

Sermon Notes Exodus 14 The Lord rescues His people. 11/4/2021

Introduction. The precise time and place of the Exodus are hard to pinpoint but the Exodus probably took place around 1440 BC. The route of the Exodus is also hard to pinpoint because of place name changes and the disappearance of towns. The crossing of the Red or Reed Sea (or Lake) probably took place in the North West of Egypt. The mention of specific place names is meant to locate the Exodus journey and the supernatural rescuing of the people of Israel in particular historical places and time.

Vv. 1-4. After the Israelites had escaped from Egypt they were instructed by the Lord (Yahweh) through the mediation of Moses to 'turn back and camp near ...the sea'. They were assured that the purpose of stopping and heading back was so that the Lord would decisively defeat the Egyptian army so they would 'know that I am the Lord' (4). Note the recurring theme of '*knowing God*', as the One true all-powerful God (see 17-18 and Pharaoh's arrogant response 5:2). Also, the recurring theme of God '*hardening Pharaoh's heart*' (also 8,17, emphasising God's sovereignty) and Pharaoh choosing to attack God's people (emphasising his culpability).

Vv. 5-12. The Israelites 'escaped' but from the Egyptian perspective they 'fled' and were 'let go'! Pharaoh changes his mind and sends an army to bring the Israelites back to Egypt. Note the contrast between the Israelites 'marching out boldly' and their reaction of fear and anger towards the Lord and Moses as the Egyptian army approached.

Vv. 13-18. Moses entreats them to trust the Lord and His promise to deliver them. The Lord commands Moses to raise his staff and stretch out His hand so the Israelites can pass through the parted sea.

Vv. 19-20. The 'Angel of the Lord' is the visual manifestation of the Lord Himself (see 24, 30, 'the Lord saved Israel' and 31) protecting them on their journey and from the advancing Egyptian army.

Vv. 21-30. Moses stretches out his hand and the waters are parted by the Lord for the Israelites to cross over on dry land. Moses is again commanded by the Lord to stretch out his hand and the Lord swept the Egyptians into the sea and they all drowned (28). The Israelites were saved by the Lord. The Israelites feared the Lord and put their trust in Him.

Reflection/Response. How does God's faithfulness overcome our fickle trust? God's grace is evident in the Exodus event, how do we celebrate God's supreme expression of His grace in Jesus Christ? BB