



“By faith the people crossed the sea” - Hebrews 11:29

Scripture: Read Hebrews 11: 29 / Exodus 14

- The parting of the Red Sea is referenced in many ways throughout Scripture; including: Deuteronomy 11:2-4, Joshua 24:5-6, Psalm 106:8-10; 136:13-15

- In Psalm 77:16-20, the psalmist uses a technique of Hebrew poetry that is referred to as ‘parallelism’ - the restatement of an idea with the same grammatical structure, but with different terms. Note how the waters of the Red Sea “saw” “were afraid” and “trembled.”

- “So, the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord.” - Exodus 14:31. Read Genesis 15:6 and Romans 4:9-12 for a similar thought on salvation and righteousness. Also, note the continued emphasis on “fear + faith.”

Equipping

- The people of Israel often demonstrated a wide range of faith and confidence. In Exodus 14:8, they were leaving “defiantly” and yet in 14:11 they feared for their lives. Do you experience both ends of the faith continuum? When? Why?

- The Lord ... drove the sea back (14:21), looked down and threw the Egyptian army into panic (14:24), threw the army into the sea (14:27), and ultimately ... “the Lord saved Israel” (14:30). What do you notice about these verses? As it relates to our salvation, what might we understand from this?

- Do you have a “Red Sea Crossing” experience? In other words, have you ever had to completely rely upon the Lord to bring you through a situation or conflict or challenge, that otherwise seemed to be unpassable? Which was easier to fear; the problem (an enemy closing in and nowhere to go) or the Lord (trusting that he would find a way, even if it meant the improbable)?

*A*pplication

- Reflecting on the faith of Moses and the Israelites, particularly with the example of the Red Sea in Hebrews 11:29, is there anything you want to address in your own faith life? Are there opportunities to rely upon the Lord’s salvation? How could you go about experiencing this growth today?

Lord, may we face life’s difficulties with a Moses, Red Sea-like faith. May our reverence of who you are result in great confidence for what you can do. May we never forget from where you have brought us, and from what you have brought us through, and for where you are leading us. Most importantly, may our righteousness be found in what you have completed and not in what we attempt to do in our own strength. Amen.