

Series: Exodus
Title: Go Forward!
Text: Exodus 14: 15-31
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Is there any one here who is now in a place where you see your total inability to save yourself? Be it from your sins or be it from your present trial?

For the children of Israel, the LORD did what he does when he saves his child, he turns us from the we were going brings us to the end of ourselves and shows us our total inability to save ourselves. Go does this in the first hour and in every trial.

The children of Israel could not save themselves. In front of them were the waves of the Red Sea, to either side were mountains impossible to climb, behind them was Pharaoh and his army and within, hearts of unbelief and fear. Is there anyone here that God has brought to this place? If so, my message to you is Moses message them.

Exodus 14: 3: And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. 14: The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

In the first hour and in every hour of trial, the Lord declares to his child that salvation is not by our hand. Salvation is of the LORD. When the Lord has brought us to that place then it is time to hear the LORD's next word.

Exodus 14: 15: And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward:

There is a time to cry unto the Lord—and there is a time to go forward.

But the LORD just commanded them to “*Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord.*” That is no contradiction:

Proposition: True faith in Christ is *standing still*—ceasing from our works, believing *salvation is of the Lord*; and true faith in Christ will be justified as true by *continuing to stand still and trust the Lord to fight for us as we go forward*—it is called walking by faith.

Believers stand still and behold the salvation of the Lord when we cease from all our works and trust Christ to save us and saving faith goes forward, trusting the Lord to fight for us every step of the way. True faith goes forward doing the following:

TRUSTING THE PROTECTION OF CHRIST HIMSELF

Exodus 14: 19: And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them: 20: And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night.

Faith goes forward trusting the protection of Christ himself. The Angel of God is Christ Jesus: he goes before us to lead us and he is also our rear-guard.

Isaiah 52: 11: Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean *thing*; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the LORD. 12: For ye shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight: for the LORD will go before you; and the God of Israel *will be* your rereward.

The Lord Jesus save his particular people—God’s elect—and protects his particular people. Christ comes between his people and our enemies—“*And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel.*” Christ is the Shield and Defender of his people

Christ is Light to his people while being darkness to his enemies—“*and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these.*” Christ is Wisdom to the believer in the dark night of this world while he is confusion to the unbelieving. Christ is Light to you to whom he has given sight, but a cloud and darkness to his enemies

John 8:12: Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Therefore, we have constant protection from our enemies—“*so that the one came not near the other all the night.*”

Brethren, if any enemy would try to harm one of Christ’s redeemed they first have to defeat Omnipotence. As we go forth, we have the constant protection of Christ himself.

ASSURED OF OUR DELIVERANCE DUE TO SATISFIED JUSTICE

Exodus 14: 15...[God said to Moses] **speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: 16: But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea...21: And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. 22: And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.**

Faith goes forward assured of our deliverance due to satisfied justice. *Moses* is the mediator between God and the children of Israel. So God tells him to give the command to go forth. *The rod* is the rod Moses later used to smite the rock from which the living water came out—a picture of the rod of the law, the rod of God’s justice. Moses stretches forth *his hand* over that *tumultuous sea*—this is the hand that was clean then God made it leprous and then clean again—a picture of Christ bearing the sin and curse of his people thus bearing the tumultuous sea of God’s wrath. By his own hand, Christ satisfied the justice of God for us.

So Moses gives the command to go forth, as he stretches forth his hand with the rod, and the sea parts so the children go across on dry ground. God’s mediator, Christ Jesus, effectually commands his brethren to go forth. He stretches forth his hand holding the very rod of the law that once would have condemned us. But by Christ having satisfied all its holy demands, now that same law and justice opens the way, demanding the deliverance of each child Christ justified. So faith goes forward assured that “*Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.*” (Ro 10:4)

Romans 8: 33: Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s elect? *It is* God that justifieth. 34: Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Isaiah 43: 1: But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called *thee* by thy name; thou *art* mine. 2 When

thou passest through the waters, I *will be* with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

SEEING THE LORD FIGHT FOR US

Exodus 14: 17: And I, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them: and I will get me honour upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen. 18: And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten me honour upon Pharaoh, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen. 23: And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, *even* all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. 24: And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, 25: And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians. 26: And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen. 27: And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. 28: And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, *and* all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them. 29: But the children of Israel walked upon dry *land* in the midst of the sea; and the waters *were* a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. 30: Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians;

Faith goes forward seeing the Lord fight for us as we hold our peace. Think about this, the children of Israel did not have a single weapon with which to fight. Neither do we brethren because our enemies are not carnal.

Ephesians 6: 12: For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.
13: Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

But we do not have to fight, we have the promise they had, "*The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.*" Read verses 17-18 and verse 25. Notice the Lord's "I wills". Right now in this earth, in his good providence, Christ is executing justice for his redeemed people because God our Father has committed all judgment to his Son. He executed justice for us on the cross. Now Christ executes judgment and justice upon his enemies in his providence as he rules all things that come to pass.

Notice, the LORD looked upon his enemies through the pillar. God looks at his enemies through Christ because God has committed all judgment to the Son. The judgment of the LORD troubles his enemies through Christ who passes judgment.

John 5: 22: For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:..27: And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.

Notice the difference. The children of Israel went into the sea committing themselves unto Moses—the apostle Paul said baptized unto Moses—a picture of a believer committing all to Christ and professing Christ publicly in believer's baptism. But Pharaoh and the Egyptians went into the sea by their own strength—a picture of a sinner attempting to come to God by the works of his own hands.

So we see the judgment of our Lord Jesus pictured—“*And the LORD said unto Moses, [God committed all judgment to the Son. Moses pictures Christ judging in righteousness according to his law] Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen. And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, [the sea of wrath] and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them. But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians;*

John 5: 28: [Christ said] Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29: And shall come forth; they that have done good, [by casting all care into Christ’s hand, pictured in the children of Israel] unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, [pictured in Pharaoh and the Egyptians] unto the resurrection of damnation.

Men speak of the law in Christ’s hand. Indeed it is. But it is not against his people. He is not whipping us as men teach. He is executing justice getting honor to himself and saving his people from all our enemies. All who reject him, attempting to come to God by the work of their own hands, instead of by faith in the work of his, Christ protects his people from. Christ comes between both all our days and protects us. At last when men attempt to stand before him in their own works, he shall stretch forth his hand of justice in the final day, justly condemning them to eternal damnation.

Yet, because Christ satisfied justice for his people, his justice demands his people be saved and so he executes what is just toward us. He effectually commands us go forth and brings us to believe on him—because the justice he satisfied demands it. He protects us from the enemy all our days coming between us and giving his people light—because his justice demands it. And by his hand he shall bring us each safely to him at last on dry ground—because his justice demands it.

ASSURED GOD SHALL ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSE

Exodus 14: 31: And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses. 15: 1: Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. 2: The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father’s God, and I will exalt him.

Faith goes forth all our days assured that through every trial, against every enemy, our God and Savior shall accomplish his purpose.

God purposed to save Israel. He purposed for Israel to see his work upon their enemies. So they saw it—“*And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians.*” He said they would see them again no more—and *there remained not so much as one of them*—all our sin is slain, the devil shall be and every enemy. God’s purpose was to bring the children of Israel to fear and believe him and his servant. Therefore, God accomplished it—“*and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses.*”

Also, God purposed to bring glory to his name in the destruction of their enemies and in their salvation. Therefore, by God’s hand, those he saved gave him and him alone all the praise—“*Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. The LORD is my strength and*

song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him."

So be it the first hour you have heard his voice or be it some trial you and I are in right now—when he says, “Go forward!” Go forward! And as you do stand still in full assurance of faith and see the salvation of the Lord!

Amen!