



Exodus

From Slavery to Freedom

Lesson #6

Jim Hoffman

The Red Sea Experience

- Ex 13:1 The Lord said to Moses, 2 "Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether man or animal." 3 Then Moses said to the people, "Commemorate this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the Lord brought you out of it with a mighty hand. Eat nothing containing yeast. 4 Today, in the month of Abib, you are leaving. 5 When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Hivites and Jebusites — the land he swore to your forefathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey — you are to observe this ceremony in this month: 6 For seven days eat bread made without yeast and on the seventh day hold a festival to the Lord. 7 Eat unleavened bread during those seven days; nothing with yeast in it is to be seen among you, nor shall any yeast be seen anywhere within your borders. 8 On that day tell your son, 'I do this because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.'

The Red Sea Experience

- Ex 13:9 This observance will be for you like a sign on your hand and a reminder on your forehead that the law of the Lord is to be on your lips. For the Lord brought you out of Egypt with his mighty hand. 10 You must keep this ordinance at the appointed time year after year. 11 "After the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites and gives it to you, as he promised on oath to you and your forefathers, 12 you are to give over to the Lord the first offspring of every womb. All the firstborn males of your livestock belong to the Lord. 13 Redeem with a lamb every firstborn donkey, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. Redeem every firstborn among your sons. 14 "In days to come, when your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' say to him, 'With a mighty hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 15 When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed every firstborn in Egypt, both man and animal. This is why I sacrifice to the Lord the first male offspring of every womb and redeem each of my firstborn sons.' 16 And it will be like a sign on your hand and a symbol on your forehead that the Lord brought us out of Egypt with his mighty hand." NIV

The Red Sea Experience

- God will make it plain from the start the people he delivered out Egypt belonged to Him.
- In the bigger picture God did not deliver Israel so they were no longer slaves, but more so because he was working out his redemption plan.
- His redemption plan called for a people through whom he would give us his word and his son.

The Red Sea Experience

- He wanted Israel to know they belonged to him and that they were to worship him so the other nations could see a difference.
- 1 Cor 6:19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. NIV
- It is not O.K. to do as we please in Christ – we have been freed from sin to serve and glorify God.

The Red Sea Experience

- Their deliverance from Egypt was to be remembered, not forgotten.
- Our deliverance from sin and death is to be remembered, not forgotten.
- 2 Peter 1:9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.KJV

The Red Sea Experience

- Ex 13:17 When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." 18 So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt armed for battle. NIV
- John 16:12 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear." NIV

The Red Sea Experience

- God does not push his people to endure things they are not prepared for – not when it came to going through Philistia and not when it comes to dealing with truth.
- Do you find it odd that God, who could have rubbed out the Philistines with no effort at all, leads his people away from a tough test right out of the gate?
- What was he doing?

The Red Sea Experience

- The practical reason for leading Israel away from Philistia was that they were over-matched in the natural.
- They had not had to defend themselves for 400 years while the Philistines had been developing their fighting skills.
- It would have been an incredibly difficult test of their faith at the time.

The Red Sea Experience

- 1 Cor 10:13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. NIV
- Sometimes we are tested, sometimes we are kept from a test, but at all times we are under God's care and watchful eye.
- Why do promising young boxers not start out fighting the world champion?

The Red Sea Experience

- Is it just possible that God wanted to spend some time alone with his people before he sent them out into the world to be tested?
- Not only possible, but probable.
- Jesus in the wilderness, the disciples under the care of the Rabbi Jesus, and the apostle Paul during his three years of secret training are all examples.

The Red Sea Experience

- Ex 13:19 Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had made the sons of Israel swear an oath. He had said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up with you from this place." 20 After leaving Succoth they camped at Etham on the edge of the desert. 21 By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. 22 Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people. 14:1 Then the Lord said to Moses, 2 "Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon. 3 Pharaoh will think, 'The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.' 4 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord." So the Israelites did this. NIV

The Red Sea Experience

- God definitely had an agenda – he would use Israel's movements in the desert to lure in Pharaoh and destroy his power forever.
- First he took his labor pool, then he took his wealth, now he will take his army.
- His stated purpose – so that the Egyptians and Pharaoh himself would know that Jehovah is Lord.

The Red Sea Experience

- The Israelites were encouraged night and day by the presence of God in the form of a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.
- Do you think Israel needed encouragement? – Probably more than we can appreciate.
- They were on their own, in a strange land, they were disorganized and feeling their way through this thing called freedom.

The Red Sea Experience

- How much are new believers like the children of Israel fresh out of Egypt?
- They knew they didn't like being slaves, but it was all they had known – the old life wasn't the best, but it was familiar.
- Now, out of Egypt, they had more freedom than ever, but they also had responsibility than ever.

The Red Sea Experience

■ Ex 14:5 When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them and said, "What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!" 6 So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him. 7 He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them. 8 The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly. 9 The Egyptians — all Pharaoh's horses and chariots, horsemen and troops — pursued the Israelites and overtook them as they camped by the sea near Pi Hahiroth, opposite Baal Zephon. 10 As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord. 11 They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? 12 Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!" 13 Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. 14 The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." NIV

The Red Sea Experience

- When Israel saw the army of Egypt bearing down on them they were fearful and began to talk like people who were fearful.
- Why us? Why did we listen to you? We had it better before? We should just go back because they are never going to let us alone.
- Living for the Lord is never set forth as some easy assignment – just the opposite.

The Red Sea Experience

- They were free, but they were not free from tests and struggles – neither are we.
- They knew they were over-matched and so did God which is all part of the plan. Come to the end of yourself and trust me.
- They were hemmed in on all sides and Pharaoh's army was closing in – if God does not help them their freedom will be short-lived.

The Red Sea Experience

- A simple plan - Ex 14:14 The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still. NIV
- ***Faith lesson – sometimes doing nothing and trusting the Lord to work on your behalf is a sign of great faith?***
- It is one thing to talk about trusting God and quite another to actually do it when your health, possessions, or life is on the line.

The Red Sea Experience

- Ex 14:15 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. 16 Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. 17 I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. 18 The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen." 19 Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, 20 coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long. NIV

The Red Sea Experience

- Ex 14:21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, 22 and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. 23 The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. 24 During the last watch of the night the Lord looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. 25 He made the wheels of their chariots come off so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt." 26 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." 27 Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the Lord swept them into the sea. 28 The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen — the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived. NIV

The Red Sea Experience

- The Lord sent a strong wind to push back the waters of the Red Sea and dry the ground under their feet.
- Israel walks across and the Egyptians tried to follow, but were drowned.
- The most dangerous of places can be made safe by our God.

The Red Sea Experience

- The floor of the Red Sea was perfectly safe for the Israelites, but deathly to the Egyptians.
- The only difference was their relationship to Jehovah God.
- There is no place on earth where God cannot protect His people and no place that is safe for the sinner.

Questions / Comments