

The Knowing

(what the person knew)

The people had never

faced chariots before, but they should have remembered God’s wonders in Egypt. They didn’t, however (Psalm 106:7). So their past experience alone did not prepare them for Pharaoh’s massive attack.

The people remembered

being relatively safe in Egypt and being reluctant to follow Moses (14:11-12). Thus in their time of crisis, their thoughts were negative, worldly, and unhelpful.

Yet, the people heard

Moses’ positive, futuristic message centered on the fact that the Lord promised to fight for them (14:14). Though the details were unknown, they were to know that God would not allow the Egyptians to win.

The people knew what to do

when God divided the sea (14:15-16, 21-22). Knowing that the Egyptians were nearby would have naturally encouraged them to cross over quickly.

The Doing

(what the person did)

The people saw

the unexpected approach of the powerful Egyptian army and were terrified. So they cried out to the Lord (14:10), but they only did so briefly and soon began to complain to Moses instead (14:11-12).

The people quickly blamed Moses

for their situation and longed to be back in Egypt, asking Moses three faithless questions while doing so (14:11-12).

The people could not do anything

to save themselves from the more powerful Egyptians (The mismatch in chariots was 600 to none.) So all they could do was to silently stand and see what the Lord would do (14:13).

The people crossed over the dry seabed

during the night (14:22, 29), but the pagan Egyptians perished in the sea in the morning because of trying to do the same (14:17-18, 24-28).

The Overcoming

(what God did / will do)

God hardened Pharaoh’s heart

so that the Egyptian king decided to persue the Israelites (14:4-5). God demonstrated that he was in control rather than Pharoah by telling Moses before-hand part of what he was going to do (14:1-4).

God allowed the negative speaking

for a while (14:11-12, 14) to reveal what the fearful and largely faithless people were like and to prepare them for the coming revelation of his power.

Moses spoke as God’s prophet

commanding the people to be silent and watch to see God fight for them (14:14). In large measure, Moses did so as well since he too did not know exactly what God would do.

God divided the sea,

dried up the seabed (14:21-22), and kept the Israelites and Egyptians apart all night (14:19-20). AND he fought against the Egyptians (14:14, 24-25).

Similarly, at the end of the tribulation period, God will bring an even greater victory over ALL Israel’s enemies. This will include Messiah making a special way of escape for believing Jews through the suddenly divided Mount of Olives (Zec. 14:3-5, Acts 1:11, Rev. 16:18-19).

The Problem

(what went wrong)

The people failed to remember God’s *former* wonders in Egypt (Psalm 106:7). This led to their rebellion against Moses and the Lord at the Red Sea. In addition, they needed a special word from God about the *future* (14:13-14), since they had not been is such an extreme situation before. © 2023 by Jon Mahar, Hakusan, Japan