

As we read Exodus 14, we see a picture that many of us recognize in our own lives: the feeling of being completely hemmed in. We often think that if we are following God, the path will be a straight, easy highway. But here, we find the children of Israel exactly where God told them to be, and yet they are in what looks like a death trap.

The Trap of Divine Design

In Exodus 14:1-4, the Lord gives Moses very specific directions. He tells them to turn and encamp before Pihahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. Now, if you were a military strategist, you'd say Moses had lost his mind. He's led a couple million people into a cul-de-sac. You have mountain ranges on the left and right, the Red Sea in front, and here comes Pharaoh with six hundred chosen chariots closing in from behind.

Pharaoh looks at the situation in Exodus 14:3 and says, *"They are entangled in the land; the wilderness has closed them in."* He thinks he has them. And honestly, from a human perspective, he's right. But notice something vital: God led them there.

Sometimes God will deliberately lead you into an impossible situation. Why? So that He can demonstrate that He has resources you know nothing about. He brings us to the end of ourselves so we can find the beginning of His power.

The Cry of Fear vs. The Command of Faith

In Exodus 14:10-12, the people see the dust of the Egyptian army rising on the horizon, and they panic. They start mocking Moses, saying, *"Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness?"* Isn't it typical of our flesh to prefer the "safety" of our old bondage to the "risk" of following God? They'd rather be slaves in Egypt than trust God in the desert. But look at Moses' response in Exodus 14:13:

"Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today."

I love that. But then, Moses must have started crying out to God himself, because in Exodus 14:15, the Lord says to him, *"Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward."*

There is a time to pray, and there is a time to move. There comes a point where God says, "I've given you the promise, now put your feet in the water."

The Way Where There Is No Way

In Exodus 14:21-22, Moses stretches out his hand, and God sends a strong east wind. He doesn't just make a bridge; He heaps the waters up like walls and—this is the best part—He dries the ground. They didn't slog through mud; they walked on dry land.

Some critics try to say this was the "Sea of Reeds," a shallow marsh only a foot deep. If you believe that, you have to believe a much bigger miracle: that God drowned the entire Egyptian army in twelve

inches of water! No, I'd rather just believe the Book. God is big enough to part the ocean. Remember, in Genesis 1, He is the one Who separated the water from the dry ground.

In Exodus 14:30-31, we see the result: *"So the Lord saved Israel that day... and the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord."* God used the crisis to build the faith they would need for the Promised Land.

Practical Application

Are you "entangled" today? Maybe it's a financial wall, a broken relationship, or a health crisis. You look left and right and see no exit. Remember: The "outlook" may be dark, but the "up-look" is bright. If God led you there, He is responsible for getting you through. Your job isn't to figure out how to part the sea; your job is to stand still and then move when He says "Go."

A Challenge for the Believer

I want to challenge you today to stop looking at the "chariots" of your problems and start looking at the "Pillar of Fire" that is your God. Is there an area of your life where you are complaining like the Israelites, wishing for the "security" of your old life? Repent of that unbelief. Stand still in His peace, and be ready to move in faith when He opens the door.

An Invitation to the Unbeliever

Perhaps you feel like those Egyptians—chasing after things that can't satisfy, realizing too late that you are fighting against God. Or maybe you feel like a slave in Egypt, bound by sin and shame.

The greatest "salvation of the Lord" wasn't at the Red Sea; it was at a hill called Calvary. There, Jesus Christ shed His precious blood on the cross to pay the price for your sins. He took the judgment you deserved so you could walk free. And just as the Israelites saw the power of God in the morning, the resurrection of Jesus declares to the whole world that He is God, Savior, and Lord. He is alive today!

If you are tired of the bondage, you can be free right now. Simply turn from your way, trust in His finished work on the cross, and ask Him to be your Lord. He will make a way for you.