

"GO FORWARD!"

TEXT: Ex. 14:15

SCR. READING, VS. 8-15

INTRODUCTION:

THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL ON THEIR WAY OUT OF EGYPT.

I. THEIR DANGER

1. THE Foe BEHIND
2. THE SEA IN FRONT
3. THE MOUNTAINS ON EACH SIDE
4. FEAR WITHIN, VS. 11, 12, 13A, "FEAR YE NOT"

II. THEIR DILEMA*in a fix (story of boy who had been stealing apples)*

1. THEY KNEW NOT WHICH WAY TO TURN
2. THERE SEEMED TO BE NO SAFE WAY OUT
3. IT IS THE DEVICE OF THE DEVIL TO GET CHRISTIAN PEOPLE INTO SUCH A DILEMA.
4. IT IS A BLESSING FOR THE SINNER TO BE BROUGHT INTO SUCH A CONDITION IN A MORAL SENSE.

III. THEIR DELIVERER

1. THE ONLY WAY THEY COULD LOOK WAS TO LOOK UP.
2. THE LORD WOULD FIGHT FOR THEM, V. 14
3. MAN'S EXTREMITY IS GOD'S OPPORTUNITY
4. WE CAN SAFELY TRUST IN "THE GOD WHO, HIMSELF UNMOVED,
MOVES ALL THINGS,
WHO GIVES, AND IS NONE THE POORER,
AND WHO WORKS UNWEARIED."

IV. THEIR DUTY

1. WAIT, VERSE 13, "STAND STILL,"
FITNESS MUST COME BEFORE ACTION.
2. GO, V. 15
3. WE MUST AVOID TWO EXTREEMS
 - A. ENTIRE DEPENDENCE ON OUR OWN ABILITY,
WITHOUT THE HELP OF THE LORD.
(THIS IS ESPECIALLY THE TENDENCY IN TIMES OF PROSPERITY)
 - B. THAT WE DO NOTHING AND DEPEND ON GOD TO DO ALL.
4. WHY THE CHURCH MUST BE EVANGELISTIC AND MISSIONARY
 - A. BECAUSE OF THE COMMAND OF CHRIST.
 - (1). THE GREAT COMMISSION
 - (2). ILLUSTRATION OF HEATHEN MASTER WHO WHEN HE LAY DYING
SAID TO HIS LOYAL SERVANT, "GO TELL THE DEAD THAT I AM COME."
 - B. BECAUSE OF CONCERN FOR A LOST WORLD
 - C. BECAUSE OF THE MISSION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

THE SLAVE IMMEDIATELY COMMITTED SUICIDE IN ORDER THAT HE COULD CARRY OUT HIS MASTER'S COMMAND.

OUR SAVIOR HAS COMMANDED US TO GO AND TELL THOSE DEAD DEAD IN TRESPASSES AND SIN THAT HE HAS COME TO SAVE THEM.

12:41 PM TEXT: "GO FORWARD!"
In the midst of this terrifying, panic-prone venture of faith, the loud wail of UNFAITH is sounded. They reasoned: "Our freedom to serve God is only a dim possibility; the continued pursuit of that freedom means the irrevocable renunciation of all the aspects of security we have ever known. We can't face the quest of freedom in God's service when, in the course of that quest, we are pushed into an existence that is a vacuum, without all the symbols of security. Let's go back to Egypt. Let's return to life and meaning tangibly supported by human means and human devices--even though they be Egyptian!"

Every man's life of faith is tormented by the same essential cry of UNFAITH. This is the story of every man's tentative, terrifying, panic-prone venture of faith!

This theme recurs repeatedly in this part of the Bible: for example see, Ex. 16:3; 17:3; Numbers 14:3; 20:3-4; 21:5.

It is the campaign slogan of the rebels Dathan and Abiram, in Num. 16:12-14, the bitterest kind of repudiation of the whole venture of leaving the security of Egypt for the seeming insecurity of the service of the Lord in a promised land.

The basic cry is: "it's better to serve Egypt than to die in this wilderness; better to be slave and idolater than to proceed on the insecure and insubstantial ground of faith!"

So do many today decide that it is better to live as a materialistic and humanistic person in a godless society than to trust in the promises of God for a personal relationship with the Lord and an eternal salvation in heaven with Him. Better to live for today than to hope for tomorrow. Better to find whatever security we can for the body than to depend on faith to lead us through our Red Sea.

V. THEIR DIRECTION, "FORWARD"

1. THE CHURCH MUST NEVER BE SATISFIED WITH PRESENT GAINS.
2. THE INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIAN SHOULD "GO FORWARD"
 - A. IN THE INCREASE OF CHRISTIAN GRACES
 - B. IN THE EXHIBITION OF CHRISTIAN VIRTUES
 - C. IN THE PERFORMANCE OF CHRISTIAN DUTIES
 - D. IN HIGHER CONCEPTION OF SPIRITUAL TRUTH
2. IN THE ATTAINMENT OF CHRISTIAN VICTORY AND BLESSING
3. AFTER LIVINGSTON HAD EVANGELIZED THE BAKHATLAS TRIBES IN AFRICA HE WROTE HIS LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY THAT HE WAS WILLING TO GO ANYWHERE FOR CHRIST, PROVIDED IT BE FORWARD.

VI. THEIR DETERMINATION

1. THEY OBEYED

A. THIS REQUIRED FAITH.

ILLUSTRATION OF STONEWALL JACKSON AND HIS SISTER-IN-LAW CROSSING THE RIVER JUST BELOW THE NIAGARA FALLS, WHEN SHE BECAME FRIGHTENED THAT THEY MIGHT GO UNDER. HE ASKED THE OARSMAN HOW MANY TIMES HE HAD MADE THE CROSSING AND IF HE HAD EVER HAD AN ACCIDENT; BEING ASSURED, HE TURNED TO THE LADY AND SAID, "YOU HEARD WHAT HE SAID, AND UNLESS YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE THE OARS AND DO BETTER, YOU HAD BETTER SIT STILL AND TRUST THE MAN AS I DO."

B. IT REQUIRED COURAGE

2. THEY PUSHED THROUGH OBSTACLES,

(LIKE THE N.Y. FERRY PILOT DRIVING THE METAL-CASED BOW OF HIS BOAT SQUARELY AGAINST THE ICE-FLOES, CLEAVING THEM ASUNDER.

3. THE CHURCH THAT CANNOT BE DEFEATED

- A. A BIBLE-LOVING CONGREGATION
- B. A PRAYING CONGREGATION
- C. A WORKING CONGREGATION.

VII. THEIR DELIGHT

1. THE SONG WHICH GOD GIVES, CH. 15.

- A. RENEWED VITALITY AND FAITH
- B. GREATER ZEAL AND ENTHUSIASM
- C. RICHER FELLOWSHIP AND HARMONY

2. THE LAND WHICH GOD PREPARES

3. THE BONDAGE WHICH GOD REMOVES, "THE EGYPTIANS WHOM YE HAVE SEEN TODAY, YE SHALL SEE THEM AGAIN NO MORE FOREVER."

4. THE REWARDS GOD BESTOWES.

H.M.B.C.

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Moses spoke with strong words, but not in rebuke, in verses 13 and 14. He met the cry of unfaith with reassurance. This is the probing for the positive human response of faith, the searching for the obvious performance of faith which is the only answer to the despair of unfaith.

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3. THE CHURCH THAT CANNOT BE DEFEATED

A. A BIBLE-LOVING CONGREGATION

B. A PRAYING CONGREGATION

C. A WORKING CONGREGATION

II. THEIR BELIEF

1. THE SONG WHICH GOD GIVES, CH. 12.

A. REMAINED VITALITY AND FAITH

B. GREATER ZEAL AND ENTHUSIASM

C. RICHER FELLOWSHIP AND HARMONY

2. THE LAND WHICH GOD PREPARES

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