

THE STORY OF REDEMPTION: EXODUS 13:17-14:31

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. In Exodus 13:17-18 we see God acting for the best of His people, whether they know it to be best or not. In what ways do you, or have you, seen this to be true or untrue in your own life?
3. In 14:11-12 the Israelites essentially say that they would rather serve an ungodly master than die. Are you willing to do anything – to the point of death – for your faith? Would that be apparent to someone who saw the way you lived your life? Or in other words, are there areas of your life in which you have compromised your faith because it is easier or more desirable?
4. Pharaoh's rejection of God was a sin. In this passage, especially in 14:30-31, God seems to be glorified through this sin. Are there other sins which glorify God? Is this question flawed in some way?
5. The Israelites have looked back on the event of their exodus for centuries to garner faith. What testimonies to God's incredible power and glory have you experienced in your own life that you can regularly think back on for your own encouragement and faith?
6. In this week's passage, we read about the dramatic climax of the exodus of God's people – which was a real event in history, but is also a compelling narrative story. What other Bible 'stories' stand out to you, and what does it say about our God that He works out His plan for His bride in the context of dramas such as this?
7. What impact do you think it would have on the way we read and study the Bible if Christian's believed that the story of the exodus was not literal but allegorical (a fictional tale with interpreted meaning)?
8. Using your own knowledge, a concordance, the Internet, someone you know, or good 'ol fashioned thumb-flipping, how many other times in Scripture can you find where God miraculously parts a body of water?