

Exodus: The journey of a Lifetime

Week 3: The Salvation of God

WELCOME

Spend time relaxing and sharing together.

The passage this week is, without doubt, one of the great escape stories of all time. The “Will they make it or not?” cliffhanger conclusion as the Israelites cross the parted sea with the Egyptian army in hot pursuit has featured in many films, not least Cecil B. DeMille’s “The Ten Commandments”.

Cliff-hanger endings are, of course, common to many films. As you relax together, tell each other what your favourite “cliffhanger film” is, and why.

WORSHIP

As we prepare to think about the Salvation of God, take a moment to give thanks to God for the freedom that Christ bought for us and that we receive each and every day.

WORD

Crossing the Sea

Read Exodus 14:5-31

1. It was only after all of the firstborns in Egypt had been killed through the tenth plague (Exodus 11) that Pharaoh relented and allowed the Israelites to leave. Now, at the start of our passage (verses 5-6), we see him and his officials exclaiming “What have we done!” as they dispatch the Egyptian army to recapture the Israelites. What does this tell us about the mindset of those in power in Egypt?



2. The sight of the oncoming Egyptian army provokes the Israelites and Moses to make several statements (verses 10-14). Why do think they each said what they said? In what ways can this part of the story inform our responses to God when we find ourselves in challenging situations?
3. From our worldly perspective, it's easy to think of Moses as simply being the person chosen by God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, but God's response to Moses in verses 15-16 suggests that His perspective is different.

What do God's words tell us about how He sees Moses? In what ways does Moses foreshadow Christ?

You may find it helpful to look at Hebrews 3.1-6.

4. It's fair to say that many of the things recorded in the Old Testament are difficult to reconcile with a God of infinite love. The fate of the Egyptian soldiers as recorded in verses 26-28 is undoubtedly one of these things.

What is your reaction to these verses?

5. Verses 29-30a record that the Israelites walked through the sea from slavery on one side to freedom on the other. As you consider that in the context of our Christian journey, what parallels do you see?

You may find it helpful to consider 1 Corinthians 10.1-4 and John 5.24.

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WHAT NEXT?

The manifestation of the salvation of God that the Israelites experienced in our passage points us to the salvation that is available to us through what Christ did when He died on the cross. It points us to see our moment of passing from one reality to another, of us being washed clean by Christ when we put our faith in Him, and of us dying from being slaves to sin as we embrace our new lives of freedom in Christ.

It's a promise of freedom that Jesus makes to each of us in John 8.36 when he says "If the Son sets you free, you shall be free indeed".

But what are we set free for?

As you consider that question together, take a look at what Paul says in Galatians 5.13.

As Christians, we are each called to live out our freedom in the way that Paul says, but do we do as well as we might? As you think about this, discuss and share ideas about how we might do this better, either individually or as a church.