

Red Sea Predicament – part 1 - February 09, 2015



All Christians will face a Red Sea predicament in their lives.

The Israelites leaving Egypt arrived at the Red Sea and halted - not able to go forward. The mountains were on their left and right and advancing fast behind them a very rabid Egyptian Army. The Israelites were not armed and in their possessions were all the spoils of Egypt.

Each of the Egyptian soldiers had at least one person in their household die in the 10th plague of death of all firstborn sons from their own son, brother or father. Each Egyptian soldier saw their country devastated: the death of the cattle in the 5th plague (Ex9:6) and devastation of the plants & trees from the hail (7th plague Ex9:25) and grasshopper invasion (8th plague Ex10:14-15). The Israelites were their focal of hatred. They wanted revenge and someone to punish for their country being destroyed, their family members killed and their wealth taken.

A Christian may not have such a predicament in their lives but each one's problems may seem impossible to overcome just like the Israelites faced. It could be bill collectors, death of the bread winner of the family, divorce, trouble at work from coworkers and bosses...

What if a member of the family were kidnapped by someone else or by one of the agencies of the government?

The human response may be "get your guns, lock & load, and fire when you see the white of their eyes"



Immediate use of strong physical force response has its consequences and it may be worse than if one would have waited and used other means before escalating to stronger response.

A person is to defend the family and Jesus commanded Christians to be armed - 1Tim5:8 & Lk22:36
Jesus also said that not all times force is to be used as the first response - Lk9:54-55, Prov15:1.

Let's say 'hypothetically' a government agency has taken a family member based on an anonymous 3rd party complaint in order to harm you in some way - Prov4:16

What's the biblical response to this kidnapping? - Rm15:4

There are 3 examples of kidnapping responses in the bible:

- Gen 14:12-16 **Lot** was kidnapped by the 4 kings as they captured Sodom. Abraham took 300 of his trained men and attacked them, wiped them out and saved Lot.
- Gen 34:2,5,25-26 Jacob's daughter, **Dinah**, was kidnapped and raped by the son of the King of Shechem who then desired to make Dinah his wife. Dinah's brothers, Simeon and Levi, convinced the people in Shechem to circumcise and on the 3rd day they entered the city and killed all the males and rescued their sister.
- 1 Sam 30: 1-8,16-19 **King David's wives and children** were kidnapped by the Amalekites. King David wept and then sought guidance from the Lord. The Lord said to go get them back and King David left with 600 men to free them. They killed all the Amalekites except 400 and got their wives and children back unharmed.

If one states that 'if they come and take my wife or children then I will do this or that' then that is limiting your response which could be outside of what Jesus wants you to respond with. The principle of James 4:14-15 says to say 'if the Lord wills we will do this or that'. You leave yourself open to direction by Jesus.

First pray, assess the situation, pray for option, count your resources (Lk14:31).

This is a major temptation for you to act prematurely - seek the way of escape - 1Cor10:13

Hold on to the promise of Rm8:28 which states all things work for good for those who love the Lord.

Do what the Lord instructs you to do with the people he directs to you if either peaceful negotiations or stronger force is what He directs you to do.

Abraham, Jacob and King David had trained men of war around him and the local and national governments feared them because those government agencies saw the Spirit of God was on them, blessing them.

Today the governments don't fear Jesus and deny the Holy Spirit so they will attack from all sides if attacked and will not stop.

The difficult thing for a Christian to do is wait for an answer from Jesus when the world around you is telling you that you are out of time and must make a decision on your own.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 has lots of times for events under heaven but the Lord directs the paths -Ps37:23

regards,

Called/Chosen + Hear + Believe + Repent + Confess + Baptize + Abide = Salvation -> Proclaim
Mt22:14 + Lk11:28 + Jn3:16 + Mk6:12 + Rm10:9 + Acts2:38 + Heb10:26 = 1 Pt 3:21 -> Mt28:19-20

RSV Exodus 9:6 And on the morrow the Lord did this thing; **all the cattle of the Egyptians died**, but of the cattle of the people of Israel not one died.

RSV Exodus 9:25 **The hail struck** down everything that was in the field throughout all the land of Egypt, **both man and beast**; and the hail struck down **every plant of the field, and shattered every tree of the field**.

RSV Exodus 10:14-15

14 And **the locusts** came up over all the land of Egypt, and settled on the whole country of Egypt, such a dense swarm of locusts as had never been before, nor ever shall be again.

15 For they **covered the face of the whole land**, so that the land was darkened, and they **ate all the plants in the land and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left; not a green thing remained, neither tree nor plant of the field, through all the land of Egypt**.

RSV 1 Timothy 5:8 **If any one does not provide** for his relatives, and especially **for his own family**, he has disowned the faith and **is worse than an unbeliever**.

RSV Luke 22:36 He said to them, "But now, let him who has a purse take it, and likewise a bag. And **let him who has no sword sell his mantle and buy one**.

RSV Luke 9:54-55

54 And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "**Lord, do you want us to bid fire come down from heaven and consume them?**"

55 But **he turned and rebuked them**.

RSV Proverbs 15:1 **A SOFT answer turns away wrath**, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

RSV Proverbs 4:16 **For they cannot sleep unless they have done wrong**; they are robbed of sleep unless they have made some one stumble.

RSV Romans 15:4 For **whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction**, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.

RSV Genesis 14:12-16

12 they also **took Lot**, the son of Abram's brother who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed.

13 Then one who had escaped came, and told Abram the Hebrew, who was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and of Aner; these were allies of Abram.

14 When **Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive**, **he led forth his trained men**, born in his house, three hundred and eighteen of them, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.

15 And he divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and routed them and pursued them to Hobah, north of Damascus.

16 Then he brought back all the goods, and also **brought back his kinsman Lot** with his goods, and the women and the people.

RSV Genesis 34:2 and when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her, he **seized her and lay with her and humbled her**.

RSV Genesis 34:5 **Now Jacob heard that he had defiled his daughter Dinah**; but his sons were with his cattle in the field, so **Jacob held his peace until they came**.

RSV Genesis 34:25-26

25 On the third day, when they were sore, two of the sons of Jacob, **Simeon and Levi**, Dinah's brothers, **took their swords and came upon the city unawares, and killed all the males**.

26 They slew Hamor and his son Shechem with the sword, and took Dinah out of Shechem's house, and went away.

RSV 1 Samuel 30:1-8

1 NOW WHEN David and his men came to Ziklag on the third day, the **Amalekites had made a raid** upon the Negeb and upon Ziklag. They had overcome Ziklag, and burned it with fire,

2 and **taken captive the women** and all who were in it, both small and great; they killed no one, but carried them off, and went their way.

3 And when David and his men came to the city, they found it burned with fire, and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive.

4 Then David and the people who were with him raised their voices and wept, until they had no more strength to weep.

5 David's two wives also had been taken captive, Ahino-am of Jezreel, and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel.

6 And David was greatly distressed; for the people spoke of stoning him, because all the people were bitter in soul, each for his sons and daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God.

7 And David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelech, "Bring me the ephod." So Abiathar brought the ephod to David.

8 **And David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I pursue after this band? Shall I overtake them?"** He answered him, **"Pursue; for you shall surely overtake and shall surely rescue."**

RSV 1 Samuel 30:16-19

16 And when he had taken him down, behold, they were spread abroad over all the land, eating and drinking and dancing, because of all the great spoil they had taken from the land of the Philistines and from the land of Judah.

17 And **David smote them from twilight until the evening of the next day; and not a man of them escaped, except four hundred young men**, who mounted camels and fled.

18 David recovered all that the Amalekites had taken; and **David rescued his two wives**.

19 Nothing was missing, whether small or great, sons or daughters, spoil or anything that had been taken; David brought back all.

RSV James 4:14-16

14 whereas you do not know about tomorrow. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and we shall do this or that."

16 As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

RSV Luke 14:31 Or what king, going to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and take counsel whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?

RSV 1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

RSV Romans 8:28 We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose.

RSV Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

1 FOR EVERYTHING there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

2 a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

3 a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

5 a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

6 a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

7 a time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

8 a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

RSV Psalms 37:23 The steps of a man are from the Lord, and he establishes him in whose way he delights;