

A note from Kathy

When your back is up against the wall and you see no route of escape, what do you do? This answer will reveal much about our walk of faith. Of course there are many factors that play into this answer; if you are a new believer, your experiences are limited, but if have walked with the Lord for many years, then you probably have seen his mighty work on your behalf several times. What seems impossible to us is simply an opportunity for God.

Observation

1. The word “consecrate” means to set apart, to dedicate. What was God asking them to set apart, to dedicate? Vs. 2 Pay close attention; make note of the details.
2. In Exodus 13:3- 16, we read God’s instructions to the Israelites through Moses. What were they to commemorate? What event were they to remember and celebrate?
3. Even though it is written slightly different each time, how many times in this section (vss. 3-16) does it say that God delivered Israel? When something is repeated this many times what, does this tell us about it?
4. Exodus 13:5, and 11 are reminders to the Israelites of the promise made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Look at Genesis 17:8; what do you see here concerning the character of God?
5. The feast of unleavened bread set the Israelites apart from all other nations. No other nation had been given promises like theirs, no other nation had suffered and cried out to God as they had, and no other nation had been delivered so mightily by God’s power. What purpose was this feast to serve? Vs. 9
6. Notice God’s continuing love and care in verses 17-18. How did he show it? What danger did he lead them away from and why?

7. In Exodus 13:19, what did Moses take out of Egypt because of a promise made long before he was even born? You might also read Genesis 50:24-26 and Hebrews 11:22.
8. What two ways did God use to show his presence and to guide Israel day and night as they travelled?
9. No exact date was given for Egypt's defeat. Holidays were not given to Israel to mark the downfall of their enemies, rather to commemorate Israel's salvation. Write out God's intended purpose that we have seen throughout this study of Exodus. (Exodus 6:7; 7:5,17; 8:22; 9:29; 10:2; 14:4,18.)
10. Have we seen God's purpose fulfilled as we have read and studied Exodus?
11. God gives Moses some seemingly strange orders, to turn around and retrace some steps. It may have looked to those on the outside like they were lost and wandering aimlessly, but in truth they were following God in obedience. What was God's purpose? Exodus 14:1-4
12. It might be easy to blame the hard heart of Pharaoh for all the plagues that Egypt suffered. The truth is, the Egyptian people also shared his feelings. What do we see in Exodus 14:5 that proved it was not merely Pharaoh who felt this way? Why did they want the Israelites back?
13. After this mighty deliverance, the Israelites may have thought they would never doubt God's ability and love again, but when they looked up and saw the enemy bearing down on them, what was their attitude? Vs. 10
14. The Israelites cried out to God, which is always the right response when trouble heads our way, but what did they do next? Vs. 11
15. What were the people implying by their statements to Moses in Exodus 14:11-12?
16. Who had been fighting for Israel?

17. The difficult situation that the Israelites had been experiencing was being used to show God's mighty hand. Again we see God's purpose clearly stated for all of this. Look at verse 17.
18. Read Exodus 14:19-31 and make a list of these events.
19. What fact did the Egyptians recognize too late? Exodus 14:25
20. How complete was God's deliverance in verse 28?
21. Note the good that came from this Red Sea experience. Exodus 14:30-31

Application

1. Israel was to dedicate the firstborn male to God. They were to redeem them. This was to serve as a reminder and an opportunity to tell their children and grandchildren of God's care. Are there things you do that remind you of God's amazing love and care? In what way do you purposefully share these stories with others?
2. What aspects of your life should you take special care to consecrate to the Lord today?
3. Note the underlined words in Exodus 13: 9, *This observance will be for you like a sign on your hand and a reminder on your forehead that the law of the LORD is to be on your lips. For the LORD brought you out of Egypt with his mighty hand.* The Israelites would eventually take this word picture literally and begin wearing signs and reminders. Do you believe that was what was intended? What is the purpose of signs and reminders? The next time you are driving and see a sign, try to recall a time of divine deliverance in your own life story. When you hear an alarm clock that was set as a reminder, try to recall a particular way God has shown his amazing love to you. Don't forget to share these examples of God's love and care with someone else.
4. Has God delivered you by his mighty hand? What tokens do you have that serve to remind you of his care, deliverance, and continued love and guidance? Has God delivered you from the bondage of sin? Has he led you carefully around certain areas of

hardship and trials, like Israel in their desert travels, until you were stronger in your walk of faith?

5. How does God lead you? What is your pillar of cloud and fire?
6. What factors did God take into consideration as he led the Israelites along their route? God is not as interested in us quickly arriving at our intended destination as he is in our character, safety, and our intimate relationship with him. What is your intended destination? Do you feel God is leading you the long way around?
7. Even though the Israelites may not have understood why God would have them turn around, retracing their steps, they did it. They chose to walk in obedience to all God told them to do. Are you quick to obey even things that don't make sense to you at the time?
8. How do you deal with detours to your plans and objectives?
9. Like Israel, you may often walk in obedience while things are going as planned, when life seems to be working out. But when the enemy is in hot pursuit and you are feeling hemmed in, how do you handle it? Do you cry over your circumstances as if something strange and unique was happening? Read 1 Peter 4:12-13
10. It may not be an army of 600+ chariots charging after you, but often our enemy, Satan, tries one last rally to get us back. What should our response be? Try quoting Moses.
11. Can you recall a personal situation of great victory, only to feel once again trapped and afraid and in imminent danger? Perhaps you are in it right now; how would you like this chapter of your story to end?
12. What might you need to do right now in order to be able to share this story one day with joy?
13. What will you need to ask God to give you in order to face your situation, stand strong and focus on your Redeemer?

- 14.** What did this test reveal to the Israelites about their hearts? When we find ourselves giving in to doubts and fears and second guessing, what does this reveal about us? What could we do that would help us realign our hearts with His?
- 15.** When everyone else is grumbling, complaining, and fretting over their circumstances, are you like Moses, the one who points up to our all-powerful sovereign God?
- 16.** When we find ourselves in a trial, how important is it that we recall the marvelous works of God on our behalf? Ps. 139:1-7, *O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD. You hem me in--behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?*
- 17.** It is imperative that we see God's purpose as we study the deliverance of Israel. How does seeing God's purpose in Exodus help us today?
Acts 10:34-35, *"Then Peter began to speak: 'I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.'"*