

Remnant Life Church  
May 29, 2016  
**Sunday School Stories Retold:**  
**Walking in Dry Sandals**  
Exodus 14:15-31

A couple lived in the extreme Northeastern part of the country. In the bitterly cold months of winter their car had become especially dirty, what with road salts, frozen slush, and other wintry deposits. Very conscious of the unsightly condition of their car, the couple was driving down the road and came across an unusual sight. Water was gushing into the air from a broken pipe, beneath the surface of the road. A work crew had just started to arrive and were beginning to get their equipment unloaded. Well as they drew closer, the couple concluded that this was the perfect occasion for a free car wash. They pulled the car far enough forward to park under the shower of water. The road crew watched, somewhat puzzled, but a little amused. Since it was still bitterly cold, they left the engine running, and kept the heater going as well. In a short time, two things happened almost simultaneously – the first was a rather unpleasant odor that began to fill the car. Then it was right about this same time that the couple noticed that the water running down the windshield wasn't clear, wasn't clear at all. In the matter of just a few more seconds the realization came and they understood the problem—they were not parked under the shower of a broken water main, they were under the shower of a broken sewer main. Amid the chorus of the workman's laughter they quickly departed as they watched the filthy matter now freeze solid to their car in the bitter cold of the day.

- Safe to say that did not turn out the way they had expected it to
  - Same for the Egyptians pursuing the Israelites into the desert
  - Certainly they had thought this would be a quick round-up; drive them back to Egypt; and we're back to business as usual
  - After all we're going after a nation of beaten slaves walking in the desert
- **READ – Ex 14:15-31**
- Much speculation to the route the Israelites took in their journey (13:17-18)
- The vast majority of the names mentioned in this account (Succoth, Etham, Migdol) have not been identified with certainty
  - + Makes the exact route nearly impossible to know for sure
  - + Even Mt. Sinai is not known for sure
  - + For a Christian however that should never affect my belief - FAITH
- Theologians agree that there were 3 possible
  1. The shortest and only one specified is ENE along the coast of the Mediterranean through “the land of the Philistines” (v 17)
    - + God did not want them to go this way because of the possibility of war – they were not ready and would turn back (v 17)

- + A little difficult to understand since they left in “battle formation” (v 18)
  - + Difference between battle formation and prepared to do battle
  - 2. They could have traveled due south following the cost of the Red Sea
  - 3. But God took them to Succoth southeast of Tanis where they started through the mountains toward Migdol – most likely a high lookout that would have been used by the Egyptians (13:20)
- God then gives Moses instructions that don’t make sense
    - He tells him to head back or away instead of east toward Canaan
    - Camp at Pi-hahiroth (pie-ha-HIGH-roth) “mouth of the water”
    - This puts the Red Sea directly in front of them; the mountains behind them and the south with the Egyptian army coming at them from behind and, more than likely, the south – they were trapped
  - The Red Sea is shaped like a long cylinder with rabbit ears at the top
    - The left side today is called the Gulf of Suez
    - The right side is the Gulf of Aqaba
    - Between them is the Sinai peninsula
    - Many archeological theologians put the actual crossing site at a large beach area called Nuwahbay on the western shore of Gulf of Aqaba
    - The full ancient name is Nuwahbay al Moozaweenah – “Waters of Moses Opening”
    - This the only location of an underwater sand bar that extends across at a depth of approx. 900 feet instead of over 5000 on either side
    - Slope is 6 degrees instead of 45
    - That sand-bridge is at the narrowest point of the Gulf – 11 miles
    - Also: two columns one at this point and on the other side erected by Solomon as a commemoration of the crossing
    - This then puts the location of Mt. Sinai in Saudi Arabia (some say Jebel el Lawz others much further north) either agrees with Paul’s writing in Gal 4 “Mt Sinai in Arabia”
    - Not in the southern Sinai Peninsula between the 2 gulfs as stated by Helena in the 300’s (mother of Constantine)
  - Why is this important? So what?! What can we take with us for today?
  - Gives us a blueprint for how God will often work in our lives and what we must be on guard for -
    1. **Preparation** – (14:1-4)
      - + God was in full control from the outset
      - + He not only prepared the Israelites but also the Egyptians
      - + John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus to come (Luke 3:4)
      - + Jesus said He would prepare or make ready a place for us in Heaven (John 14:2)
      - + To everyone from the Israelites to the Egyptians this whole thing looked like a mistake (14:3 – Pharaoh saying they are lost and boxed in)
      - + This was not a mistake at all but all being perfectly orchestrated by God

2. **The Pursuit – (14:5-9)**
  - + Pharaoh realizes what they have lost by allowing them to leave
  - + This is also under God's control
  - + Christians often mistakenly think that a victory over satan is done
  - + satan tempted Jesus 3 times (Matt 4)
  - + He will try again and we must stand firm in our belief of God's power over his schemes
  - + When Pharaoh got to the Israelites he most certainly thought that sheep had been penned in for the slaughter
  - + What he did not remember was the Shepherd who watched over them
  
3. **The Panic – (14:11-12)**
  - + The nature of man is to mistrust
  - + Adam and Eve did not believe God in the garden and that nature is imprinted in our very DNA
  - + Becoming a Christian means we are forgiven and are His children but we still must struggle with those sinful DNA patterns
  - + Paul writes often about that struggle of the sin nature against the spirit nature we are given (Rom 8)
  - + Our present suffering (the flesh) and our future glory (spirit)
  
4. **The Protection – (14:19-20)**
  - + The pillar of cloud and fire was the presence of God guiding, protecting, shielding the people
  - + God will use any means to accomplish His will
  - + (14:25) Broken equipment and confused horses
  - + He continued to protect them as a nation and still does today
  
5. **The Parting (14:26-31)**
  - + If we are patient, if we believe, if we will stand firm God will do the seemingly impossible
  - + Not only to bless us but deliver us

**God will use the difficult times to...**

Correct us – not just sin but unbelief

Deepen us – our faith and dependence on Him

Provide unique opportunities

- To see His hand at work in our lives
  - To see our faith increased and stretched
  - To bless us beyond what we could imagine
- Our fiery furnace - our Goliath - our Red Sea – IF we will keep our eyes on Him, are opportunities for us to watch the mighty hand of God at work in our lives – for our good and for His Glory!