

Exodus 13:17-18:27 **Developing the Delivered** Fintry, 22/6/2008, pm

- *Summary: OK, now that God's people are saved, what happens now? These are people who are following God, learning to trust him and go his way. These are people who know God's on-going rescue and salvation. These are people who praise. These are people who know God's provision.*
- Actually read: Exodus 13:17-22; **** 14:5-7, 10-18, 21-22, 29-31; **** 15:1-5, 19-21; **** 16:1-5, 13-18; **** 17:8-16; **** 18:1, 7-27.

Introduction: Developing the Delivered

- Peter says I should show you this funny picture which I found while looking for images to illustrate this evening!!
 - (picture of cars crossing the split Red Sea...!)
 - I was a bit worried it might distract from the point - but it is quite funny, so I thought I'd show you it and then move on with the real point of what we are thinking about this evening!!
 - (picture of chalkboard, developing the delivered)
 - *When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." (Exodus 13:17)*
- Here is God's plan for the people now that they are out of Egypt - he intends to develop them, to shape them into a people that they are not yet. He sees what they are (afraid, without backbone, liable to choose to return to slavery because it is familiar, rather than step out in faith to what God has called them to). But he also sees what they could be - he has a purpose, a future, and his intention is that they not remain as they are.
- In other words, God intends to develop these newly delivered people. And he has the same intention and purpose for us. Make disciples. Be holy, as I am holy. Teach the churches to obey. etc! We are not to be static, still, stationary
- Lets look at some of the ways God developed the people of Israel, and see if we can take on the challenge of being developed by God ourselves.

Learning to Follow God's Lead

- Long road (13:17; 21-22). Pillar of cloud, pillar of fire. Was it easy to choose to go God's way? Into the desert, with no water, 600,000 males, wild animals...
 - they had to take that decision - *will I trust God...?*
 - and it was a decision they would falter on at different points (eg Num 14:1-4)
- The real difficulty in following God's lead is often not **discerning the direction** but **obeying, stepping out in faith, following that direction**

Learning to Trust in God's Deliverance

- Chapter 14. Pharaoh changing his mind (again!) and chasing after them with chariots. The parting to the sea. God saves. Again. And again....
- And chapter 17, Amalekites - and power of prayer.
- They are learning to trust:
 - at the side of the Red Sea they were in a panic;
 - as they faced the Amalekites, Aaron and Hur at least discern the power of prayer, of God's protection, and seek to place their trust in that more than merely Joshua's military prowess

Learning to Worship

- Chapter 15 - praising God after his salvation
- They learn to worship God:
 - "noticing" that it was him who saved them
 - expressing that, putting that into words, so no one was in any doubt
 - led by key individuals, drawing others after them - modelling worship (Moses, Miriam)
 - connecting the actions of God with the character of God

Learning to Trust God's provision

Incidents

- Bitter waters turned sweet at Marah, then coming to oasis at Elim (15:22-27)
- Manna and Quail and associated boundaries on greed (16:1-36)
- Water from the rock (17:1-7)
- Will God give me enough?
 - as much as I need?
 - as much as I want?
 - as much as other people have?
- Lesson they seem to really struggle with!
 - God will give enough;
 - any more is to be shared or given away - otherwise it will turn into something rotten

Learning to Learn from others - Jethro

- Chapter 18
- To take advice from those who also know the Lord

Developing the Delivered

- What needs developed in you?
 - do I need to learn to follow God's lead...?
 - do I need to learn to trust in God's deliverance...?
 - do I need to learn worship God, expressing my thanks explicitly, and modelling that for those around me...?
 - do I need to learn to trust in God's provision for all I need - though not for all I want, or all others may have...?
 - and do I need to learn to learn from other Christians, taking advice, listening to advice...?