run?
 - ❖ When fear takes over and you begin complaining about your lot in life, what do you do to put your eyes back on the Lord?

Moses stands firm in his conviction that God would deliver them. Had God revealed to Moses that He was about to perform a miracle? Perhaps, but Moses had already begun to walk by faith and, although blamed for the predicament they now faced, Moses takes the lead and directs the attention of the people onto the Lord where it needed to be!

4. What series of commands does Moses give to the people?
 - a. 1st command (v. 13):
 - b. 2nd command (v. 13):
 - c. 3rd command (v. 14):
 - d. What assurance bolstered the faith of the people in verse 14?
 - e. Which of the above commands do *you* need to listen to today? Why?

Review this week’s memory verse.

Day Three:

“Go Forward!”

A vast and powerful Egyptian army was pressing down on the Israelites who were camped at the Red Sea. No match for their pursuers, God’s children seemed the definite underdogs looking for a way out. But events were about to take a turn, resulting in a story that would be retold again and again for centuries to come.

Read Exodus 14:15–31.

1. There is a time to be still and wait upon the Lord, but then there is a time to act. What did God make very clear to Moses? v. 15

2. What step of faith did Moses have to take? v. 16

Moses held a rod [staff] in his hand when God first met him. He held it out to announce some of the plagues upon Egypt. Now by faith Moses would hold it out over the sea, providing God a channel through which His people would safely pass.

3. How does Scripture reveal Moses to be the instrument of God?
 - a. Psalm 77:20

 - b. Isaiah 63:12

4. As the Israelites began to pass through the midst of the sea on dry ground . . .
 - a. What did the Lord do with the Egyptian army? v. 17

 - b. What was God’s purpose in it? v. 18

5. What happened next to the Angel of the Lord and the pillar of cloud? vv. 19–20

It’s comforting to know that God not only is your guide, but He has your back covered as well!

Look closer . . .

The children of Israel were guided by the *Angel of the Lord* at all times. *The pillar of cloud* provided *light* to them but became *darkness* to Pharaoh’s pursuing army. Contrast this thought with the fact that believer’s today have the *True Light*—Jesus, revealed through God’s Word—to lead them but unbelievers are in darkness. See John 8:12 and Matthew 11:25.

Review this week’s memory verse.

Day Four:

Safely On the Other Side

Read Exodus 14:21–31.

The darkness had kept Pharaoh’s army back from reaching the Israelites who continued to cross the divided sea. All through the night the Lord caused a fierce storm to blow while two million people walked along in wonderment: *“So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right and on their left”* (v. 22).

1. What took place as the Egyptians pursued them into the divided sea?
 - a. v. 24

 - b. v. 25

Just as God had previously commanded to stretch forth his hand to part the waters, once again He told Moses to stretch out his hand so the waters would flow back onto the Egyptians (v. 26).

2. The waters were a wall of deliverance for Israel, but what were they to Egypt?
vv. 27–28

Once safely on the other side, the Israelites saw the Egyptians dead, floating along the seashore. *“Thus Israel saw the great work the Lord had done in Egypt . . .”* (v. 31).

3. What was the end result of everything the Israelites had previously witnessed?
v. 31

Selah . . .

The Israelites thought they had reached a dead end with no possible way out; they could not rescue themselves. It was only then that God miraculously provided safe passage for them. As you close your lesson today, spend a few minutes meditating on Proverbs 3:5–6.

- ❖ Is God doing a great work in your life at the moment? If you have reached a “Red Sea” dead end of your own, turn to God and then obediently take the next step of faith He asks of you. Try keeping a journal to track your progress on the journey, recording how and when He brings you safely through.

Review this week’s memory verse.

Day Five:

Praying with Purpose

Selah . . . Be still and consider how to *work out* in your daily life what God has *worked into* your heart through your study of His Word. Then pray each aspect through.

❖ **A Point Pondered:** Is there an example from the lesson or a truth from Scripture that has taken on a new meaning this week? Please note it below.

❖ **A Path Pursued:** Knowledge must be applied in order to make a difference. Name one thing can you act upon in obedience to the Holy Spirit's leading.

❖ **A Promised Possessed:** If God has spoken a particular verse or word of hope to your heart, write it down and pray it back to Him.

❖ **A Praise Proclaimed:** God loves to hear you praise Him! What aspect of God's character particularly blessed you this week? Will you praise Him today?

❖ **A Prayer Presented:** Write out the most pressing request on your heart and lift it to the Lord.

Other requests:

Notes