

GOD'S SURPRISING SOLUTION TO OUR GREATEST PROBLEM

EXODUS 14



Our greatest problem is that we cannot save ourselves. I remember many times in my teens and early twenties trying to do so. I turned over so many new leaves that I think I'm responsible for the deforestation of the Amazon. I tried so hard, then I gave up, then I blamed God, then I tried harder, then I gave up, then I blamed God, and on and on it went.

Perhaps you've been in or are in the same desperate dilemma. Wanting to change but unable to change. Wanting to be saved but unable to save yourself. Well, thankfully, in my early twenties, I found an amazing solution to this desperate dilemma and I want to share it with you. The passage that God used in my life was Exodus 14.

- **SALVATION IS NOT FROM US (1-12)**
- **SALVATION IS OF THE LORD (13-31)**

LEARNING

SALVATION IS NOT FROM US (1-12)

God had delivered Israel from Egypt, but now seemed to have led them into a dead end which could only end with their death. The Egyptians regretted their decision to let Israel go and set out to pursue them (1-9). As they closed in on them, the Israelites realized that they were trapped with the sea in front of them, mountains on one side, desert on the other, and the Egyptians closing fast. They were cornered, defenseless, helpless, and despairing. They were terrified, realizing there was nothing they could do to save themselves, and therefore turned on Moses and God (10-12). Why did God let this happen? To teach Israel the most important spiritual lesson.

WHEN WE CAN'T SAVE OURSELVES,
WE CAN THEN BE SAVED BY GOD.

How did Israel learn this? Let's hear God's message through Moses.

SALVATION IS OF THE LORD (13-31)

What was Moses's message to helpless Israel? **Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent** (13-14). Don't move your hands, your feet, your tongue, or even your brain. Be still, be silent, and watch God do what you cannot do.

God parted the Red Sea, Israel went through perfectly dry, Egypt tried to follow, and they were all swept away by the returning water. God was glorified in saving Israel and in defeating Egypt (15-31). **Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great power that the Lord used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses** (30-31).

WHEN WE CAN DO NOTHING FOR GOD,
GOD CAN DO EVERYTHING FOR US.

LOVING

What a surprising solution and an amazing answer to our desperate dilemma? A solution and an answer that is given to us even more clearly in the New Testament. At the cross we stand perfectly still and see God perfectly glorified in the salvation of his people and in the defeat of all his enemies. We don't move an atom. As Paul put it, **For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast** (Eph. 2:8-9).

LIVING

Stop, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord. If you've done it before, do it again, and again, and again.
