

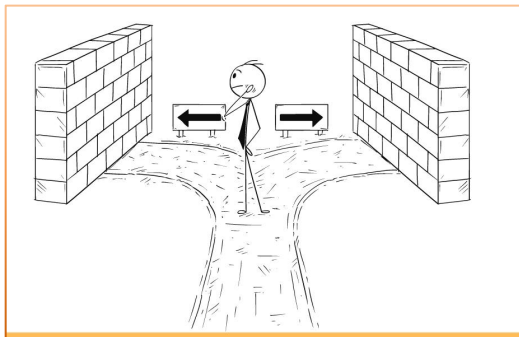
Trapped on a Dead-End Street

A Lord's Flock Praise and Worship Topic

By: Sis. Techie Rodrigue, Elder-Founder

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A dead-end street is a street with only one way in or out like a blind alley or a cul-de-sac. Many times, our lives are full of dead-ends: in our occupations, relationships, finances, etc. Sometimes things and circumstances do not go with our plans because we want to take shortcuts or the easy way out. The story of the Israelites in Exodus 3-14 shows how God helped them escape from their dead-end situation while facing the Red Sea.



1. God chose Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

- 1.1. Burning Bush. God revealed to Moses that he was chosen to convince the pharaoh to release the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. However, Moses refused and had many excuses; God promised to let his brother, Aaron, accompany him to be his spokesperson before the pharaoh.
- 1.2. God sent 10 terrible plagues (Exo. 12:31). The Israelites were allowed to leave with their valuables after the pharaoh's firstborn son died in the 10th plague.
- 1.3. The Exodus. About two million Israelites with their families, staff, and animals journeyed through the desert.
- 1.4. God led them to a longer route to the Red Sea because He knew that the Israelites were not equipped to face war along the way. God went ahead of them. He provided them with pillars of clouds and fire to allow them to travel day and night (Exo. 13:21-22).

- 1.5. Make a U-turn. The Lord instructed Moses to make a U-turn which the elders could not comprehend because they knew the way.
- 1.6. The pharaoh changed his mind (Exo. 14:5). He instructed his army to pursue the Israelites who had just left.
- 1.7. Red Sea dead-end. The Israelites found themselves trapped between the Red Sea and the approaching 600 Egyptian chariots.
- 1.8. The Israelites were confused and terrified (Exo. 14:10). They could see the pillars of dust and heard the chariots approaching. Despite being eyewitnesses to the ten plagues and how God delivered them, they still cried out to the Lord.
- 1.9. The Israelites murmured against Moses and God and wanted to return to Egypt.
- 1.10. The Lord fought for the Israelites.

2. How did God fight for the Israelites? God performed three miracles:

- 2.1. He moved the pillar of clouds between the Israelites and the Egyptian soldiers.
- 2.2. He parted the Red Sea through the staff of Moses to allow the Israelites to cross.
- 2.3. He drowned the Egyptians after the Israelites crossed the Red Sea.

3. Why did God perform these miracles?

- 3.1 To provide for their future blessings.
- 3.2 To teach them to trust Him.
- 3.3 To show His glory. He hardened the heart of the Pharaoh.

Conclusion: Life's journey here on earth is not easy. We should always be accompanied by the guidance of God and listen to His instructions every step we take. God is always in control, and we should not take shortcuts and be caught in a dead-end situation.

Reflection:

1. Have you ever experienced a dead-end situation? How were you able to get out of it?
2. When you pray, do you submit your plans to consult the Lord, or do you simply go ahead with your decision/s?

Scribes Ministry:

Transcriber/Writer: Sis. Maro Anyog

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