

FROM SHORE TO SHORE (Ex. 14:21,22,29)

Someone has rightly said, “Life’s a journey, not a destination”. Or as Jim Reeves used to sing, “This world is not my home, I’m just a-passing through”. ... It is good to see people progress ... It’s good to see Christians progress ... It’s good to see the work of the Lord progress.

In the Bible there are many journeys, for example, the Israelites were taken to Babylon, the journeys of Jesus throughout the land of Israel, the missionary journeys of Paul. One of the first journeys was undertaken by Jacob’s eleven sons into the land of Egypt. They could never have anticipated what was to lie ahead for future generations ... how the original seventy who left Canaan would grow into a nation of over two million. Life had been a success when they first migrated to Egypt. Everything went well for them, they worked hard, and were held in high esteem. As the years passed however, circumstances changed ... new Pharaohs occupied the throne, the Egyptian people changed in their attitude towards them ... and it came to the point where the children of Israel had outlived their welcome.

In fact, the ordinary Egyptian person became intimidated by them, - the Egyptians were afraid the Hebrews would out-populate them. And, we know how one of the Pharaohs tried to ‘cull’ the baby boys. However, God knew their predicament, and in His plan and purpose, He sent Moses to lead His children out of Egypt. They began their journey ... the enemy behind them, the sea and the wilderness in front of them ... and they left Egypt to find the Promised Land.

We are going to consider how God worked, under three headings, - **Pursued, Protected, and Preserved.**

PURSUED Verse twenty-three tells us, *And the Egyptians pursued ...* The Egyptians had awakened to the fact their slave-labour, - the Hebrews, - were leaving them. The Hebrews were a hard-working people and they would be a mighty loss to the industry and economy of Egypt. They would not be missed for anything else, but they would be greatly missed for that!

And when Pharaoh awakened to the fact the Hebrews were *gone*, he was annoyed with what he had allowed to happen. He planned to get them back, **Ex. 14:3** *For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, They are entangled*

in the land, the wilderness hath shut them in. As far as he was concerned, they were trapped, and they wouldn't be going anywhere far, and he would bring them back again to Egypt. However, Pharaoh had not reckoned on Israel's God Who had made a promise over four hundred years earlier to Abram, the father of the Jews, **Gen. 15:13** And he [God] said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; **14** And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance ... **Gen. 17:8** And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God. ... God never forgets His promises, and that is a great encouragement!

Yes, it dawned on Pharaoh what he had allowed to happen, **Ex. 14:5** Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us? ... He could have given the order to one of his generals to chase after them and bring them back, but he was so mad he went himself!

He commandeered the chariots, mounted his own royal chariot, and pursued the Israelites ... this rabble who he considered a defeated people. ... Pharaoh, don't take God's people for granted! Jehovah is their God ... That was not the evidence 'on the ground' though for the Israelites were foreigners, they had lost any influence they had away back in the Joseph era. They were fugitives, they had nothing going for them ... and the armies of Egypt **pursued** them, and even overtook them, and camped by the sea. ... The Egyptian army was playing with them, ... it was like a 'cat and mouse' game ... and Pharaoh reckoned it was a foregone conclusion he would have the Hebrews back in Egypt again.

The Hebrews panicked, and turned on Moses, **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.... Let's consider that from a spiritual perspective ...

When Paul was writing to the church in Ephesus he told them, **Eph. 2:19** ye are no more strangers and foreigners meaning there was previously a time when spiritually speaking, *they* – the Christians - *were* strangers and foreigners ... to God. That is when they **Eph. 2:1** were dead in trespasses and

sin ... ² walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience ... ³ ... in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath ... That is how *we* were before God's grace saved us. We would have kept travelling on that road away from Him if He had not interrupted our lives for the path which leads away from God is the most natural path to take.

Granted, these Israelites were not happy *in* Egypt, but neither were they happy *out of* Egypt ... they did not know what they wanted and so they came out with their silly nonsense to Moses, ¹² *Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians.* They were confused, and scared, and panicking. ... For 400 years, where was God? ... They knew where the Egyptians were, - all around them, but where was God?! ... They were being **pursued** by their slave-masters! ... But we also see something else ... they were being ...

PROTECTED It was God's will the Hebrews would leave Egypt and travel to Canaan, ... and that is exactly what He would have them do. God does not start anything He will not finish. So Moses, the servant of the Lord, introduced to these people two concepts they had not considered, - trusting in God, and the defeat of the Egyptian army. ... Trusting in God would not have been easy for where was He during those 400 years ... and defeating the world power army *with what?!!*

Using Moses? ... Yes, but didn't he run away from Egypt forty years earlier because he turned on an Egyptian and killed him? ... What good is he ... and he is now an old man! ... And yet God used him and made him into a leader who interceded on behalf of his people. God gave him courage to stand against Pharaoh ... God changes lives ... and God was going to glory by how He would accomplish His purposes through Moses and his people. He would lead them into the land which would become theirs, where they would be a nation with their own government. These defeated people coming out of Egypt, God would raise them up!

Can God do such a thing? ... Yes, He can ... and look what He is continuing to do for their descendants ... Even in recent times, look how He is guarding their borders ... and just over seventy years ago look how He took them out of the death camps of Auschwitz, Sobibor, Treblinka and many more, and within a few years, He resettled them in their land,

just as He promised the prophets thousands of years ago He would. And He continues to protect them ... If you want to know how far you can trust God, take a look at how His dealings with that small country in the Middle East, surrounded by all those nations who want to destroy it ... and He is protecting them! ... The same God Who is keeping them is the same God we are trusting in ... and He has promised, **Ps. 121:3** He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber ... **8** The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore. ... Yes, the enemy will **pursue** you, but the Lord will **protect** you, and no matter how hard the enemy tries to repress and overcome you ... here is another promise in Ex. 14, you are also ...

PRESERVED God told this old man of over eighty years of age to lift up the staff he had carried since his days as a shepherd in the land of Midian, and He told him to stretch out his hand over the Red Sea, it would part in the middle, and a miracle would happen, **16** But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. ... Did you ever hear such a craziness?! Moses didn't think it crazy, instead he believed it, and he raised his hand and he stretched the staff over the sea, as the Lord had instructed him ... and the sea parted and God's presence in the pillar of cloud led them through the corridor, - water on either side, - ... and they walked along the floor of the sea.

They went from one shore to the other shore. On either side the waters stood as a wall, held back by the hand of God. God did not dry up the sea, and neither did He bring them to some place where it was so shallow they could wade through. No! He led them through on dry ground, - no muck, no mud, no puddles ... *dry ground!* **29** But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. ... It was a miracle underpinning God's promise to His people. God **preserved** them, **30** Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore. **31** And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses.

God's people were saved that day *God's way*. It wasn't down to Moses, or his staff, or any Hebrew army, for there was none. It was God Who saved His people ... and to God the people gave the glory!

Salvation is God's business, - He has saved His people since He first called them ... and the means by which the salvation of His people is consistently assured for eternity is because His Son, - the Guarantor of our salvation, - signed the charter of our redemption with His own blood. His signature is indelible and it never rubs out. It endures whatever circumstances we face for we are marked and sealed, as Paul wrote, **Eph. 1:13** with that holy Spirit of promise, **14** Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

The enemy can spit fire at us, he can throw every Hellish missile at his disposal, but we stand and boast in the Name of the Lord for "In the Name of Jesus, we have the victory ... Satan will have to flee ... Who can tell what God can do? Who can tell of His love for you? ... In the Name of Jesus, we have the victory!"

From shore to shore ... Psalm 139 tells us, **16** Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. ... From birth until we enter Glory, - from 'one shore to another shore', - God has our journey set out before us. He knows where it will take us. He knows the dangers we'll have to face, and He knows the places we shall enjoy ... "My Lord knows the way ... and all I have to do is follow".

... When the children of Israel left the Egyptian shore, it was for the last time ... and as they walked through the sea on the dry ground, and as they journeyed through the wilderness for forty years ... every step of their way was measured by God. He **preserved** them from one shore to another, and into the Promised Land.

... That is the God in Whom we trust ... and in Whom we shall keep on trusting. No matter what **pursues** you, He **protects** and **preserves** you for **I Cor. 10:13** God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. ... 'From shore to shore' ...

We shall sing on that beautiful shore
The melodious songs of the blessed ...
For the glorious gift of His love
And the blessings that hallow our days.