



God Leads Israel and Hardens Pharaoh

Exodus 13:17 – 14:20

Presented by Bob DeWaay
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God has purposes for an indirect route

- **Exodus 13:17**

Now it came about when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God did not lead them by the way of the land of the Philistines, even though it was near; for God said, "Lest the people change their minds when they see war, and they return to Egypt."



God chooses the route

- **Exodus 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.

 **Moses honors Joseph's request**
(cited verbatim from Genesis 50:25)

■ **Exodus 13:19**

And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had made the sons of Israel solemnly swear, saying, "God shall surely take care of you; and you shall carry my bones from here with you."

 **God guides and protects them through a theophany**

■ **Exodus 13:20, 21**

Then they set out from Succoth and camped in Etham on the edge of the wilderness. The Lord was going before them in a pillar of cloud by day to lead them on the way, and in a pillar of fire by night to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night.

 **They did not have to decide for themselves where to go**

■ **Exodus 13:22**

He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.

They take a circuitous route to trick Pharaoh

■ **Exodus 14:1 - 3**

Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Tell the sons of Israel to turn back and camp before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea; you shall camp in front of Baalzephon, opposite it, by the sea. For Pharaoh will say of the sons of Israel, 'They are wandering aimlessly in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.'"

God will be honored through His righteous judgment

■ **Exodus 14:4**

"Thus I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will chase after them; and I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD." And they did so.

They want their cheap labor back

■ **Exodus 14:5 - 7**

When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his servants had a change of heart toward the people, and they said, "What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?" So he made his chariot ready and took his people with him; and he took six hundred select chariots, and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them.



They go after Israel with everything available

■ **Exodus 14:8, 9**

The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and he chased after the sons of Israel as the sons of Israel were going out boldly. Then the Egyptians chased after them with all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and they overtook them camping by the sea, beside Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon.



A severe test of faith

■ **Exodus 14:10**

As Pharaoh drew near, the sons of Israel looked, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they became very frightened; so the sons of Israel cried out to the LORD.



A foreshadow of more murmuring

■ **Exodus 14:11, 12**

Then they said to Moses, "Is it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you dealt with us in this way, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the word that we spoke to you in Egypt, saying, '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."

 **Moses responds with faith and grace**

■ **Exodus 14:13, 14**

But Moses said to the people, “Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the LORD which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. The LORD will fight for you while you keep silent.”

 **Three questions and three directives**

■ **Questions:**

- Were there no graves?
- Why did you bring us out?
- Is this not what we said?

■ **Directives**

- Do not Fear!
- Stand by and see Yahweh’s salvation
- Keep Silent

 **Moses is told to take action**

■ **Exodus 14:15, 16**

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to Me? Tell the sons of Israel to go forward. As for you, lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, and the sons of Israel shall go through the midst of the sea on dry land.”

 God is honored by judging Israel's enemies

■ **Exodus 14:17, 18**

“And as for Me, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and I will be honored through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. Then the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord, when I am honored through Pharaoh, through his chariots and his horsemen.”

 God's presence protects God's people

■ **Exodus 14:19, 20**

And the angel of God, who had been going before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them. So it came between the camp of Egypt and the camp of Israel; and there was the cloud along with the darkness, yet it gave light at night. Thus the one did not come near the other all night.

 Applications and Implications

- 1) God is righteous in all His judgments, including reprobation
- 2) We should not forget what God has done and complain when there are trials
- 3) We should set aside fear and believe in God's salvation

1) God is righteous in all His judgments, including reprobation

■ **2Chronicles 18:18, 19**

And Micaiah said, "Therefore, hear the word of the Lord. I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing on His right and on His left. And the Lord said, 'Who will entice Ahab king of Israel to go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?' And one said this while another said that."

1) God is righteous in all His judgments, including reprobation

■ **2Chronicles 18:20, 21**

"Then a spirit came forward and stood before the Lord and said, 'I will entice him.' And the Lord said to him, 'How?' And he said, 'I will go and be a deceiving spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' Then He said, 'You are to entice him and prevail also. Go and do so.'"

1) God is righteous in all His judgments, including reprobation

■ **2Chronicles 18:22**

"Now therefore, behold, the Lord has put a deceiving spirit in the mouth of these your prophets; for the Lord has proclaimed disaster against you."

1) God is righteous in all His judgments, including reprobation

■ **Revelation 17:12, 13**

“The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast.”

1) God is righteous in all His judgments, including reprobation

■ **Revelation 17:17**

“For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled.”

2) We should not forget what God has done and complain when there are trials

■ **Hebrews 3:6 - 8**

but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end. Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, “Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, As in the day of trial in the wilderness”

 3) We should set aside fear and believe in God's salvation

■ **Hebrews 13:5, 6**

Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you," so that we confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What shall man do to me?"


