

God's Perfect Deliverance Increases Faith

International Bible Lesson

Exodus 14:21-31

Sunday, November 17, 2013

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“Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore” (Exodus 14:30—KJV).

“Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore” (Exodus 14:30—NRSV).

When the Egyptian army drew near to force the fleeing Israelites back into slavery, Moses encouraged the Israelites by saying, “The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still” (Exodus 14:14). After four hundred years of brutal enslavement and with no training in the arts of war, the Israelites could never have defended themselves against one of the mightiest military forces in the world at that time. Yet, they had every reason to believe that the LORD could defend them successfully. God had defeated the gods of Egypt using ten plagues. God had defeated Pharaoh on the night of the first Passover celebration, and God had saved all those who had acted in faith and put the blood of the lamb on their houses. So, when Pharaoh’s chariots drew near, they trusted that the LORD would save them again. Indeed, the total defeat of Pharaoh’s army as it tried to cross the Red Sea in pursuit of the Israelites led to one of the greatest military debacles in history. After the Israelites saw the LORD’s great victory, they considered “the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses” (Exodus 14:31).

When we read the Book of Exodus, we see that sometimes for good reasons God will allow His people to suffer for many years; however, God sees their distress, God sees those who create their suffering, and eventually for good reasons God delivers them in a way that will increase their faith and the faith of others in the LORD.

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Thinking Further

1. Why did the Israelites need faith in God in order to follow Moses?
2. What did God do through Moses to give the Israelites a reasonable faith in Him?
3. How did the LORD demonstrate that He was greater than Pharaoh and all of the gods of Egypt?
4. Why do you think it was important for God to prove that He was greater than all the idols of Egypt?
5. How might you use this account of the Red Sea crossing to give an unbeliever a reason for why you believe in the true God?