



The God who fights for you: Exodus 13-14

Read Exodus 13:17-14:31. Pray that God's Spirit would help you to understand and apply the passage to your own lives.

- 1) What metaphors can you think of to describe being a Christian (for example a journey)?
- 2) Do you think of walking with Jesus meaning walking into battle? Why or why not? In what ways have you experienced the Christian life to be a battle? If you'd not yet call yourself a Christian how do you feel about the idea that it's a battle?
- 3) God's people have wonderfully been rescued out of slavery in Egypt. They are on their way to the promised land but it's not going to be picnics and peace all the way there. They, and we, have an enemy pursuing.¹ Look at chapter 14 verse 10. What is Israel's reaction when they realise they are being pursued?
- 4) This bit of Exodus shows a couple of truths to hold onto when the thought of being in a battle is terrifying:
 - i. God leads his people - see chapter 13 verses 17-19 & 20-22
 - ii. God fights for his people - see chapter 14 verse 14
- 5) God continues to lead his people now. It is just as real and constant but not visual. God leads his people by his Spirit (Romans 8:14). One of the key ways God leads by his Spirit is helping us to fight the lies of the enemy. John Mark Comer writes in *Live No Lies*, 'Jesus sees our primary way against the devil as a fight to believe truth over lies.... and they

¹ 'Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.' 1 Peter 5:8

wreak havoc in our souls'.² Look at Exodus 14:11-12. How have God's people been seduced by the enemy's lies?

- 6) Have a think about where you're aware of the Christian life being a battle. Being as honest as you feel comfortable share with others:
- i. What are the lies the enemy is putting before you?
 - ii. What are the truths God wants you to believe?

It would be a really worthwhile exercise to go away and think further about this. Spend some time in God's Word thinking what lies you're being seduced by and what truths you need to believe. If you want to see a worked example to help listen to Sundays sermon for 2 minutes from minute 20 to minute 22: <https://www.sthelensandstedmunds.org/sundays/talks/>

You could also look up a key word (eg anger) on an online version of the Bible: <https://www.biblegateway.com/>

- 7) It would be easy to feel overwhelmed by the battle we're in against an enemy looking to destroy us. The great news is that God fights for you. Look at chapter 14 verse 13 to see the implication of this.³ What do you think it will look like in your life to stand firm in the battle?

Spend some time praying for yourself and each other to fight well against the enemy and to hold tightly to Jesus, remembering the great advise of the Victorian Bishop J C Ryle,' would anyone live life as a Christian soldier? Let them get close to Jesus and tighten their hold on him every day of their lives.'⁴

² John Mark Comer, Lives No Lies, <https://uk.10ofthose.com/product/9780281086511/live-no-lies>

³ You may want to read Ephesians chapter 6 verses 10-17 to see Paul making the same point about standing firm

⁴ J C Ryle, Holiness, page 76