

**WHEN WE STEP OUT GOD STEPS IN (3)**

Read Exodus 14:1-31

**1 God is sovereign in every situation (1-4)**

- God actually warned the Israelites that Pharaoh would pursue them and that this would be for his glory.
- No matter what happens God is always sovereign.
- Sometimes we are too ready to look for the devil in things. God is still on the throne. He has not abdicated!
- See Isaiah 46:10,11.

**2 Fear distorts our perception (5-13)**

- Fear changes our way of seeing things.
- The Israelites lost their vision of a sovereign God and saw a sovereign Pharaoh instead.
- This is why Jesus so often told people not to fear or be afraid (eg Matthew 8:26; 10:26; 14:27; 17:7; 24:6; 28:10)

**3 When trouble comes, we need to take a stand (13)**

- Even though God seems to be silent and no deliverance is in sight, we must not give up.
- Even when we are surrounded by negativity we need to stand firm.
- See 1 Corinthians 15:58; 16:13; Ephesians 6:10-18.

**4 It is better to say nothing than to be negative (14)**

- Moses would not let the people speak.
- The words we speak are very powerful and have the power of life or death
- See Proverbs 10:18-21; 12:18,19; 13:3; 15:2,4; 16:24; 18:6-8; 25:11; and especially 18:21.
- We should only speak what is beneficial (Ephesians 4:29)
- Remember: even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent! (Proverbs 17:28).

**5 We need to position ourselves for a miracle (15f)**

- God rebuked Moses for crying out to him? (15) There is no record in the story of Moses doing this but he obviously was.
- God told him to stop crying out and to take a step of faith
- When we step out, God steps in.
- We need to put ourselves in a position where God can act.
- Faith does not just sit back and hope for the best—it finds something to do that God can work with.
- We position ourselves where if God does not get us out, nothing will!
- Gordon Moyes: ‘*Only a church that can fail is a church that is living by faith.*’
- Sometimes we need to take some daring actions and see what God will do.
- The brink of disaster or the edge of a miracle?

**6 Biblical faith achieves the impossible (19-29)**

- This miracle is frequently referred to in Scripture as a great act of God
- See Exodus 13:18; 15:4,22; Deut 11:4; Joshua 2:10; 4:23; Nehemiah 9:9; Psalm 106:7,9,22; 136:13,15; Acts 7:36; Heb 11:29
- There is much debate about the nature of this event: today we just want to learn from it.
- The people were trapped at the sea at night time. Things often look more frightening when it is dark. Deliverance came in the morning! (27).
- Just a 'look' from God was enough to panic the Egyptians and clog (remove?) their chariot wheels (24, 25)
- The question is not: 'Is it possible?' but, 'Is it the will of God?' With God, possibility and impossibility are irrelevant.

**7 Biblical faith produces godly fear (30, 31)**

- When it was all over, the people experienced a different kind of fear, a true fear, the fear of God!
- This really *was* awesome!
- See Proverbs 1:7; 15:33; 19:23; Act 5:11; Hebrews 10:31

**8 Biblical faith honours both God and his ministers (30, 31)**

- God was glorified and Moses was honoured.
- We honour those who minister among us 'because of their work' (1 Thessalonians 4:13).

**9 Challenge**

- Sometimes we think things are out of control. But God is always sovereign.
- We need to position ourselves for a miracle
- What needs do we face right now?
- Can we believe God for a miracle today?

**SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT**

**Remember:** You don't have to answer all the questions. First do those that seem most helpful to you.

**Read** Exodus 14:1-31

**Biblical**

1. Use a Bible atlas to locate the areas referred to in v.2. (There is some uncertainty about exact locations, but most atlases will give you some idea.)
2. The people of Israel were scared when they saw the Egyptians (10). But they should not have been. Why not? (1-4). What principle can we learn from this?
3. Imagine you were Moses. How would you have felt when the people came to you complaining? (10-12). What do you think of Moses's response? What does it tell us about the kind of man he was?
4. What was the primary reason for God destroying the Egyptians? (4, 17). Imagine you are preparing a values statement for the Hebrews. What would be the clause based on these verses?

Personal and practical

5. Note how the Israelites had to take a stand before the saw the miracle (13). What does this teach us?
6. What do you think Moses told the people to be silent? (14)
7. Someone has said that fear is faith in the wrong thing. (See B.Chant, *Breaking the Power of the Past*, chapter seven). How does this story illustrate this? Can you think of examples of this in your own life or experience?
8. Why do you think God told Moses to stretch out his staff over the sea? (16, 26) Why didn't God just part the sea anyway? Is there a faith principle here? If so, what is it?
9. What do you think are the three most important or significant words in verse 31? Why?

Memorise: Exodus 14:13a.

Hint for memorising: You can do this as a group by repeating phrase by phrase aloud together until you can say the whole text in one hit. Don't forget to learn the reference as well.

**About Dr Barry Chant**

Barry Chant is Senior Pastor of the Wesley International Congregation in Sydney, Australia. He is a regular speaker at church services, seminars, conferences and conventions. Hundreds of thousands of his books have been sold around the world. He has degrees in arts, theology and ministry, a diploma in education and a PhD in history. He was the initiator and former president of Tabor College, Australia.

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