

**Exodus: Rebellion at Bitter Lake & West Point; Prelude to a Miracle, 1-19**

**Ricks, Thomas E. "West Point Posting Becomes a Minefield For 'Warrior' Officer." The Wall Street Journal. 13 Mar. 1997, p. A1:**

**Exodus 14:8** - The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and he chased after the sons of Israel as the sons of Israel were marching out with a high-handed arrogance.

**Exodus 14:9** - Then the Egyptians pursued them with all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his cavalry and his forces and they overtook them camping by the Bitter Lakes beside Pi-hahiroth facing Baal-zephon

**Exodus 14:10** - Now when Pharaoh had caused his army to approach, the sons of Israel lifted up their eyes and behold, the Egyptians were advancing after them, consequently, they became afraid and screamed in panic to Jehovah.

**Exodus 14:11** - And they said to Moses, "Is it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the desert? What is this you have done to us to cause us to leave Egypt?"

**Exodus 14:12** - Is this not the word which we spoke to you in Egypt, saying, 'Why don't you just leave us alone that we might be slaves to the Egyptians?' Because to us the plan of God is serving the Egyptians rather than dying in this Jornada."

**Exodus 14:13** - But Moses said to the people, "Do not fear! Do not fear! Stand fast and watch the deliverance of the Lord which He will produce for you here today. The Egyptians, whom you have seen today, you shall never see again.

**Exodus 14:14** - The Lord Himself will fight for you, but you keep quiet!"

**I. Summary: Prelude to a Miracle**

All of the events we have noted thus far from Exodus 3 through 14 have been the set up to the famed parting of the Red Sea. Every possible demonstration of divine power, every expression of the divine plan, and every statement of divine intent has been the subject of these chapters. The entire Exodus has been supervised and directed by the God of Israel, Jehovah Elohim, Jesus Christ Himself manifest as the Shekinah Glory.

**Exodus 13:21** - The Lord was going before them in a pillar of cloud by day to lead them on the way [*derek*: wheel-track], and in a pillar of fire by night to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night.

Human viewpoint would not take the wheel-track on which the Lord leads them for it ends in a cul-de-sac that results in a hopeless situation from which the Jews are helpless to escape. From this a principle emerges: maximum pressure plus maximum adversity equals total dependence upon the Lord.

Testing, adversity, and suffering are all designed by God as a part of His plan. They force the believer to depend upon Him and thus accelerate the advance to spiritual maturity.

**1 Peter 1:7** - That the testing of your faith, being more precious than gold which perishes, even though tested by fire, might be found unto the praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

The human mind has a propensity to use faith only when under trying circumstances. Therefore, adversity, testing's, trials, and sufferings become opportunities to apply faith rather than human viewpoint.

**1 Peter 1:8** - Yet though we have not seen Him, we love Him, and though now you see Him not, yet believing you greatly rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

Faith under pressure is the believer's way of seeing Christ. He is not with us now, but with doctrine circulating in the stream of consciousness we can with faith rely, depend, and trust in Him.

When Peter says, "Yet believing you greatly rejoice," means that with faith you place your confidence in the Lord's ability to solve your problems. Glory comes when, after having done so, the believer has the experience of a personal demonstration of divine power, divine grace, and divine provision.

Hebrews tells us that "faith is the assurance of things confidently expected, the evidence of things not seen." Thus, a hopeless situation is, for the mature believer, a walk in the park since his faith is the expression of a total confidence in God's ability to back His promises.

When you claim a promise on faith it means that you confidently expect that promise to be validated by the justice of God in your life. The promise to the Jews was that they would be set free and then worship God at Mt. Sinai. To accomplish those two objectives, they must be willing to trust in the Lord to lead them. But where He leads them is, to the human mind, a trap.

The cul-de-sac offers no hope of escape. Pharaoh is closing the gap with his elite armored forces made up of 600 of his best charioteers, mounted cavalry, and the infantry (Exodus 14:9).