

Timeline of Truth – God Leads Israel Out – Part 2 (Exodus 13:17 – 14:31)

<p>¹⁷ Then it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God did not lead them <i>byway</i> of the land of the Philistines, although that <i>was</i> near; for God said, "Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt." ¹⁸ So God led the people around <i>byway</i> of the wilderness of the Red Sea. And the children of Israel went up in orderly ranks out of the land of Egypt.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>*Archaeology further confirms that this northern route was heavily garrisoned by Egypt.</i></p>	<p>1. God Leads Israel Out the Long Way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God led the people a longer way • God gives a reason why He led as He did • God allows problems & difficulties on purpose • God sees all the obstacles we cannot see* • God leads for our benefit (#Joseph) • God knows what He's doing (we may not know) • God allows only what we can handle (1 Cor 10:13) • God may lead away from the obvious (Prov 3:5-6)
<p>¹⁹ And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had placed the children of Israel under solemn oath, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here with you."</p>	<p>2. God Fulfilled Joseph's Prophecy & Wish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God will surely visit you • Carry my bones with you when you leave
<p>²⁰ So they took their journey from Succoth and camped in Etham at the edge of the wilderness.</p>	<p>3. Israel Continues to Journey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journeyed from Succoth • Camped in Etham at the edge of the wilderness
<p>²¹ And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night.</p> <p>²² He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people.</p>	<p>4. God Leads Israel by Day & Night</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's presence is His leading (As long as God is there, don't worry about when to "move" – God will make that evident when the time comes) • God "goes ahead" of us, knowing/preparing the way • God leading is not invisible, or hidden • God's leading concerns the present – He normally doesn't give us long term details of where/what/how He wants us to go [illustration of thick fog driving to FBBC one morning – couldn't see 5 feet in front of the car, but upon looking up, could see the stars!] – "Take no thought for tomorrow..." • God's leadership is continual, night and day • God's leading will match your need (light by night)
<p>^{14:1} Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ² "Speak to the children of Israel, that they turn and camp before Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, opposite Baal Zephon; you shall camp before it by the sea. ³ "For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, 'They <i>are</i> bewildered by the land; the wilderness has closed them in.' ⁴ "Then I will harden Pharaoh's heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I <i>am</i> the LORD." And they did so.</p>	<p>5. God Reveals His Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-4 – God will sometimes let us in on His plans [don't, then, be surprised!] "with great tribulation enter the kingdom" • 2 – Appearing confused (south, then north again) • 3 – God uses military "psy-ops" – deception • 4 – God's further strategy to glorify Himself • 4 – Obedience is key
<p>⁵ Now it was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled, and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people; and they said, "Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?"</p>	<p>6. Pharaoh Changes His Mind</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ungodly will not respond logically, but sinfully, and selfishly
<p>⁶ So he made ready his chariot and took his people with him. ⁷ Also, he took six hundred choice chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt with captains over every one of them. ⁸ And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the children of Israel; and the children of Israel went out with boldness.</p>	<p>7. Pharaoh Pursues with His Army</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pharaoh + 600 chariots + All chariots & captains • God hardened Pharaoh's heart • Pharaoh pursues Israel • Israel moves out with boldness
<p>⁹ So the Egyptians pursued them, all the horses <i>and</i> chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army, and overtook them camping by the sea beside Pi Hahiroth, before Baal Zephon. ¹⁰ And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD.</p>	<p>8. God Allows Things to Get Worse</p> <p><i>God may allow a situation to become worse:</i></p> <p><i>(1) to make His name to be made known [14:18];</i></p> <p><i>(2) to show His followers His greatness;</i></p> <p><i>(3) to render punishment on His enemies;</i></p> <p><i>(4) to bring even greater blessing [no more pursuing...]</i></p> <p><i>God may lead us into a "no-win" situation.</i></p> <p><i>Our response should be to cry out to God.</i></p>

<p>¹¹ Then they said to Moses, "Because <i>there were</i> no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt?" ¹² "Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians?' For <i>it would have been</i> better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness."</p>	<p>9. Israel's <u>Wrong Response</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Be careful</i> not to blame leaders for obeying God's commands • <i>Be careful</i> not to identify trials as wrong choices • <i>Be careful</i> not to give up on God when He's setting you up for deliverance
<p>¹³ And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. ¹⁴ "The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."</p>	<p>10. God's Leader Points to God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our trust is to be in God, not in our leaders
<p>¹⁵ And the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. ¹⁶ "But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry <i>ground</i> through the midst of the sea.</p>	<p>11. God Says "Don't Pray, Act!"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quite crying and move forward • Lift your rod & stretch out your hand • Sea will divide & Israel will cross on dry ground
<p>¹⁷ "And I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. So I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen. ¹⁸ "Then the Egyptians shall know that I <i>am</i> the LORD, when I have gained honor for Myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."</p>	<p>12. God Promises <u>Complete Victory</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over Pharaoh & all his army • So that the Egyptians know...
<p>¹⁹ And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them. ²⁰ So it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. Thus it was a cloud and darkness <i>to the one</i>, and it gave light by night <i>to the other</i>, so that the one did not come near the other all that night.</p>	<p>13. God <u>Protects</u> by Moving <u>Between</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God takes the well-being of His followers personal (Mt 28:20) • Where God leads, He takes personal responsibility also to provide and protect (as He chooses)
<p>²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go <i>back</i> by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry <i>land</i>, and the waters were divided. ²² So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry <i>ground</i>, and the waters <i>were</i> a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.</p>	<p>14. God Reveals His <u>Limitless Power</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A dead-end to us is simply an opportunity to God to show us His power • God is not limited by our solutions or nature • God is not limited by our abilities (the Israelites did NOTHING to defeat their enemy!)
<p>²³ And the Egyptians pursued and went after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. ²⁴ Now it came to pass, in the morning watch, that the LORD looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and He troubled the army of the Egyptians. ²⁵ And He took off their chariot wheels, so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians."</p>	<p>15. God <u>Fights</u> for His People</p>
<p>²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen." ²⁷ And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and when the morning appeared, the sea returned to its full depth, while the Egyptians were fleeing into it. So the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. ²⁸ Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, <i>and</i> all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained. ²⁹ But the children of Israel had walked on dry <i>land</i> in the midst of the sea, and the waters <i>were</i> a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. ³⁰ So the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Thus Israel saw the great work which the LORD had done in Egypt; so the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD and His servant Moses.</p>	<p>16. God Is <u>Thorough & Purposeful</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>God knows what He's doing!</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Results of God's Working: God...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Protected them from main route guard (13:17) Made God's name known to the Egyptians (14:18) Wiped out pursuing enemy (14:30b) Gave evidence of what God could do (14:31a) Engendered fear toward God (14:31b) Gave confidence in God (14:31c) Gave confidence in God's leader Moses (14:31d) Caused enemies to fear, setting them up for victory