

## Suppressing Doubt

Exodus 14:10-12, 15, 17, 30-31  
*Don't Live by Sight but by Faith (2 Cor. 5:7)*

### Sermon Outline

#### A. Don't Allow Circumstances to Erase Faith (vs. 10-12; 2 Cor. 5:7):

1. As Pharaoh drew near – Pharaoh was completely committed to coming awfully close to the Israelites.
  - a) As Pharaoh's charioteers and armed troops approached, fear struck the encampment. They were trapped between the Red Sea ([lit., "Sea of \[Papyrus\] Reeds"; see comments on v. 2](#)) before them and a vicious foe behind them (400-hundred-year history in their heads). The reaction of the Israelites here was much the same throughout the book ([cf. 5:21](#)) [in times of duress and fright](#).<sup>[1]</sup>
2. Israel looked - As the Egyptian army grew closer all of Israel became very conscious of their presence and focused their total attention on the power of this mighty military.
  - a) The great consternation of the Israelites is somewhat astonishing, considering their vast superiority in numbers, but their deep dismay and absolute despair at the sight of this armed host receives a satisfactory explanation from the fact that the civilized state of Egyptian society required the absence of all arms, except when they were on service. If the Israelites were entirely unarmed at their departure, they could not think of making any resistance [WILKINSON and HENGSTENBERG].<sup>[2]</sup>
3. Behold – Their eyes and minds were focused only on one specific issue, the mighty army of Egypt; the most powerful army in the known world.
  - a) Egypt's army. Most chariot units of this period range between 10 and 150, so 600 is a large muster, and this represents only Pharaoh's unit. When Rameses II fought the Hittites at the battle of Qadesh, his enemy boasted 2,500 chariots.<sup>[3]</sup>
4. Fear – Israel's fear was not one of terror (this word for fear does not

mean terror even though it recognizes that harm can take place). Israel, after being in bondage for years, respected the power, skill and might of this military.

- a) With the army in sight the Israelites became very frightened. They were not just afraid they were very frightened. Remember this is after God performed miracle after miracle to get them released. These miracles did not occur in Goshen.

5. Cry out - Their loud distressful, excitable continuously calling out for help was like the sound of thunder. They were endlessly loud because they anticipated a lot of pain knowing the lack of mercy and complete dominance of this military. Their loud thunderous cry was anguishing.
6. Lord; Yehovah – There is somewhat of a contrast here. On one hand they are extremely endlessly loud calling to the Lord because of the power, merciless nature of this mighty army while recognizing the Lord who has been faithful to His covenant, almighty, all powerful ability. Acknowledging the Lord's ability did not remove their reverence for the Egyptian army.
7. Then they said to Moses – All the people went from crying out to the Lord to verbally endlessly accusing Moses of betrayal.
8. No graves in Egypt so you have taken; Receive – Israel collectively accused Moses of being completely responsible for putting them in this situation to die when they could have just simply grown old or tired from slavery and die in their own city, Goshen.
9. Die – The comparison is someone dying from hard work, illness or old age to someone being murdered execution style. They are accusing Moses of setting them up to be slaughtered.
10. Dealt with us this way - They were completely committed to getting an answer from Moses as to why he felt so deeply obligated to apply his special knowledge to creating in them the need to work so hard to leave their lives in Goshen so that they come and die in the wilderness.
11. Bring us out; To go forth – They accused Moses of initiating the process of exposing them to a brutal death. He convinced them to move from bad to worse.
12. Is this not the words we spoke – They told Moses completely in the past what is now taking place. They so understood how Pharaoh operates that they knew specifically how this was going to play out and Moses did not listen.
13. That we may serve the Egyptians – Compared to where they are now it would have been a more exhilarating experience to be a slave to Pharaoh than to die in the wilderness.

## B. Don't Become Overwhelmed with Fear (vs. 13-15):

1. Moses said to the people – Moses constantly kept saying the same thing continuously as if he is not going to stop repeating it.
2. Do not fear – Moses continuously challenges the people to stop allowing themselves to become emotionally overwhelmed by what they are seeing. They must not allow what they are seeing to corrupt what they believe about the Lord.
3. Do not fear – There is a lot that day-to-day throws at us that can cause us to alter our convictions about the Lord. It's like being in a very noisy stadium that is so loud a person cannot hear someone who is on the phone while the phone is on their ears. The noise should not remove from our minds that the person is on the phone we must so believe that they are looking for a quieter place to hear them.
4. Stand and see – Moses commanded the people to settle down and stand in defiance of the approaching army with great expectations simply because they belong to the Lord.
5. Stand and see – They must present themselves, in the manner Goliath did before Israel, expecting to have a vivid manifestation of God fighting for them (2 Chronicles 20:14-17; verse 30-31). They would eventually have before their eyes a complete understanding of God's power. The Lord's actions have already taken place but it is going to work itself out before their eyes (perfect tense – a completed action that continues to take place in the present and the future). They would be ready for the giants if they see.
6. Salvation of the Lord – The Lord in His own power, without the help of Moses or the Israelites is going free Israel from the distress of their oppressors.
  - a) God's Word is truth (John 14:6), He cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18) and His Word does not return void (Isa. 55:11) so it is impossible to fail when we are within the will of God.
7. Salvation of the Lord – The Lord Almighty, Israel's King is going to, in His own power, fight against the Egyptian king provide a deliverance only He is able to provide. Before their eyes, and without their help, God is going to fight against Pharaoh who believes that he is a god. The Lord is our Deliverer.
8. He will accomplish today - Because of the Lord's covenant with Abraham He is deeply obligated to create out of nothing the effort needed to endlessly remove the Egyptians dominance over His people. It is nothing they have earned or Abraham has earned this is the Lord choice make this deliverance take place (Zech. 4:6).
  - a) The Lord fights for us (Romans 8:31, 37; 1 John 4:4) because Christ redeemed us by His power and this redemption is a gift from God

(Ephesians 2:8-10). As Christ fights for us we must stand and experience His salvation (Ephesians 6:10-18; Philippians 2:12-13).

9. The Lord will fight – It is the Lord who will relentlessly produce the skill, power and might that defeat the mighty army of Egypt.
10. Silent – Moses is implying that they need to stop from constantly challenging the Lord with their negative attitude. They need to simply, by stopping the negatively, focus on the Lord's activity while doing nothing.
11. The Lord said; Yehovah – Notice the Lord does not ever speak to the people. He only speaks to Moses after Moses took a step of faith. After Moses spoke to the people instructing them to trust the Lord, then He speaks to Moses.
12. The emotion that Moses told the Israelites to stop exhibiting is the very emotion Moses goes to the Lord. He is in distress, yelling to the Lord God as if he is in deep pain. Moses must have step away from them once he got them quieted down.
  - a) When a problem persists after we cry out to God it is easy to stop crying out to God and start looking for our own immediate resolution to our problems.
13. Tells the sons of Israel – The Lord commands Moses to communicate a specific message to Israel that they move forward to stand and watch Him fight for them.
14. Tells the sons of Israel – The Lord does not seem to be interested in soothing Moses's emotions. He focuses Moses on the work to do. In other words, Moses already knows that the Lord is going to fight for Israel because the Lord told Moses that He will deliver His people and has gotten them to the Red Sea in His own power. So, since Moses knows the truth and just got through encouraging the people to believe the Lord he needs to act on what he knows is the truth and stop crying.
15. To go forward; To set aside – The people are told to be in constant motion pulling up their tents and moving to a place where they will stand and watch God deliver them. It is not until they are committed to get this done that the angel of the Lord moves into position.

### **C. God will Test Our Faith (vs. 17):**

1. Behold – The Lord demanded that Moses pay attention to what He is about to say.
2. I will harden the hearts; Courageous – The Lord is going to allow Pharaoh to become more obstinate about his inner most convictions so that he conjures up all his power and might to willfully destroy Israel. Pharaoh is literally going to become more stubborn and stiff hearted about his plans. The Lord will fight against Pharaoh at the height of his strength.

3. Honor – Pharaoh’s defiance once met with God’s power creates a need for God to be revered.
4. Honor – God’s manifestation of His glorious power would be so magnificent that Pharaoh and Israel will be in awe leading to continuous respect for who He is.

#### **D. Faith Erases Doubt (vs. 30-31):**

1. Thus the Lord saved Israel – The Lord on His own initiative, by His own almighty power is going to physically remove Israel from the oppressive burden and harm Egypt has constantly assigned to Israel.
2. Hand – The Egyptians were once operated with complete control and authority over Israel.
3. Israel saw the Egyptians dead – Israel had a clear visible understanding that those who once were oppressing them now lay dead right before them because of the Lord power. It is the Lord’s mighty hand that destroyed them.
4. When Israel saw – When Israel had a clear understanding that the Egyptians were coming after them to kill them were now dead before them all by the mighty hand of the Lord.
5. The great power – Israel witnessed the power, strength, and authority of the Lord when they saw their oppressors lying dead before them and they did not have to defend themselves.
6. Fear the Lord - When the Israelites saw the dead Egyptians, they became very emotional and reverence the Lord God for His power and might.
  - a) Feared is the same word as in verse 13, but when the Lord is the direct object, the meaning is more the feeling of “awe.” This is made clear in the following clause. A possible rendering, then, is “they had great respect for the Lord.”
7. They believed in the Lord - All Israel, because of what they witnessed, continuously had a firm commitment to put their full trust in the Lord.
8. And his servant Moses – Moses leadership that was once so questioned was now fully established in the people’s minds. They viewed him as a person who faithfully executes God’s agenda.

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[lit. literal, literally](#)

[v. verse](#)

[cf. confer](#), compare

<sup>[1]</sup> Hannah, J. D. (1985). [Exodus](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 131). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

<sup>[2]</sup> Jamieson, Robert ; Fausset, A. R. ; Fausset, A. R. ; Brown, David ; Brown, David: *A Commentary, Critical and Explanatory, on the Old and New Testaments*. Oak Harbor, WA : Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997, S. Ex 14:10

 Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures* (1:131). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.