

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Easter Sunrise - March 31, 2024

"This is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him."

- Exodus: 15:2 -

Have you ever been backed into a corner and could see no way of escape? Maybe it was just to endure a browbeating by someone who was angry with you, or maybe you got stuck in a crowd and had to wait for folks to vacate the area. Perhaps it was something worse and you were truly trapped, in danger, and fearing for your life.

As Israel fled Egypt after the last of ten plagues God inflicted on Pharaoh in the Passover, it looked like they would finally be free of the king of Egypt. But alas, the king changed his mind and decided to pursue the Israelites after he recognized what he was giving up by letting them go to the wilderness to worship God. When the Israelites realized that they were being pursued by an angry army, they began to fear for their lives. As they headed east, they became trapped between the Red Sea and the pursuing troops. They were backed into the proverbial corner with zero viable options.

We know how this story unfolds: God tells Moses to strike the water and it perfectly divides into two parallel walls of water, and Israel walks through on dry ground. As the Egyptians follow, Moses was commanded by the Lord to stretch out his hand over the sea and the entire army was drowned: chariots, horses, and soldiers! When the Israelites arrive at the other side, catch their breath, and settle down a bit, Moses and the whole congregation sing a song that is recorded in Exodus 15, "The Lord has triumphed gloriously... he is my strength and my song."

This story prefigures God's final victory over death. As Jesus was backed into a deadly corner on the cross of Calvary, it seemed there would be no last -minute miracle for him. But Jesus had been telling his disciples and any one else who would listen, that he had to suffer at the hands of the religious leaders, die, and on the third day rise. His disciples, and even his own mother, watched him suffer the torture of execution on a cross. There was no way out of it! They hadn't put things together about what he'd said previously, and in their grief they certainly weren't doing a lot of puzzle solving. But just as God saved Israel as they faced certain death, so he enacted his greatest miracle ever: Jesus' resurrection from the dead. The Lord has triumphed! Let all who believe sing his praises! Amen.

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