

# The Power of I AM

## Exodus 14

1 Corinthians 15:12-23

Romans 6:1-22



9 April 2023

## Feast of Firstfruits (1 Corinthians 15:20-23; Leviticus 23:10-11)

- Feast of the LORD (Leviticus 23:2) - God's appointed times/events.
- Feast of Firstfruits - always on a Sunday!
- No "fruits" could be eaten (enjoyed) until the firstfruits were offered to God.
- The firstfruits offering was God's guarantee of a good harvest.
- **Christ is our Passover.** (1 Corinthians 5:7)
- If Christ is not risen then our preaching and faith are empty and we are still in our sins. (1 Corinthians 15:12-19)
- BUT Christ **is** risen from the dead! (1 Corinthians 15:20)
- **Christ is our Firstfruits!** (1 Corinthians 15:20-23) Because Christ lives all those who are **IN HIM** will also live! (John 14:19)
- Christ's resurrection made a spectacle of our enemy, the devil, by Christ overcoming his work - death. (Hebrews 2:14; Genesis 3:15)

## Pressing Forward into 2023

- Being a Disciple - D for **DISCIPLINE**
- Catechism & Meditation

## Eternal Purpose of God

- Unfolded in History to Reveal Himself to His people.

## Do You Believe in the God of the Bible?

### God's Completed Salvation at the Red Sea

- A ransom must be paid - **the blood of an innocent substitute** - a lamb. (Exodus 3:14)
- A separation from the Egyptians.
- BUT freedom could not be enjoyed until the enemy is destroyed!
- Two kinds of freedom:
  - ① Freedom to do whatever one wishes.
  - ② Freedom to do what one ought to do.
- God would set His people free so that they could serve Him rather than serving the Egyptians. (Read Romans 6:6-22) Whose slave are you?

## God Goes Before His People (Exodus 13:20-22)

- God proclaim that HE came down to deliver His people.
- God goes before His people in a pillar of fire and a cloud. NOTE: The angel of the LORD was in the cloud! See 14:19; 23:20-23; Nehemiah 9:12.
- God promised Moses that He would be with him and His people. (Exodus 3:12)
- God, Himself, was in the cloud! (Numbers 12:5-6; Deut 31:15-16; Psalm 99:7)
- The Cloud was their guide and their protection. (Psalm 105:39; Nbrs 9:15-23)

## God Leads His People to the Shores of the Red Sea

- (v. 2) “turn” - really turn around. God leads them to the shores of the Red Sea with mountains on either side and Egypt to the rear.
- God leads His people into a **seemingly IMPOSSIBLE** position for them to save themselves. (Matthew 19:25-26)
  - God's ways and thoughts are not our ways and thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9)  
We need to learn to trust God to lead us in the way that is best according to Him (Proverbs 3:5-7) and pray that God would teach us His ways (Psalm 25:4-5).
  - God was ensuring that His would receive honor in His workings with Pharaoh. (Romans 9:22-23)
  - God would **completely** deliver His people from the burdens of the Egyptians - their enemy.
  - He would work both of His goals at the same time.

## God Moving the Thoughts of Pharaoh (Exodus 14)

- (v. 3) Pharaoh **will** say! God knew what Pharaoh would say before Pharaoh spoke it!
- (v. 4) God hardened Pharaoh's heart! Remember Rom 9:17-18; Prov 21:1
  - ★ (v. 4) God worked/is working so that people KNOW Him as the great I AM (Eternal, sovereign, Lord over all, almighty, etc.)
  - ★ God has revealed Himself that He is God over all the inhabitants of the earth. He uses kings (all political leaders) to accomplish His eternal plan.
    - Daniel 4:35; Isaiah 10:5ff; 37; Jer 25:9; 27:6; Isaiah 44:28; Acts 2:23; 4:27-28
  - ★ The hearts of all men have been fashioned (“potted”) by God Himself (Psalm 33:15)
  - ★ The power/privilege/right of **the** Potter! (Romans 9:17-24)
- (vv. 5-9) Pharaoh and His army **pursue** God's chosen people and overtook them at the Red Sea. Just as God designed!
  - ★ GOD now has both His people and Pharaoh exactly where He wants them.

## O, Us of Little Faith (Exodus 14:10-12)

- God has demonstrated throughout Scripture that He is a **testing** God. God **tests** our faith. God is more interested in the genuineness of our faith than anything else. (1 Peter 1:6-7)
- When the Israelites took their eyes off the pillar of fire and cloud and looked “down” and saw the Egyptians they:
  - ① Cried out to God, and then quickly . . .
  - ② Complained about it to Moses!
- As long as everything was going well, it was easy to leave Egypt with the Egyptians sending them away, but as soon as trouble, discomfort, and/or disappointment comes then we hear them complaining! **Just like us!!!**
- The apostles’ had a similar faith: Matthew 6:30; 8:26; 14:31; 16:8.
- Peter’s example: Matthew 14:22-31.
- This is why we are commanded to set our minds on things above rather than our problems/circumstances/situation. (Col3:1-3)
- When we forget all of God’s promises we begin to fear instead of experiencing perfect peace. (Isaiah 26:3-4)

## Experiencing God’s Salvation (Exodus 14:13-31)

- Three commands of Moses, a man of faith:
  - ① (v. 13) Fear not - BUT TRUST GOD’S PROMISES.
  - ② (v. 13) Stand still (See Psalm 46:10; Ephesians 6:14)
    - See (experience) the salvation of the LORD.
    - Moses’ assurance: “The LORD shall fight for you.”
  - ③ (v. 15) Go forward - **given before God opened the Sea!!!!**
    - AS they moved forward, in obedience, God opened the waters of the Red Sea to:
      - ① Allow His people safe travel to Mount Sinai, where He promised Moses that He would bring them.
      - ② Bring judgment upon Pharaoh and Egypt.
- Why?
  - ① To keep His promise to Abraham (Genesis 15:13-16) and Moses (Exodus 3:7-8; 22; 6:6-8)
  - ② To reveal His power and glory in defeating the Egyptians army, so that, the Egyptians would know that He was the LORD.
    - To make a name for Himself: (Isaiah 51:15; 63:12)
- God, in the form of the pillar of fire and cloud, moved to protect/ preserve His people.
  - It became darkness to the Egyptians, but
  - light to the His people.

## God Promised and God Made a Way

- God demonstrated **His almighty power** over the winds, ground, rain, weather, the Sea and wills of men. (Exodus 14:21; Psalm 148:8; Psalm 77:17)
- ALL who left Egypt made it to the other side safely. Not one perished.
- NOW, the Israelites were free to **serve** God. They were free to do what they ought to do.
- Psalm 106:7-10!! Psalm 77:11-20

## God Sends Confusion and Destruction on the Enemy

- God sends confusion! (Gen 11:7, 9; Exod 23:27; Deut 28:20, 28; Psa 60:3; Zech 12:4)
- ALL of the Egyptians died that night! GOD destroyed the enemy.
- God kept His promise! (Genesis 15:13-16)

## The Glorious Gospel at the Red Sea

- In Egypt, God provided the ransom for His people - the blood of a lamb, just as when Christ came into the world pay the ransom of His people with His own blood. (Matthew 26:28; 20:28; 1 Timothy 2:6)
- As the cloud went before God's people Christ has gone before us! (Heb 6:19-20)
- The Gospel is a call to BE SEPARATE! (2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Psalm 1:1-3)
- BUT paying the ransom was only part of God's work in saving His people. He promised to deliver His people from the burdens of Egypt and to bring them to the land He promised Abraham.
- At Christ's resurrection, Christ destroyed the work of the devil - by conquering death! (Hebrews 2:14; Colossians 2:15)
- The crossing of the Red Sea was a picture of God's great power in redeeming His people from sin, death, the world and the devil. God accomplished this victory for His people by raising His Son from the dead! (**Romans 4:25**)
- The crossing of the Red Sea, the resurrection of Christ, and the saving of one sinner takes the "**exceeding greatness of His power . . . His mighty power . . .**" (Ephesians 1:18-20)
- **Only an ALMIGHTY GOD**, the Great I AM, can do the **IMPOSSIBLE** - the salvation of a sinner - this is why the writer of Hebrews call it a "**great salvation**" that we must not neglect! (Hebrews 12:1-4)
- God set His people in the Exodus free to serve Him. God saves sinner to now serve Him rather than serving the devil. (1 Thess 1:9; Eph 2:10)
- Who are you **servng** today? Either you are **servng** God or you are **servng** Satan?
- (1 John 4:10) God sent His Son, crucified His Son, and raised His Son to propitiate His anger at us and, in so doing, made us His children. (1 John 3:1)