

Ex. 13, 14
WHEN GOD LEADS YOU INTO A TRAP!

BACKGROUND: APPROACHING THE RED SEA – Ex. 14

Ex. 12:37 - 600,000 men, plus women and children- probably between _____ million people!

I. It wasn't a _____ route. Ex. 13:17, 18: When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." ¹⁸ So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt ready for battle.

They thought they were ready – God knew they weren't! God knows when we're ready – sometimes what seems to be a circuitous route in our lives is really _____ for God's next thing for us!

II. God led them by the _____. Ex.13:20-22: ²⁰ After leaving Sukkoth they camped at Etham on the edge of the desert. ²¹ By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. ²² Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

Ex. 14: 1-4: Then the Lord said to Moses, ² "Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon. ³ Pharaoh will think, 'The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.' ⁴ And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord." So the Israelites did this.

This is actually headed back toward Egypt! Lloyd John Ogilvie called it "a cul de sac of impossibility!"

Meanwhile, back in Egypt: Ex. 14: ⁵ When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them and said, "What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!" ⁶ So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him. ⁷ He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them. ⁸ The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly. ⁹ The Egyptians—all Pharaoh's horses and chariots, horsemen and troops—pursued the Israelites and overtook them as they camped by the sea near Pi Hahiroth, opposite Baal Zephon.

Remember, this was a _____ – there was no way out for the Children of Israel. But God _____ things Pharaoh – and we – don't know!

Ex. 14: ¹⁰ As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord. ¹¹ They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² Didn't we say to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians’? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!”

Ps. 106:7: When our ancestors were in Egypt, they gave no thought to your miracles; they did not remember your many kindnesses, and they rebelled by the sea, the Red Sea.

Keep _____ of the promises of God! Keep _____ of the answers to prayer!

Ex. 14:13 - And Moses said to the people, 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. (And this is _____ God told him what His plan was!)

III. When you face an impossibility:

A. Fear not – God is with you!

B. _____ firm – stand by

C. See God's deliverance – watch God come through

D. Keep _____ (v. 14)

E. Move on when _____ says! (v. 15)

Lessons for us: God knows what He's doing. Trust Him! If you're trapped, watch for God's deliverance! And keep a record of miracles!

