

Stand Still and See the Salvation of the Lord

(Exodus 14:13-14)

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Note: The text below was prepared for oral delivery rather than for publication in print. As such, be aware that sentence fragments are intentionally used and that this document has not been edited to correct the errors in grammar, sentence structure, etc.

A. Introduction:

1. Introduce text and title:
2. Background ó Paraphrase story of Ex. 14
3. (Relate comical story of how little Johnny related what he had learned in Sunday School about this story ó crediting the army corps of engineer with building a pontoon bridge, etc. When challenged, little Johnny admitted he had embellished the story but excusing himself by saying, öYouø never believe it the way our teacher told it.ö)
4. Note how the parting of the Red Sea is one of the most remarkable miracles of the Old Testament, displaying the awesome and sovereign power of God to deliver His people according to His promise.
5. This temporal deliverance pictures Godø's spiritual deliverance of sinners by Jesus Christ:
 - a. The greatness of this miracle is truly seen in its spiritual significance ó the deliverance of Godø's elect, spiritual Israel, from the bondage of sin and Satan.
 - b. And yet many, like little Johnny refuse to stop, stand still, and see that eternal salvation likewise is of the Lord ó that it is all up to Him who does all the fighting for spiritual Israel.
6. Today, I want to direct attention your there ó to the spiritual lesson summarized in the words of verses 13 and 14, of my primary text (Read vss. 13-14)
7. As you can see, my title is taken directly from vs. 13
8. Cite caution in conclusions drawn from Bible stories by noting that we must judge the validity of illustrations based upon doctrine. Today, I intend to show the validity of this passage as an illustration by comparing it with the clear doctrine set forth in Romans 3 of the New Testament.

B. 1st Aspect of Israelø's Deliverance = There is a öStoppingö that must take place / God must stop us:

1. Vs. 9 ó (Pie-huh-hiø-roath) As the Israelites were backed up to the Red Sea, note that on one side there was a range of impassible boulders. On the other side there was a garrison or fort of the Egyptians. There was no where to turn but up.
2. Who put them there (see vss 1-3)?
 - a. God told Moses to camp there (vss. 1-2)
 - b. Vs. 3 –“...***hath shut them in.***”
3. Vss. 5- 9: The strength of the enemy is too powerful for Israel who were unarmed and on foot.

B. 1st Aspect of Israel's Deliverance – a “Stopping” (Con't.):

4. Note the reaction to this ðshutting inö
 - a. Verse 10 ó 11: They was murmuring to God's spokesman, Moses, as they offered, ðDid you take us out here in the wilderness to die?ö
 - b. Vs 12 = **“Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians.”** Here we see that they were showing contempt for their circumstances and actually preferring their former bondage.

C. Stopping ó the Spiritual application to spiritual Israel (Romans 3:16-19) (Read):

1. God's chosen people must and will be stopped. And this stopping involves us seeing our guilt before God. We must be hemmed up by God's providential hand and become troubled, confronted with the fact that based upon who we are (sinners) and who God is (holy) we are indeed in peril and totally shut in to any way of escape by our own hand. We're in trouble.
2. Only when God hems a sinner in, do we find our backs against the wall and in a predicament from which we can provide no remedy. We are between a rock and a hard place. We discover we can't do anything to deliver or save ourselves as sinners before a holy God.
3. And who puts us there? ó God does. Through the preaching of the Gospel (the gospel of how God saves sinners), He exposes the hopelessness if salvation is based on our own efforts.
4. The place is not a place of free will óNo, you discover the truth of Rom 3:10-12 and have nothing to offer. (Read or cite the descriptions given in Rom. 3:10-12).
5. Like Israel, we initially stubbornly cling to the bondage of sin by maintaining that salvation is conditioned on something I, the sinner, can do, at least in some way or to some degree. We murmur.
6. Like the Egyptian army our enemy (sin) is far too great and powerful so as to make it impossible for us to deliver ourselves; our sins are innumerable (Adam's sin imputed; his evil nature imparted); our sins overwhelm us like a flood. Rom. 5:20a: **“...the law entered that the offence might abound”**; In Rom. 7:13, Paul wrote of the exceeding sinfulness of sin. Sin and guilt, defilement, the curse of sin ó this is a great army that pursues us unto death, and we are helpless to defeat or overcome it.
7. To imagine that refraining from sin, etc. has a hand in your deliverance, is to not yet have seen the holiness and strict justice of God's law and the terror of the enemy that will ultimately consume you unless God hems you in to this place of self-helplessness.
8. Psalms 147:10-11: **“He delighteth not in the strength of the horse: he taketh not pleasure in the legs of a man. ¹¹The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.”**
9. I pray for ðsomebody youö who hears this message, that God will stop you in your tracks and hem you in to perceive your predicament and the reality of your sin condition ó to expose what the scripture calls the ðdeceivableness of unrighteousness.ö

C. "Stopping"- The Spiritual application to Spiritual Israel (Con't.):

10. But there is great news. Not one soul out of prideful, fallen humanity ever naturally gravitates to this place or perceives on his own his own utter depravity and total inability to save himself. Rather God hems His people into just such a place that they may *stand still* and see His salvation. He does not leave the sinner in this helpless condition, no more than he left the Israelites to be slaughtered by Pharaoh and his army.

D. 2nd Aspect of Israel's Deliverance = Stand Still (vs. 13):

1. Fear not the Egyptians so stop your murmuring and fear not so there's good news. There is a way out, a victory, and a peace. But to see it, there must be a ceasing of your own labor and efforts so a standing still.
2. Stand still and see so To see God's deliverance, they must cease from their natural preoccupation with what they could have done or might yet discover they could do to save themselves.

E. Stand Still so Spiritual application to Spiritual Israel:

1. (Read Rom 3:20). You must cease from the efforts of your hand. Fear not so there is a way out, a remedy, a victory in Christ who is the way.
2. Stand still so there is a rest to enter into. You must see that by the deeds of the law, (by your own hand) that no flesh shall be justified so delivered from their enemy, sin. All attempts at works, at attempting to establish a righteousness of our own, at self-help must end so ***"...not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy"*** (Rom. 9:16).
3. Psychological studies have shown that in crisis, or under stress, that there are 2 natural responses: fight or flight. Yet, contrary to our nature, God causes us to act contrary to our nature so to cease from our own remedies so to stand still.
4. Man by nature cannot stand still. He must work his way into God's favor because of sinful pride. That's why it takes a new birth. With the new-born faculties of spiritual life, one sees that which he otherwise could not see so his total helplessness.
5. *Stand still* means to rest. In Heb. 4:9-10, we read: ***There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. ¹⁰For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.***

F. 3rd Aspect of Israel's Deliverance = See so ***"...see the salvation of the Lord"*** (vs. 13):

1. Salvation is of the Lord and from the Lord. Don't look at the Egyptians; don't look to yourselves or your difficulties so SEE the salvation of the Lord so
2. vs 13 (end) ***"...you'll see them no more"*** so His victory shall be complete so there will not be another battle with this army, nothing left to be done.

F. 3rd Aspect of Israel's Deliverance = See the salvation of the Lord (Con't):

3. And they watched as Moses lifted up his rod in obedience to God (see vs 16).
4. Verse 14 ó The Lord shall fight for you ó Hold your peace (don't lift a hand), but go forward and walk in my way ó a way that I alone open unto you.
5. Notice that God didn't wait for them to respond. They were to see that salvation was completely of the Lord. And so they saw as we'll observe in a few moments in vss. 29-31.

G. See the salvation of the Lord ó the Spiritual application to spiritual Israel;

1. Read Romans 3:21-27a. That is the Lord we're to look to for eternal salvation.
2. Ex 14:13 (end) = ð... **no more forever**" ó It is a final deliverance ó eternal life and they shall never perish; God has accomplished salvation for all of spiritual Israel in Christ and Him crucified.
3. Vs. 14 ó ð**The Lord shall fight for you**" ó Our Substitute, Christ, shall do battle with sin, Satan, the curse, and death; and ð**ye shall hold your peace.**"
4. Vs. 16 ó As Moses lifted up the rod, so Christ was lifted up on the cross to free all of Spiritual Israel from the bondage of their sin. And this deliverance took place before we were even born.
5. And until we see Christ and that which was accomplished when He was lifted up on the cross, we don't walk in the faith (or go forward on dry ground so to speak). No, we only go forward in faith when God is pleased to hem us in ó to stop us, cause us to stand still and see with the eyes of God-given faith the salvation of the Lord ó i.e. ó based solely upon His propitiation, the righteousness of God in Christ by the satisfaction He made whereby we behold God's glory.
6. So, all of spiritual Israel will likewise walk in faith, beholding God's salvation in Christ in the day of His power when He reveals Christ to us. To walk in the faith is to walk in Christ, surrounded, covered by the Red Sea, but not drowned ó for our Red Sea, the blood of Christ, is our life!
7. This dry ground they walked on represents the completeness of God's work in Christ. It's done.
8. The Egyptians drowned (vs. 28 ó ð**there remained not so much as one of them**"). Likewise our sins are all taken away! Drowned forever in the red sea of His blood.
 - a. Psa 103:12: ð**As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.**" And how!
 - b. John the Baptist proclaimed, "**Behold the lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.**" (Jn 1:29)

H. Summary: Read Ex 14:30-31. The results of the Lord's Deliverance:

1. They saw the Egyptians dead ó No more a threat just as spiritual Israel sees that sin can no longer condemn them for their Redeemer has bore them away.
2. They saw the great work of the Lord just as God's people see the work of the Lord Jesus Christ and soí
 - a. They feared Him ó respect for the honor of God's character as a just God and savior
 - b. They believed ó not in order to be redeemed / delivered from their enemy but because they already were
3. As Moses told the people to see what God would show them today, I pray that you likewise will hear God this morning ó

Stop (Fear Not), Stand Still, and See ó See the Salvation of the Lord!

Footnote from the author: While this sermon was prepared and delivered by me, I often utilize the commentaries, study helps, and teachings of others to supplement my own prayerful study of the scriptures. Since this document was not originally prepared for publication in print, please excuse and recognize that it was unfeasible to properly identify and credit all of the various original sources used to develop the content herein. Ultimately, it is my sincere and foremost objective to accurately present the gospel of God's grace found in the only infallible source, God's word itself ó the Bible.

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