

Your Transition from a Past of Captivity to a Future of Freedom

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Exodus 14:13-31 (NIV)



Are you going through a battle in your life today and looking for a miracle? Are you at a point where you cannot see where your future lies or where you are headed? Are you constantly plagued by your past hurts, pains and mistakes? Or are you continuously being reminded of your history or the crimes that you have committed and you cannot see how the answer to your situation is going to happen? Well, there is hope for you. The Bible tells us that the children of Israel were stuck in a similar situation, a situation that seemed to be hopeless. A situation where they could not see the possibility of receiving the land of milk and honey that had been promised to them. And in a dire situation where their pursuers, whom they had just escaped from where close behind them, waiting for an opportunity to recapture them and take them back to the land of slavery were they had already been trapped in for 430 years.

Exodus 14:13-31

"Moses answered the people "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. 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. 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. The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen."

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, 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.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. During the last watch of the night the Lord looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. He made the wheels of their chariots come off so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the Lord swept them into the sea. The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. That day the Lord saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. And when the Israelites saw the great power the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant."

The Israelites were in a transition phase in their life, a transition from slavery to freedom. They were in the process of escaping from the foreign land that brought the people of God great suffering, torment and hurt, they were escaping from the land of Egypt and the hands of Pharaoh. And as they were gaining a favorable lead from Pharaoh's army, the children of Israel headed straight for a greater challenge, the Red Sea. Now with the Red Sea in-front of them and the great army of Pharaoh behind them, a way of possible escape seemed impossible.

But when you have the Great 'I AM' on your side, when you have The King of Kings and The Lord of Lords fighting the battle for you, when you have The Lord, The Creator of the Earth walking before you, you don't have to fear no impossible situation. The Israelites were filled with fear, filled with dread of the situation before them and the situation moving closer to them.

Moses answered the people "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again." Exodus 14:13

Moses was a humble man who God chose to use to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Moses trusted the Lord. And this time was no different; Moses trusted that the Lord will bring deliverance to Israel. Moses trusted that God will save them from this perilous predicament. And in his trust in what God was about to do he started to encourage the people; he encouraged them that God was going to be their savior that God was going to redeem them. Moses started to build up their faith. Moses wanted them to start to believe that God was going to do something extraordinary for them; he wanted them to believe that God wasn't only going to deliver them from the situation that they faced but God was going to destroy that which pursued them and destroy that which wanted to kill them. Today are you an encourager? Do you encourage people around you who face hopeless situations? Start to build up the faith of those around you just as you trust and have faith in God, start to build up an expectation for their miracle. Help people around you who are stuck in difficult situations. Help them believe that God WILL deliver them, help them believe that God WILL heal them, help them believe that God WILL set them free from that which does not allow them to move forward in their lives, careers, marriages and to receive their healing. But if you find yourself in a tough dead-end situation, surround yourself with people who can offer a positive voice, people who can encourage you, and people who can see your bright future in an impossible situation. Surround yourself with people who can lift you up and take you to your destiny in Christ.

"The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." Exodus 14:14

Even as Moses encouraged them, the children of Israel started to panic; they were filled with fear and started to think that they had come so far only to be trapped in this dangerous position. They had managed to escape from their homes in Egypt but could not escape the land and Pharaoh's army. But Moses asks them to 'be still', the King James Version of the bible says, 'hold your peace'. Moses asks the people not to panic but to handle this situation in a peaceful way, not to flee, nor to fight against the Egyptian army who was marching forward toward them. Moses asked them to be silent, and wait for God. Moses said to them that they should wait for instruction from God. You see when you doubt God's ability to rescue you from an impossible situation you open yourself up for an attack from the enemy. In their panic and confusion as what to do, the Israelites could have missed the voice of instruction from God and could have left themselves vulnerable for attack from the Egyptian army. In difficult times wait on God and trust in His awesome ability to perform the impossible in your life. What you may think is impossible is made totally possible in God when you trust Him and His word. But when you start to doubt that God can help you, that is when you can miss His voice and His instruction of direction in your life.

"Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on." Exodus 14:15

Moses was known to be the meekest man on Earth; he possessed an awesome ability to keep calm in the most difficult of situations. To be meek is described to have a character that is known to be quiet, gentle and easily persuaded. The fact that Moses was meek meant that God could easily use Moses to hear what His instruction was and God could effortlessly accomplish His will for the Israelites through Moses. We need to be more like Moses if we want to see results in our lives. Moses finds himself praying silently to God, crying out for help because the Israelites now need a specific direction from God. They could not move forward neither could they move back so they started looking to their left and right to see which direction they could move in to escape the army that was advancing toward them.

But the instruction from God was to “*move on*”; God instructed them to keep moving forward, to keep pressing on no matter what was before them. God instructed the Israelites not to lose focus by looking for alternate directions. And God instructed them to take on their greatest obstacle, head-on.

“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.” Exodus 14:16

God gave Moses the instruction to raise his staff over the sea and that the waters will divide. God’s instruction was to do something that in our natural and limited understanding would be impossible. But God’s impossible instruction became possible to save them from an impossible situation. If we want extraordinary answers we need to do extraordinary things. When we do things out of the ordinary we place a demand on God to come through. In faith Moses lifted his staff over the water. He did not think twice when he heard God’s instruction. The voice of God said, ‘Lift your staff Moses and I’ll part the water.’ And Moses’ first reaction was to lift the staff. You need to act on the prompting of God. Almost 10 years ago my husband’s parents were trusting God for a building for the church that they were leading. With R 6 000 in the bank they took a step of faith when they heard the voice of God tell them to start building. A matter of almost a year later a building that cost over R 600 000 to build now stood. Extraordinary actions cause extraordinary results. Take a step of faith and trust the voice of God.

“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. The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen.” Exodus 14:17-18

God will never direct you to a difficult place in your life without providing a solution for your problem. He will not allow you to fall into the hands of your enemy without providing you with a way of escape. God directed the Israelites to come down to the shore of the Red Sea and even though the Israelites thought that they now faced their destruction God had a greater plan for them. In taking them down to the sea, He led them to what seemed like the lowest point of their journey, a point of the annihilation of the children of Israel. But God had a plan. God had an awesome plan. His plan was going to be one of the greatest miracles ever recorded. God had a plan that would not only save the Israelites from their enemy, but a plan that would destroy their enemy. God’s plan was that, in their salvation and the enemy’s destruction His name will be praised! Sometimes the reason we find ourselves in hopeless situations is that God wants to show-off His awesome abilities in our lives. He wants to show us what He can do. He wants His glory to be seen through our problems. We were made to praise God. We were made to worship Him; we were created for His glory. In your tough times hold on to God’s promise of salvation. Hold on to His promise that He will deliver us. Even when things seem hopeless, God is planning your escape. God is planning to take you out of your trouble.

“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, 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. Exodus 14:19-20

As the Israelites were about to move forward an Angel of the Lord moved before their every eyes. The Angel appeared as a pillar of cloud and a pillar of fire. The pillar of cloud moved behind the people and the pillar of fire moved in-front of the Israelites. The pillar of fire lit the way for them to see where they were going; the pillar of fire led them and gave them direction on an unknown, unheard off path. The pillar of cloud covered and hid the people from the sight of the Egyptian army and the cloud closed the children of Israel off from looking behind them, both the Egyptian army and the Israelites could not see anything through the cloud. God’s presence will surround you in your transition. When you are moving from one season to the next God will be with you through the entire process. He will cover you and surround you as He directs your path. His light will guide you as you go through this unknown path. He will direct you and show you the way to go. All you have to do is to follow him and trust Him. God lights up the way for you to go, and covers up the place you have come from. He forgets your past, your past mistakes, your past failures and your past hurts are healed. God wants you to focus on the path that is ahead of you. He wants you to focus on your future.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.” Exodus 14:21-22

When Moses lifted his staff over the sea a strong wind blew over the sea and the waters parted. God here shows us that the laws of nature do not apply to Him. That He is above and greater than what He has created. God shows us that He has the ability to change the atmosphere and turnaround situations. Not only did the wind lift the water and keep the water apart to make a clear passage for them to walk through but the wind also dried the floor of the sea so that they walked on “dry ground”. God made their transition an easy one. God made sure that they would not have slipped or fallen on the slippery wet floor neither did they get stuck or sank in the mud of the sea floor. God has the ability to foresee and rectify all possible problems that you could face along the way. He makes the journey as comfortable and uncomplicated as far as possible for those that serve Him. He makes sure that you will not slip and fall along the way; He makes sure that you will not sink or make sure that you do not get left behind.

“The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. During the last watch of the night the Lord looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. He made the wheels of their chariots come off so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, “Let’s get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.”

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As the Israelites ventured onto this new dry ground between the two walls of water being led by the presence of God, the persistent Egyptian army followed closely behind them. But as the night went on and as the Egyptians went further into the Red Sea behind the Israelites God’s plan for pharaoh’s army drew nearer to an end. First God threw them into a state of confusion by causing the wheels of their chariots to come loose. When the Egyptian army realized that God was fighting against them, it was too late. They were too far into the Red Sea to return to land fast enough, because by then God had asked Moses to stretch his hand back over the water. And as Moses did this the water started to flow back over the Egyptian army. God’s plan to remove the Egyptian army was complete. Not one survived. God saved His people but the ones that fought against Him were destroyed. When God fights on your behalf He destroys everything that was holding you back, He destroys everything that was stopping you from your destiny. His plan is complete and nothing that will want to destroy you will be left behind to come back to haunt you. When He removes you from your dire situation He does a thorough job and removes everything, leaving nothing for you to fear, leaving nothing to come back and enslave you, leaving no trace of that past. Everything is forgotten.

*But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left. That day the Lord saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore. And when the Israelites saw the great power the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.” **Exodus 14:29-31***

It took the Israelites overnight to cross the Red Sea from one shore to another. In an instant God took them from a land of slavery to a promised land that would be flowing with milk and honey. They had been enslaved in Egypt for a total of 430 years. And it took them one single night to move from captivity to freedom, from bondage to deliverance. It took them one single night to move into their destiny with God. What God had done for them in those few hours would now be remembered for generations and generations to come. When they saw their enemy dead at their feet, they knew that the God they served was an awesome, all powerful and great God. The people of God started to trust in God with fear and trembling. Just as God did these great miracles hundreds of years ago for His chosen people, so too can God perform these miracles in your life today. It can take God mere seconds to change your life around; it can take God moments to change the atmosphere of your life today. He will use the strangest most unusual ways to do so and He will make your past that held you captive, a past that kept you from excelling totally disappear just to take you to a new, free and liberated future. All you have to do is trust Him, pray to him, listen for Him and obey Him. And he will perform the impossible and make your problems fall at your feet. God wants your transition from a past of captivity to a future of freedom to be easy, comfortable and one exciting adventure. Are you ready to trust Him completely?