

## The Red Sea

13.17 - 14.31

- I. Introduction
  - a. The deliverance at the sea is a merger of both creation and redemption
  - b. Israel is born out of the waters along with Moses, Jesus, and even Christians
  - c. The crossing is a merger of the miraculous and the ordinary.
- II. The unfinished quality of the Red Sea deliverance.
  - a. What must follow entails law, wilderness, freedom from sin and death
- III. Question: what in Christian faith is gloriously unfinished?
- IV. Creation
  - a. In the end, this deliverance is creation all over again
  - b. What is the point of creation in the Christian life?
    - i. Note the language of creation 14.19ff
- V. The Egyptian effort to recover their slaves is no minor effort.
  - a. Every chariot and warrior is brought to bear on the Israelites
  - b. One wonders where this obsessive lust to oppress, which borders on self-destruction, comes from
  - c. The oppressor is in his own kind of bondage because he doesn't have a range of options
  - d. Egypt can do nothing except grasp at Israel
  - e. Notice how God is pictured as maneuvering Israel into position that entices Egypt.
  - f. Clearly this has become a conflict between God and Pharaoh.
- VI. The Murmurings (14.11-12)
  - a. In the murmurings we see the true slave mentality of the people.
  - b. In this and many moments the people would prefer slavery than liberation and service to God.
  - c. Here Moses brings a pure oracle of salvation to the people.
    - i. The people clearly cannot save themselves, yet God is utterly in charge.
    - ii. They should not be afraid. This is often the first thing spoken in theophanies—don't be afraid.
    - iii. Stand firm—sometimes the hardest thing to do when we want to charge or retreat, fight or flight, is to do nothing.
    - iv. Keeping still appears to be a holy state.

- v. Moses becomes an agent for God's work. God does not act along, nor does Moses. Miracle, here and elsewhere, arises out of synergy between God and human beings.
- vi. Salvation = deliverance
- vii. The theme of God as warrior is pervasive throughout the Old Testament
- viii. Ultimately, action is called for. Moses needs to lead and take authority, and the people need to step out in faith, despite the apparent impossibility of the situation.
- ix. How far forward or into the water did the people go before it opened up for them?

VII. Discussion Questions

- a. What significance do you attach to the carrying Joseph's bones out of Egypt?
- b. Why do you think readers in the past have regarded the deliverance at the sea as Israel's birth? If you believe that Israel is born in this event, what do we learn here about the birth of Christian believers today?
- c. Were the waters split by Moses' rod or by the strong wind that blew through the night? Is this a natural event or a supernatural one?
- d. Was Israel saved here through faith or works?
- e. Do you believe that the Red Sea experience is both a signal event and a prelude to even greater things to come? What were those things.
- f. What are the greater things that Christians live into following the deliverance of conversion and baptism?
- g. If Christian baptism is a re-visitation of the Red Sea, what must be drowned in its waters?
- h. When Pharaoh decides to pursue Israel, is he following God's plan or his own plan?
- i. Imagine the final scene. The sea is calm. Egyptian bodies litter one shore, free Hebrews stand on the opposite shore. If this is a picture of your life, describe what is—through God's deliverance—dead, alive, and calm. How is creation restored? What is in store for the future?