

Remnant Life Church
June 14, 2026
**Familiar Stories Retold:
Walking in Dry Sandals**
Exodus 14:15-31

Part of the human experience is expectations - anticipating how things are going to happen

- You likely do it every day
 - From how work is going to go that day or week
 - To a vacation that is upcoming and desperately needed
 - To your interaction with a family member or friend
- And I have actually preached on the danger of expectations as it relates to your relationships
- The problem with them is, as you know, things rarely if ever go the way you think it will
- Yet we continue to do it, don't we?

There is the story of a couple who lived in the extreme Northeastern part of the country. The New England winters are famously harsh and in the bitterly cold months of winter their car had become especially dirty, what with road salts, frozen slush, and other wintry deposits, and they were very conscious of the unsightly condition of their car. One morning the couple was driving down the road and came across an unusual sight. Water was gushing into the air from a broken pipe beneath the surface of the road. A work crew had just started to arrive and were beginning to get their equipment unloaded. Well as they drew closer, the couple concluded that this was the perfect opportunity for a much needed, free car wash. And so they pulled the car far enough forward to park under the shower of water. The road crew watched, somewhat puzzled, but a little amused. Since it was still bitterly cold, they left the engine running and kept the heater going as well as they sat in the car. Well in a very short amount of time, two things happened almost simultaneously – the first was an exceptionally unpleasant odor began to fill their car. The second was at right about this same time the couple noticed that the water running down the windshield wasn't clear. It took only a few more seconds for the realization to come that they were not parked under the shower of a broken water main, they were under the shower of a broken sewer main. And so, amid the chorus and screams of the workman's laughter they quickly sped away as they then watched the filthy matter reeze solid to their car in the bitter cold of the day.

- Safe to say that did not turn out the way they had expected it to
 - Well, the same could also be said for the Egyptians who were pursuing the Israelites into the desert
 - You see, Moses and the new nation of Israel had left Egypt not that long ago and were making their way south east into what is today the Sinai Peninsula
 - Certainly they had thought this would be a quick round-up; drive the helpless people back to Egypt; and then its back to business as usual the way it had been for over 400 years
 - After all we're going after a nation of beaten slaves walking in the desert

- **READ – Ex 14:15-31**

There are many questions regarding this story that persist to today:

One of them is the speculation as to the route the Israelites took in their journey out of Egypt (13:17-18)

- What has made that so difficult to answer is the vast majority of the geographical names mentioned in this account (Succoth, Etham, Migdol) have not been identified with certainty
- This makes the exact route nearly impossible to know for sure
 - Even the location of Mt. Sinai is debated today with those holding to the southern location in south-central part of the Sinai Peninsula; and others to the northern location in Saudi Arabia
 - However, even with these and other evidence uncertainties, a Christian should never allow that to affect his/her belief in the truth of God’s Word
 - God’s Word is at the foundation of our FAITH
- Most historical theologians agree, however, that there were only 3 possible routes the people could have been taken moving east from Egypt toward Caanan
 1. The shortest, most direct and the only option specified in the Bible is due ENE along the coast of the Mediterranean through “the land of the Philistines” (v 17)
 - Nearly a straight line
 - But God did not want them to go this way because of the possibility of war
 2. They could have gone south on one side of the Gulf of Suez or the other
 3. Or southwest through the desert of the Sinai Peninsula to the Gulf of Aqaba
- The problem, again, is that the names and locations of the biblical account are seen in multiple locations and an argument for them all can be made
 - Rather than focus on that lets instead consider what Moses is tasked by God to do
- Whichever way that went we just read in the first verse of the 14th chapter that God gives Moses instructions that don’t make much sense
 - He instructs him to lead the people back instead of east toward Canaan
 - He tells them to set up camp at Pi-hahiroth (pie-ha-HIGH-roth) which translates to “mouth of the water”
 - This puts the Red Sea directly in front of them; the mountains on either side of the valley they just walked through with the Egyptian army coming at them from behind – IOW they are trapped!
 - The 1956 adaptation of this story in *The Ten Commandments*
 - Yule Brenner plays Rameses
 - He says to his charioteer: “The God of the Israelites is a poor general. He has left them no escape.”
- The Red Sea is shaped like a long cylinder with rabbit ears at the top
 - The left side today is called the Gulf of Suez
 - The right side is the Gulf of Aqaba
 - Between them is the Sinai Peninsula

- Many archeological theologians have placed the crossing site at a large beach area called Nuwahbay on the western shore of Gulf of Aqaba
 - The full ancient name is Nuwahbay al MoozaWEEEnah – “Waters of Moses Opening”
 - The reason they have identified this location is that there is an underwater sand bar that extends across at a depth of approx. 900 feet instead of the nearly 2000 foot depth on either side
 - The slope at this location is only 6 degrees instead of the more common 45
 - In addition, that sand-bridge is at one of the narrowest points of the Gulf at approximately only 11 miles
- There is something else that also points to the possibility that this is the location
 - There were two large granite pillars erected by Solomon
 - One at this point on the shore of the Muwaybay beach – which still stands today
 - And one on the other side in Saudi
 - That one has since been removed but a marker was placed in its location
 - If these markers are accurate this would then put the location of Mt. Sinai in Saudi Arabia (some say the mountain called Jebel el Lawz) which then agrees and aligns with Paul’s writing in **Gal 4** where he references “Mt Sinai in Arabia”
- I believe this story of the crossing gives us an insight into how God will often work in our lives and what we must be on guard for –
 - And I even have each of the four points start with the same letter
 - An old preacher’s tool...

1. **Preparation** – (14:1-4)

- God was in full control from the outset
- He not only prepared the Israelites but also the Egyptians
- God is always involved, active and preparing the way
 - We read in **Luke 3** that John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus to come (**Luke 3:4**)
 - Just prior to the time of His arrest, Jesus comforted His disciples by saying He would prepare or make ready a place for them (and us) in Heaven (**John 14:2**)
 - Even the feasts and harvest celebrations of the OT had to first be prepared in a particular way
 - We serve a God of precision and order
- The thing is, to the Israelites and the Egyptians, this whole set up prior to the crossing looked like a mistake
- In fact, in **Ex 14:3** we read that Pharaoh was thinking they are lost and boxed in
 - But this was not a mistake at all – it was all being perfectly orchestrated by God
- Whatever our circumstances we must hold to the truth that God has prepared and is preparing us for whatever is taking place
 - And we can be assured of several things:

- The plan is perfect (in spite of what it might appear to us in that moment)
- All of the pieces will fit together in right order
- And the outcome will glorify God according to His perfect will
- God is preparing and in complete control of all things

2. Pursuit of the Enemy – (14:5-9)

- We read that not long after the Israelites left Egypt, Pharaoh realizes what he has lost by allowing them to leave
 - This was also under God’s control and a part of the plan
- Many times, Christians often mistakenly think that a victory over satan is a one and done
 - Remember that satan tempted Jesus 3 times (Matt 4)
 - He will try again and we must stand firm in our belief of God’s power over his schemes
- And so, when Pharaoh finally caught up to the Israelites he most certainly thought he had these lost sheep penned in for the slaughter
 - But what he failed to realize was who the Shepherd was watching over them
- satan is not easily dissuaded in his efforts to lead you astray, but God is immovable in His love and care for you

First is God’s preparation

Second is recognizing that the enemy will pursue you

3. The Panic – (14:11-12)

- God is present, all powerful and in full control, but that does not mean that the nature of the flesh will not still act out
- Part of the nature of man, again the flesh nature, is to mistrust
 - Moses did not believe God at first when He was at the burning bush
 - The people certainly mistrusted the power of God throughout the entire journey
 - And prior to that, Adam and Eve did not believe God in the garden and because of their mistrust that flesh, sinful nature became imprinted in our very DNA
- Becoming a Christian means we are forgiven and are His children, but we still must struggle with those sinful DNA patterns
 - Paul writes often about that struggle of the sin nature against the spirit nature we are given (Rom 8)
- What we must hold to is that our present suffering (the flesh) will one day give way to our future glory (spirit)
- Listen to what Paul writes in **Rom 8:8-10** - *Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in*

you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.

- As a child of God, know that the flesh nature is always present and you must continually do battle with it
- But you can also rest in the knowledge and assurance that the war has been won because of Jesus Christ

4. The Presence of His Protection – (14:19-20)

- The pillars of cloud by day and fire by night was the presence of God’s hand guiding, protecting, and shielding the people
- God will use any means to accomplish His will
 - (14:25) Broken equipment and confused horses
- In spite of their mistrust, their grumbling and complaining, in His great love He continued to protect them as a nation
 - And that truth applies to us today
 - His love for you is beyond what you can comprehend and He is protecting you even in your darkest time

Of course, you know how the story ends (Ex 14:26-31)

- The Israelites crossed over on dry ground
- The Egyptians pursued them through the opening in the water
- And God caused the waters to come together again and all of those pursuing them perished
 - It was in this final act God removed the external threat to their survival
 - And He showed them that their desire to return to Egypt was not His will for them
 - The lesson, unfortunately, did not take because on at least four separate occasions the people expressed their desire to go back (Num 11:4-5, 14:2-4; Ex 16:3; Ezek 20:8,24)
 - The most notable of them when the 12 spies returned with their first report of the promised land (Num 14:2-4)
 - And it was this time of unbelief that caused the people to roam the desert for 40 years before they would be permitted to return and take the land God had promised to give them.

And so, in this familiar account of the crossing of the Red Sea, we can see that God will use the difficult times to accomplish many things in our lives

He will correct us – not just our sinful acts, but our unbelief

He will deepen us – our faith and our dependence on Him

And He will provide unique opportunities

- To see His hand at work in our lives
- To see our faith increased and stretched
- To bless us beyond what we could imagine