

Part 9 Called to Trust in God and in His Plan

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When Pharaoh finally let the people go, God did not lead them along the main road that runs through Philistine territory, even though that was the shortest route to the Promised Land.

Exodus 13:17b

God said, "If the people are faced with a battle, they might change their minds and return to Egypt."

So God led them in a roundabout way through the wilderness toward the Red Sea. Thus the Israelites left Egypt like an army ready for battle.

Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for Joseph had made the sons of Israel swear to do this. He said, "God will certainly come to help you. When he does, you must take my bones with you from this place."

The Israelites left Succoth and camped at Etham on the edge of the wilderness.

The Lord went ahead of them. He guided them during the day with a pillar of cloud, and he provided light at night with a pillar of fire. This allowed them to travel by day or by night.

And the Lord did not remove the pillar of cloud or pillar of fire from its place in front of the people.

Then the Lord gave these instructions to Moses:

"Order the Israelites to turn back and camp by Pi-hahiroth between Migdol and the sea. Camp there along the shore, across from Baal-zephon.

Then Pharaoh will think, 'The Israelites are confused. They are trapped in the wilderness!'

And once again I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will chase after you. I have planned this in order to display my glory through Pharaoh and his whole army.

After this the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord!" So the Israelites camped there as they were told.

When word reached the king of Egypt that the Israelites had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds. "What have we done, letting all those Israelite slaves get away?" they asked.

So Pharaoh harnessed his chariot and called up his troops.

He took with him 600 of Egypt's best chariots, along with the rest of the chariots of Egypt, each with its commander.

The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, so he chased after the people of Israel, who had left with fists raised in defiance.

The Egyptians chased after them with all the forces in Pharaoh's army—all his horses and chariots, his charioteers, and his troops.

The Egyptians caught up with the people of Israel as they were camped beside the shore near Pi-hahiroth, across from Baal-zephon.

As Pharaoh approached, the people of Israel looked up and panicked when they saw the Egyptians overtaking them. They cried out to the Lord,

and they said to Moses, "Why did you bring us out here to die in the wilderness? Weren't there enough graves for us in Egypt? What have you done to us? Why did you make us leave Egypt?

Didn't we tell you this would happen while we were still in Egypt? We said, 'Leave us alone! Let us be slaves to the Egyptians. It's better to be a slave in Egypt than a corpse in the wilderness!""

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Principle #1

In spite of your present situation, difficulty, challenge, or trial; God is in control. In every impossible situation that God causes or allows, He has a purpose and a plan.

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In spite of your present situation, difficulty, challenge, or trial; God is in control. In every impossible situation that God causes or allows, He has a purpose and a plan.

Principle #2

In order to trust in God and in His plan, we must not allow our emotions to overrule the reality of God's presence with us.

As Pharaoh approached, the people of Israel looked up and panicked when they saw the Egyptians overtaking them. They cried out to the Lord,

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Principle #3

In order to trust in God and in His plan, especially when we are trapped in an impossible situation, we must take a look back at His track record.

Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for Joseph had made the sons of Israel swear to do this. He said, "God will certainly come to help you. When he does, you must take my bones with you from this place."

God's Track Record

- Prophesied that the Israelites would be foreigners for 400 years.
- He was with them in their suffering.
- Promised to free them from their captivity, to punish that nation, and to give them many possessions.

God's Track Record

- Promised He would bring Israel back to the Promised Land.
- He gave them a deliverer in Moses.
- Delivered Israel through supernatural power.
- They were now no longer slaves!

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Is there Anything in Your Life Right Now that You are Allowing to Disrupt Your Trust in God and in His Plan?

Called to Trust in God and in His Plan

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But Moses told the people, "Don't be afraid. Just stand still and watch the Lord rescue you today. The Egyptians you see today will never be seen again.

The Lord himself will fight for you.

Just stay calm."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the people to get moving!

Pick up your staff and raise your hand over the sea. Divide the water so the Israelites can walk through the middle of the sea on dry ground.

And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they will charge in after the Israelites. My great glory will be displayed through Pharaoh and his troops, his chariots, and his charioteers.

When my glory is displayed through them, all Egypt will see my glory and know that I am the Lord!"

Then the angel of God, who had been leading the people of Israel, moved to the rear of the camp. The pillar of cloud also moved from the front and stood behind them.

The cloud settled between the Egyptian and Israelite camps. As darkness fell, the cloud turned to fire, lighting up the night. But the **Egyptians and Israelites did not** approach each other all night.

Then Moses raised his hand over the sea, and the Lord opened up a path through the water with a strong east wind. The wind blew all that night, turning the seabed into dry land.

So the people of Israel walked through the middle of the sea on dry ground, with walls of water on each side!

Then the Egyptians—all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and charioteers—chased them into the middle of the sea.

But just before dawn the Lord looked down on the Egyptian army from the pillar of fire and cloud, and he threw their forces into total confusion.

He twisted their chariot wheels, making their chariots difficult to drive. "Let's get out of here—away from these Israelites!" the Egyptians shouted. "The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt!"

When all the Israelites had reached the other side, the Lord said to Moses, "Raise your hand over the sea again. Then the waters will rush back and cover the Egyptians and their chariots and charioteers."

So as the sun began to rise, Moses raised his hand over the sea, and the water rushed back into its usual place. The Egyptians tried to escape, but the Lord swept them into the sea.

Then the waters returned and covered all the chariots and charioteers—the entire army of Pharaoh. Of all the Egyptians who had chased the Israelites into the sea, not a single one survived.

But the people of Israel had walked through the middle of the sea on dry ground, as the water stood up like a wall on both sides.

That is how the Lord rescued Israel from the hand of the Egyptians that day. And the Israelites saw the bodies of the Egyptians washed up on the seashore.

When the people of Israel saw the mighty power that the Lord had unleashed against the Egyptians, they were filled with awe before him. They put their faith in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Principle #4

In order to trust in God and in His plan, especially when we are trapped in an impossible situation, we must remember to put on our spiritual lenses and to listen for His voice.

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So one night the king of Aram sent a great army with many chariots and horses to surround the city.

When the servant of the man of God got up early the next morning and went outside, there were troops, horses, and chariots everywhere. "Oh, sir, what will we do now?" the young man cried to Elisha.

"Don't be afraid!" Elisha told him.

"For there are more on our side
than on theirs!"

Then Elisha prayed, "O Lord, open his eyes and let him see!" The Lord opened the young man's eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire.

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Principle #5

Trusting in God and in His plan will always require faithful patience and faithful perseverance as God works His plan to success through the darkest days, times, and seasons of our lives.

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