

Where Lies the Confusion?

Exodus 14:1-10

With God everything is orderly and without confusion. (1 Corinthians 14:33) It is not so with the ungodly. Confusion means one can't figure things out. They are confused all day long, because they do not listen to the Lord. When Pharaoh charges out in pursuit of the Israelites, he is confused about what is going on. The irony here is that Pharaoh, who thought Israel was confused, is actually the one who is confused. Israel's movements confuse him, and he literally is about to go off the deep end.

I. **Pharaoh Was Confused Re the Primacy of the Glory of God.** (4)

- A. If you miss this, you don't understand how the universe operates.
- B. God is glorious, that is, He is awesome in beauty and power.
- C. He created all things, but especially mankind, to glorify Him.
- D. Men are not allowed to take glory for themselves.
- E. What doesn't bring Him glory must be removed.
- F. Believers are allowed to enter into His glory.

II. **Pharaoh Was Confused about the Nature of the Exodus.** (3, 5)

- A. Pharaoh thought it was about breaking up the natural order of master and slave.
- B. He viewed the exodus of Israelites as disorganized flight, panic-driven running away.
- C. In fact, the Exodus was carefully planned and orchestrated by God.
- D. The removal of Israel = judgment upon Pharaoh, true worship and nationhood.
- E. The Lord intended to make Israel the most important nation in the world.
- F. And now the "greater Israel" leads to the same things (JWN).

III. **Pharaoh Was Confused about the Strength of the Lord.** (4, 9)

- A. He still thought God had a weakness he could exploit (because of the wandering).
- B. He thought the movements of the Israelites meant God had taken on too much.
- C. He saw his magnificent army (as yet unused) as undefeatable and Yahweh's nemesis.
- D. In the contest strength against strength, God always wins, whether vs. men or devils.
- E. In but a very short time the army of Egypt will lie at the bottom of the Red Sea.
- F. Men continue to this day to believe they can put God out of business.

IV. **Pharaoh Was Confused by the Terror in Israel's Ranks.** (4,10)

- A. His eyes told him the Israelites were too terrorized to resist him.
- B. A man with no spiritual insight is bound to fall into confusion when reality strikes.
- C. The Israelites had a super-weapon at their disposal: prayer, crying out to the Lord.
- D. Some Israelites had another weapon: faith in the Lord of Hosts.
- E. God's plan was to end all confusion by making the Egyptians know something. (4)
- F. Our enemies may overtake us, but they can never destroy us.