

**Faith or Fear (Hebrews 11:29)**  
**By Pastor Jeff Alexander (8/27/2017)**

**Introduction**

1. Trusting in what God promises He will do is the substance of the faith presented in this chapter.
  - a. Our personal faith is not the trigger that prompts God to act, as many falsely presume.
  - b. Personal faith is the work of God, the gift of grace that enables one to trust God's revealed purpose.
  - c. Thus, personal faith is what motivates a person to obey God as He has revealed His purpose.
  - d. James summarizes this principle (James 3:14, 20–23).
2. In the section before us, the author again chooses three OT examples of the fruit of faith's obedience:
  - a. Israel's deliverance from Egypt by crossing the Red Sea
  - b. Israel's conquest of Canaan by marching around the city of Jericho
  - c. Rahab's deliverance from destruction by tying a scarlet rope in the window
  - d. In each of these examples, we find something seemingly impossible:
    - 1) Israel's impossible situation at the Red Sea, facing certain capture by the Egyptian army
    - 2) Israel's impossible conquest of the fortress of Jericho by unconventional means
    - 3) Rahab's impossible predicament and likely death in the certain conquest of her city by God's people

**I. The Divine Strategy**

1. God's declared purpose (Ex. 12:12, 14:4)
  - a. There is an interesting 5<sup>th</sup> dynasty inscription called the "Cannibal Hymn" (c. 2320 B.C.) that includes a line, "It is the king who will be judged by Him-whose-name-is-hidden on this day of the slaying of the first born." *Yahweh* is "Him-whose-name-is-hidden" (Exodus 3:13–15).
  - b. The route of the Exodus and Israel's encampment at Pi-hahiroth in front of Baal Zephon (Ex. 14:1). Baal/Seth, the chaos/storm god, had vanquished Yam, the god of the sea, so that Baal reigned over the sea also.
2. God's revenge and warning to Canaan
  - a. This incident was to be another major display of God's power over both human and supernatural enemies.
  - b. The fleeing Hebrew slaves, now free, could never imagine the true purpose of God in their deliverance. All they could see was their own plight, problems, and predicament.

**II. Israel in Jeopardy**

1. Israel was trapped between the sea and the Egyptian army.
  - a. Humanly speaking, their exodus was about to end.
  - b. Did the Hebrews trust their God (Ex. 14:10–12)? Fear and faith cannot co-exist.
  - c. Moses' instruction stands as true today as then (vv. 13, 14).
2. Supernatural deliverance (Ex. 14:15–30; note vv. 30, 31)

- a. The Lord got His victory over the gods of Egypt.
- b. Israel saw the salvation of the Lord, being finally and fully free of Egyptian bondage.
- c. Sadly, only a remnant of the people truly trusted Yahweh, for only two of the original 2 million crossed the Jordan because, while they were out of Egypt, Egypt was never out of them.

### **What This Means for Us**

As we prepare for God's judgment that is about to fall on the beast system enslaving the world, we must remember that God is preparing a people—a remnant—for these last hours who will testify to His greatness and glory and to the truth of His Son, Jesus Christ.

We, like Israel, must choose whether we will live in fear of the enemy or trust the purpose and power of our sovereign Lord.

*“Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great” (Gen. 15:1).*

*“Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent” (Ex. 14:13, 14).*

*“Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin” (Ex. 20:20).*

*“Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you” (Deut. 31:6).*

*“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand” (Isa. 41:10).*