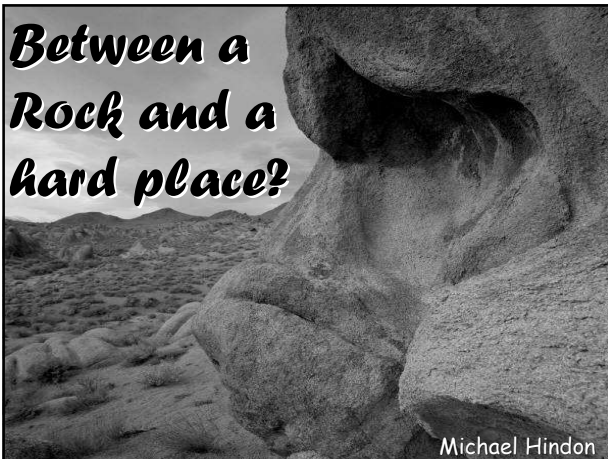


## Between a Rock and a hard place?



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### Progression from defeat to destiny

- Captivity/slavery, a familiar and "comfortable" place
- The call into relationship with the Lord
- Release from a defeated enemy
- Reminder of the promise
- Following the Lord
- Pursuit by the enemy
- Doubt or fear
- Salvation
- Living the life of destiny

### Captivity/slavery

Exodus 1:8-11 (NLT)

<sup>8</sup>Eventually, a new king came to power in Egypt who knew nothing about Joseph or what he had done. <sup>9</sup>He said to his people, "Look, the people of Israel now outnumber us and are stronger than we are.

<sup>10</sup>We must make a plan to keep them from growing even more. If we don't, and if war breaks out, they will join our enemies and fight against us. Then they will escape from the country."

<sup>11</sup>So the Egyptians made the Israelites their slaves. They appointed brutal slave drivers over them, hoping to wear them down with crushing labor. They forced them to build the cities of Pithom and Rameses as supply centers for the king.

### Captivity/slavery

Exodus 1:12-14 (NLT)

<sup>12</sup>But the more the Egyptians oppressed them, the more the Israelites multiplied and spread, and the more alarmed the Egyptians became.

<sup>13</sup>So the Egyptians worked the people of Israel without mercy. <sup>14</sup>They made their lives bitter, forcing them to mix mortar and make bricks and do all the work in the fields. They were ruthless in all their demands.

### Call into relationship with the Lord

Exodus 6:2-5 (NLT)

<sup>2</sup>And God said to Moses, "I am Yahweh—'the Lord.' <sup>3</sup>I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob as El-Shaddai—'God Almighty'—but I did not reveal my name, Yahweh, to them. <sup>4</sup>And I reaffirmed my covenant with them. Under its terms, I promised to give them the land of Canaan, where they were living as foreigners.

<sup>5</sup>You can be sure that I have heard the groans of the people of Israel, who are now slaves to the Egyptians. And I am well aware of my covenant with them.

### Call into relationship with the Lord

Exodus 6:6-8 (NLT)

<sup>6</sup>"Therefore, say to the people of Israel: 'I am the Lord. I will free you from your oppression and will rescue you from your slavery in Egypt. I will redeem you with a powerful arm and great acts of judgment. <sup>7</sup>I will claim you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God who has freed you from your oppression in Egypt. <sup>8</sup>I will bring you into the land I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I will give it to you as your very own possession. I am the Lord!'"

## Release from a defeated enemy

Exodus 13:17-18 (NLT)

<sup>17</sup>When Pharaoh finally let the people go, God did not lead them along the main road that runs through Philistine territory, even though that was the shortest route to the Promised Land. God said, "If the people are faced with a battle, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." <sup>18</sup>So God led them in a roundabout way through the wilderness toward the Red Sea. Thus the Israelites left Egypt like an army ready for battle.

## Reminder of the promise

Exodus 13:19 (NLT)

<sup>19</sup>Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for Joseph had made the sons of Israel swear to do this. He said, "God will certainly come to help you. When he does, you must take my bones with you from this place."

## Following the Lord

Exodus 13:20-22 (NLT)

<sup>20</sup>The Israelites left Succoth and camped at Etham on the edge of the wilderness.  
<sup>21</sup>The Lord went ahead of them. He guided them during the day with a pillar of cloud, and he provided light at night with a pillar of fire. This allowed them to travel by day or by night.  
<sup>22</sup>And the Lord did not remove the pillar of cloud or pillar of fire from its place in front of the people.



## Following the Lord

Exodus 14:1-4 (NLT)

<sup>1</sup>Then the Lord gave these instructions to Moses: <sup>2</sup>"Order the Israelites to turn back and camp by Pi-hahiroth between Migdol and the sea. Camp there along the shore, across from Baal-zephon. <sup>3</sup>Then Pharaoh will think, 'The Israelites are confused. They are trapped in the wilderness!' <sup>4</sup>And once again I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will chase after you. I have planned this in order to display my glory through Pharaoh and his whole army. After this the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord!" So the Israelites camped there as they were told.

## Pursuit by the enemy

Exodus 14:5-9 (NLT)

<sup>5</sup>When word reached the king of Egypt that the Israelites had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds. "What have we done, letting all those Israelite slaves get away?" they asked. <sup>6</sup>So Pharaoh harnessed his chariot and called up his troops. <sup>7</sup>He took with him 600 of Egypt's best chariots, along with the rest of the chariots of Egypt, each with its commander. <sup>8</sup>The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, so he chased after the people of Israel, who had left with fists raised in defiance. <sup>9</sup>The Egyptians chased after them with all the forces in Pharaoh's army—all his horses and chariots, his charioteers, and his troops. The Egyptians caught up with the people of Israel as they were camped beside the shore near Pi-hahiroth, across from Baal-zephon.

## Doubt or fear

Exodus 14:10-12 (NLT)

<sup>10</sup>As Pharaoh approached, the people of Israel looked up and panicked when they saw the Egyptians overtaking them. They cried out to the Lord, <sup>11</sup>and they said to Moses, "Why did you bring us out here to die in the wilderness? Weren't there enough graves for us in Egypt? What have you done to us? Why did you make us leave Egypt?" <sup>12</sup>Didn't we tell you this would happen while we were still in Egypt? We said, 'Leave us alone! Let us be slaves to the Egyptians. It's better to be a slave in Egypt than a corpse in the wilderness!'



Exodus 14:13-14 (NLT)

<sup>13</sup>But Moses told the people, "Don't be afraid. Just stand still and watch the Lord rescue you today. The Egyptians you see today will never be seen again. <sup>14</sup>The Lord himself will fight for you. **Just stay calm.**"

## Salvation

Exodus 14:15-18 (NLT)

<sup>15</sup>Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the people to get moving! <sup>16</sup>Pick up your staff and raise your hand over the sea. Divide the water so the Israelites can walk through the middle of the sea on dry ground. <sup>17</sup>And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they will charge in after the Israelites. My great glory will be displayed through Pharaoh and his troops, his chariots, and his charioteers. <sup>18</sup>When my glory is displayed through them, all Egypt will see my glory and know that I am the Lord!"

## Salvation

Exodus 14:19-20 (NLT)

<sup>19</sup>Then the angel of God, who had been leading the people of Israel, moved to the rear of the camp. The pillar of cloud also moved from the front and stood behind them. <sup>20</sup>The cloud settled between the Egyptian and Israelite camps. As darkness fell, the cloud turned to fire, lighting up the night. But the Egyptians and Israelites did not approach each other all night.

## Salvation

Exodus 14:21-22 (NLT)

<sup>21</sup>Then Moses raised his hand over the sea, and the Lord opened up a path through the water with a strong east wind. The wind blew all that night, turning the seabed into dry land. <sup>22</sup>So the people of Israel walked through the middle of the sea on dry ground, with walls of water on each side!

## Salvation

Exodus 14:23-25 (NLT)

<sup>23</sup>Then the Egyptians—all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and charioteers—chased them into the middle of the sea. <sup>24</sup>But just before dawn the Lord looked down on the Egyptian army from the pillar of fire and cloud, and he threw their forces into total confusion. <sup>25</sup>He twisted their chariot wheels, making their chariots difficult to drive. "Let's get out of here—away from these Israelites!" the Egyptians shouted. "The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt!"

## Salvation

Exodus 14:26-28 (NLT)

<sup>26</sup>When all the Israelites had reached the other side, the Lord said to Moses, "Raise your hand over the sea again. Then the waters will rush back and cover the Egyptians and their chariots and charioteers." <sup>27</sup>So as the sun began to rise, Moses raised his hand over the sea, and the water rushed back into its usual place. The Egyptians tried to escape, but the Lord swept them into the sea. <sup>28</sup>Then the waters returned and covered all the chariots and charioteers—the entire army of Pharaoh. Of all the Egyptians who had chased the Israelites into the sea, not a single one survived.

## Salvation

Exodus 14:29-31 (NLT)

<sup>29</sup>But the people of Israel had walked through the middle of the sea on dry ground, as the water stood up like a wall on both sides. <sup>30</sup>That is how the Lord rescued Israel from the hand of the Egyptians that day. And the Israelites saw the bodies of the Egyptians washed up on the seashore. <sup>31</sup>When the people of Israel saw the mighty power that the Lord had unleashed against the Egyptians, they were filled with awe before him. They put their faith in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

## Living the life of destiny

1 Corinthians 10:9-13 (NLT)

<sup>9</sup>Nor should we put Christ to the test, as some of them did and then died from snakebites. <sup>10</sup>And don't grumble as some of them did, and then were destroyed by the angel of death. <sup>11</sup>These things happened to them as examples for us. They were written down to warn us who live at the end of the age.

<sup>12</sup>If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall. <sup>13</sup>The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

## Summary

- Remember the victory won at the Cross
- Appropriate the Lord's grace
- Understand our eternal destiny
- Stand on the promises of the Lord unwaveringly
- Speak life in obedience to the Lord's command
- Sharpen our swords
- Soak in the Truth

We are between the Rock and a hard place!