

Have you ever experienced God allowing difficult situations in your path that did not seem to make sense?

- Careers do not go as planned
- Children making unexpected choices
- Health issues arise
- Retirement plans change





# Purpose of the Plagues

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1. You will know me—Worship the only God
2. God's Redemptive Power of Salvation—Let My People Go
3. Warning and Judgment—Separate Believers from Non-believers

“Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘This is what the LORD says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me.’” Ex 8:1

# God's Sovereignty

## Exodus 13-17

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# Exodus 13

- Consecrate the first born

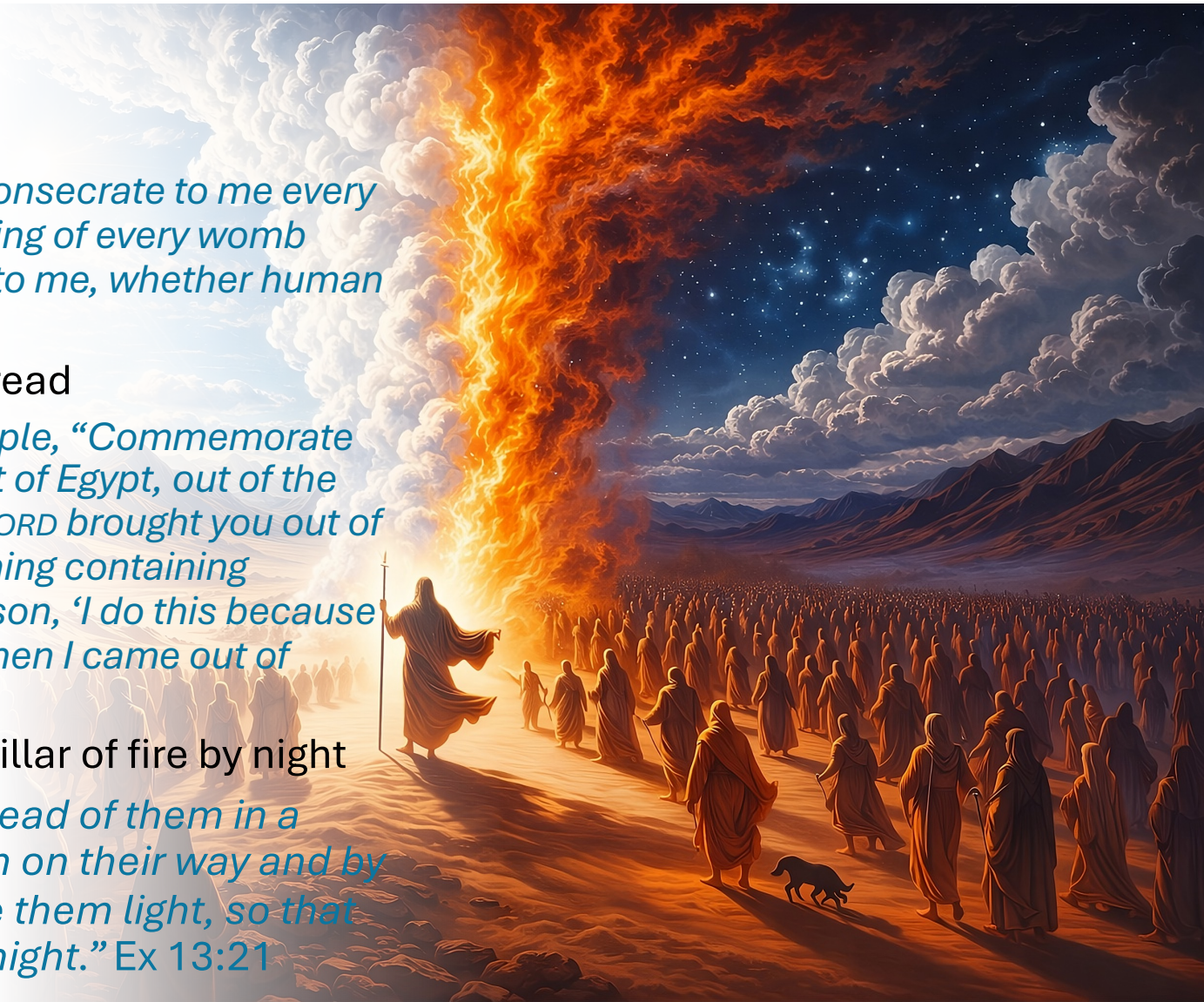
*“The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>“Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether human or animal.” Ex 13:1*

- Feast of the Unleavened Bread

*“<sup>3</sup> Then Moses said to the people, “Commemorate this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the LORD brought you out of it with a mighty hand. Eat nothing containing yeast...<sup>8</sup> On that day tell your son, ‘I do this because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.’ Ex 13:3, 8*

- Pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night

*“<sup>21</sup> By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night.” Ex 13:21*



# God Glorifying Himself

*“Then the LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> **“Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon. <sup>3</sup> Pharaoh will think, ‘The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.’ <sup>4</sup> And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD.”** So the Israelites did this.”*

Ex 14:1-4



# Exodus 14

Crossing the Red Sea



# God's Sovereignty in Deliverance

## The Israelites were Afraid

*“As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD.” Ex 14:10*

*“And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.” Ex 14:31*

## Salvation Language

*“Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again.” Ex 14:13*

*“That day the LORD saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore.” Ex 14:30*

## What Yahweh Is Doing

*“The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.” Ex 14:14*

*“He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, “Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.” Ex 14:25*

# Song

Exodus 15:1-21

“The LORD is my strength and my defense;  
he has become my salvation.  
He is my God, and I will praise him,  
my father’s God, and I will exalt him.  
<sup>3</sup>The LORD is a warrior;  
the LORD is his name.”

What is the lyrics of this song confessing?

- Relational Attributes
- Personal Relationship
- Universal Attributes
- Response

These are acts of worship.

Recognition – Acknowledgment – Action

What brought the Israelites to these acts of worship?

# Exodus 15-17

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God's Sovereignty Through  
Challenges



# The Complaints

Exodus 15:22-17:7

Desert of Shur (Ex 15:22-27) **3 days**

Marah (Water was bitter; no drinking water)

<sup>24</sup> So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “What are we to drink?”

<sup>25</sup> Then Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became fit to drink.

There the LORD issued a ruling and instruction for them and put them to the test. <sup>26</sup> He said, “If you **listen carefully to the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees**, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you.”

# The Complaints

Exodus 15:22-17:7

- Desert of Shur Ex 15:22-27–No drinking water **3 days**
- The Desert of Sin(Ex 16:1-36)–No food **2 months after leaving Egypt**

*“<sup>3</sup> The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the LORD’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death. <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, “I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. <sup>5</sup> On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days.”*

# The Complaints

Exodus 15:22-17:7

- Desert of Shur Ex 15:22-27 (No drinking water)
- The Desert of Sin Ex 16:1-36 (No food)
- Rephidim Ex 17:1-7 (No water to drink)

*<sup>1</sup> The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was **no water for the people to drink**. <sup>2</sup> So they quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.”*

*<sup>3</sup> But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?”...<sup>6</sup> I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.” So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel.*

*<sup>7</sup> And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites **quarreled** and because they **tested the LORD** saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”*

# The Complaints

Exodus 15:22-17:7

- Desert of Shur 15:22-27 (No drinking water) **God's Sovereignty in Testing**  
Israelites grumbled – Moses cried out to God – God provided but put Israel to a test
- The Desert of Sin 16:1-36 (No Food to Eat) **God's Sovereignty in Provisions**  
Israelites grumbled – God provided but put Israel to a test  
God commanded Moses, Aaron to put some manna in a jar to preserve them as a remembrance.
- Rephidim 17:1-7 (No water to drink) **God's Sovereignty in Weakness**  
Israelites questioned God's presence among them.  
Moses cried out to God.  
God provided water.  
Moses called the place Massah and Meribah because the people quarreled and tested God.
- God delivered victory over the Amalekites at Rephidim 17:8-16  
Moses built an alter and called it The Lord is my Banner to commemorate the victory.  
**God's Sovereignty Works Through Human Responsibilities**

# Points to Ponder

- God could have led His people to good water and provided food right away? Why didn't he and instead put His people to the test?
- What is the difference between a test and a punishment?
- How conscious are you of God's presence in your daily life?



# God's Sovereignty

## Reveals His Glory

- *“Then they will know that I am the Lord.”* Ex 14:4

## Calls For Trust

- Through testing
- Through Waiting
- Through Dependence

## Produces Worship

- In Gratitude
- Obedience

God's sovereignty does not mean God's people will avoid wilderness experiences. It means the wilderness itself is under His control and is being used for His purposes, His glory, and our growth.



# Freed to Worship

“Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘This is what the LORD says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me.’” Ex 8:1

*“In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling.” Ex 15:13*

- God’s Sovereign Will was for the sons of Israel to inherit the land that He would give them and for them to worship Him there.
- Instead of providing a smooth journey to Canaan, God guided the Israelites through the wilderness and allowed them to be challenged with the basic needs of life and tested them so that they can learn obedience and dependence on God.

**Obedience and dependence is an integral part of worshipping God!**

# God's Providence & Provision

- What are some concerns in your life that might bog you down now?
- How do you handle the challenges of the wilderness in life?
- Share an experience when you recognize God is putting you to a test?
- An important question we should ask ourselves is not if God is with us but what prevents us from recognizing his presence?
  - What are some circumstances that might prevent us from recognizing God's presence?
  - What should you do when this happens?

# Next Week

Meeting God: Exodus 18:1 to 19:25