

# EXPLORING EXODUS

## 14:1-31

### Introduction

#### 1) Review of Exodus 13:1-22

- a) Instructions concerning the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Law of the Firstborn
- b) Children of Israel begin journey to leave Egypt by way of the Red Sea

#### 2) Our study today is **Exodus 14:1-31** (see Psa. 66:6; 74:13; 78:13; 106:7-12; 136:13-15)

### I) **Pharaoh Pursues the Children of Israel (14:1-9)**

- A) God has Moses take the children of Israel to camp “by the sea” (specific geographical details)
- B) Tells Moses what is about to happen = Pharaoh will believe the Israelites are confused in the wilderness and will pursue them (God again “will harden Pharaoh’s heart”)
  - 1) God will gain honor over Pharaoh and his army; Egyptians will know that “I am the LORD”
- C) Pharaoh second-guesses his decision to let Israel go
  - 1) Prepares his chariot and six hundred choice chariots with captains
  - 2) Catches up with Israelites at their seaside encampment

### II) **Israel’s Fear and God’s Message of Deliverance (14:10-20)**

- A) Children of Israel react with great fear when they see the Egyptians
  - 1) Complain to Moses – Why have you brought us out to wilderness to die? Didn’t we tell you to leave us alone to serve the Egyptians? (see 5:21; 6:9) Better to serve there than die here!
- B) Moses tells the people to not fear, stand firm, be quiet, and see the salvation of the LORD
  - 1) They will not see the Egyptian anymore forever – the LORD will fight for them
- C) LORD tells Moses to tell the children of Israel to “go forward”
  - 1) Stretch rod over the sea and divide it – children of Israel will go through the midst of the sea
  - 2) Egyptians will follow and God will “gain honor” over them
  - 3) Angel of God and pillar of cloud/fire moves in between to separate Israelites and Egyptians

### III) **Israel Crosses Through the Divided Red Sea (14:21-31)**

- A) Strong east wind all night divided sea – Israel passes through on dry land
- B) Egyptian army pursues into the midst of sea – LORD troubles them and their chariot wheels
  - 1) They recognize the divine hand of the LORD – “Let us flee!” (see Psa. 77:16-20)
- C) Moses stretches out his hand and water is brought down upon the Egyptians – totally destroyed
  - 1) Israel sees dead Egyptians and LORD’s great work – feared and believed LORD and Moses

### IV) **Lessons and Applications for Today**

- A) God provides times of testing to prove and increase our faith - how will we react – fear, courage?
  - 1) Fear will paralyze and confuse our pursuit of our spiritual goals – need to listen to God!
  - 2) **Boldness** leaving Egypt (v. 8), **fear** seeing Egyptians (v. 10), **faith** seeing God’s work (v. 31)
- B) Just the beginning of Israel’s murmuring and complaining (15:24; 16:2-3; 17:3)
  - 1) Can become a bad habit demonstrating a lack of faith and digression (Phil 2:14; Jude 16)
- C) Israel went “forward” through the sea – God wants us to keep moving forward by faith
  - 1) The LORD will fight for us and guide us through the way of escape (Rom. 8:31; 1 Cor. 10:13)
- D) All Israel under cloud, all passed through sea; baptized into Moses in cloud and sea (1 Cor. 10:1-2)
  - 1) Separated from bondage to be led by God’s anointed deliverer– just as we are in Christ
  - 2) Yet, with most of them God was not well-pleased – we must take heed (vv. 5-12)

### Conclusion

Moses and Israel stood victorious over Egypt (evil, bondage) by God’s power (Heb. 11:29). They are ready to journey to Sinai to become a great nation and receive the covenant of God (Ex. 15-19).