

Ex. 14 - GOD PROVIDES A WAY OF ESCAPE

Ex. 13:21 – This is how God led them – by the _____.

Exodus 40:36-38 ³⁶In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they would set out; ³⁷but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out—until the day it lifted. ³⁸So the cloud of the Lord was over the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the Israelites during all their travels.

Numbers 9:17-23 ¹⁷Whenever the cloud lifted from above the tent, the Israelites set out; wherever the cloud settled, the Israelites encamped. ¹⁸At the Lord's command the Israelites set out, and at his command they encamped. As long as the cloud stayed over the tabernacle, they remained in camp. ¹⁹When the cloud remained over the tabernacle a long time, the Israelites obeyed the Lord's order and did not set out. ²⁰Sometimes the cloud was over the tabernacle only a few days; at the Lord's command they would encamp, and then at his command they would set out. ²¹Sometimes the cloud stayed only from evening till morning, and when it lifted in the morning, they set out. Whether by day or by night, whenever the cloud lifted, they set out. ²²Whether the cloud stayed over the tabernacle for two days or a month or a year, the Israelites would remain in camp and not set out; but when it lifted, they would set out. ²³At the Lord's command they encamped, and at the Lord's command they set out. They obeyed the Lord's order, in accordance with his command through Moses.

Ex. 33 gives us another example of the cloud: ⁷Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the "tent of meeting." Anyone inquiring of the Lord would go to the tent of meeting outside the camp. ⁸And whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people rose and stood at the entrances to their tents, watching Moses until he entered the tent. ⁹As Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the Lord spoke with Moses. ¹⁰Whenever the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance to the tent, they all stood and worshiped, each at the entrance to their tent. ¹¹The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent.

The cloud symbolized God's _____ as well as His leadership.

Neh. 9, the Levites leading the people in praise: v. 9ff "You saw the suffering of our ancestors in Egypt; you heard their cry at the Red Sea. ¹⁰You sent signs and wonders against Pharaoh, against all his officials and all the people of his land, for you knew how arrogantly the Egyptians treated them. You made a name for yourself, which remains to this day. ¹¹You divided the sea before them, so that they passed through it on dry ground, but you hurled their pursuers into the depths, like a stone into mighty waters. ¹²By day you led them with a pillar of cloud, and by night with a pillar of fire to give them light on the way they were to take.

“Follow the cloud” – a good principle to follow as you seek God’s leadership

NOW BACK TO THE RED SEA: When they were where God wanted them, and it was time, the cloud moves to _____ them, to protect them.

Ex 14:¹⁹ Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel’s army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, ²⁰ coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long. (Not only could Pharaoh not see them, they couldn’t see him! It’s easier to listen to God when you’re not looking at the _____!)

God gave Moses directions: Ex. 14:16-18 ¹⁶ Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷ I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. ¹⁸ The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen.”

We need to spotlight this “shepherd’s staff of Moses.” This is the same shepherd’s staff from Ex. 4. God to Moses, “what is in your hand?” V. 17, God says, “take this rod with you and you’ll perform miraculous signs with it.” And when Moses heads back to Egypt, it says (v 20) he took “the rod of God in his hand.”

Lesson: Not always, but sometimes, God will use what He’s already given you to provide your miracle!

14:21 – the wind blew all night – even after the waters part, don’t rush in! Wait for God’s word. When you are trapped by circumstances, God will make a way for you. But that way will still require _____ on your part.

But God wasn’t through. V. 23ff

Miracles don’t guarantee _____!!

Ps. 106:⁸ Yet he saved them for his name’s sake, to make his mighty power known. ⁹ He rebuked the Red Sea, and it dried up; he led them through the depths as through a desert. ¹⁰ He saved them from the hand of the foe; from the hand of the enemy he redeemed them. ¹¹ The waters covered their adversaries; not one of them survived. ¹² Then they believed his promises and sang his praise. ¹³ But they soon forgot what he had done and did not wait for his plan to unfold...v. 21: They forgot the God Who saved them (not only did they forget the miracles, they forgot GOD), who had done great things in Egypt, miracles in the land of Ham and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.

Keep a journal!!

