

Salvation and Freedom From Sin's Slavery

This week – continuing our lessons which teach the almighty saving power of Jesus Christ.

*Jesus said,
 “Ask, and it shall be given you;
 seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it
 shall be opened unto you.” Matthew 7v7.*

Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Exodus 14v1-14 (Pharaoh pursues the Israelites)	
Monday	Exodus 14v15-22 (The Lord Protects Israel)	
Tuesday	Exodus 14v23-31 (Final Judgement for Pharaoh)	
Wednesday	Exodus 15v1-21 (Israel rejoice at God's deliverance)	
Thursday	Psalms 91 (The Lord's Saving Protection for His People)	
Friday	Isaiah 43v1-11 ('Fear not, I am with thee')	
Saturday	Romans 9v15-24 (It is God that shows mercy to us)	

Important Lesson for us Today: Pharaoh Hardened his Heart through his repeated refusal to submit to God. God reinforced Pharaoh's heart in his hardened state such that he would never seek forgiveness of his sin. We too can be in great danger of hardening our heart towards God. We know much about Almighty God our Creator, of His Holiness. He has declared that He will Judge all sinners who break His Holy Law with everlasting separation from Him. We have also heard of His Mercy, and Grace in sending the Lord Jesus Christ to perfectly fulfil The Law. He came to die in the sinners' place, to shed His blood, so taking upon Himself the punishment for their sin. He rose again the 3rd day, ascending into Heaven to plead for those for whom He died. He has promised to return at the End of Time to Judge everyone and usher in His Eternal Heaven. We may know this glorious Gospel Message well **BUT** may not have personally responded to it in repentance and faith. To continue rejecting Christ as Saviour is acting just like Pharaoh, Hardening our Heart. We may be tempted to accuse God of being unfair to set a very rebellious hardened heart such that it cannot repent, **BUT** we must remind ourselves that Almighty God is Sovereign, and that no one deserves to be forgiven and saved. *'The wages of sin is death', Rom 6v23, Also read Rom 9v15-24.* God in His Mercy offers forgiveness. *"Behold, now is the accepted time; ... now is the day of salvation". 2 Cor 6v2.*

Hymn 509 - Reminds us of the protection God provides for the Christian.

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| 1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He has said,
All who unto Jesus for refuge have fled? | 6. 'The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not, desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!' |
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EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet.

This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible.

God Provides Protection for The Israelites

- **Background to Today's Lesson – Crossing The Red Sea.**
 - God guides the Children of Israel out of Egypt on their journey to the Promised Land - using a Pillar of Cloud by day, and a Pillar of Fire by night.
 - They are guided to the shore of the Red Sea and set up camp there.
- **Pharaoh in a Rage, with Hardened Heart, Changes His Mind.**
 - Pharaoh, along with 600 chariots, many soldiers, and horses pursues them.
 - The Israelites find themselves hemmed in between Pharaoh's army and The Red Sea, and realising they are in great danger, they panic and blame Moses and God. Foolishly, in unbelief, they want to return to Egypt - even as slaves.
- **What Can Be Done To Protect Them, To Save Them?**
 - Obviously, they could do nothing to protect themselves. No army, no weapons.
 - Moses says in faith, *"Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD"*
 - God covers Pharaoh's army with the Pillar of Cloud so they could not see, and He uses the Pillar of Fire to provide light throughout the night for the Israelites.
 - God tells Moses to raise his Rod - The Lord parted the Red Sea with a wall of water on each side, to form a safe path of dry ground, and said, *"Go forward"*.
 - That night the Israelites crossed over on dry ground to the other side, to safety.
- **The Lord God Protects by Delivering His Judgement on Pharaoh.**
 - Pharaoh and his army pursue. They get to the middle where God causes the wheels of their chariots to fall off. They abandon their pursuit. *'Let us flee'*.
 - God instructs Moses to raise his Rod again and the waters of The Red Sea return such that Pharaoh and all his army are drowned. **Judgement for his hardened heart.**
- **We Learn Much from this about the Christian Conversion Experience.**
 - If you are seeking God's forgiveness then you may be afraid, 'hearing the hooves of Satan's army thundering behind you' - afraid to stand against him.
 - At first you may, as a seeker, find it hard to repent and pray for forgiveness, hard to stop sinning – troubled by a 'sea' of doubts and fears before you.
 - We are totally unable to save ourselves, the guilt of our sin is far too great.
 - The Lord says, **"Stop, stand still, Look for My Way of Salvation"**. I have sent My Son, Jesus Christ, to die for you on the Cross to save you. **The only way.**
 - The Lord has prepared this 'dry ground' for you – that you may have New Life as a Christian. **"Go Forward, Believe My Promises. Accept Christ as your Saviour"**.
 - God's work in our hearts will cause us to pray sincerely for forgiveness, and as we turn from our sin, our prayers will be heard and accepted by God.
 - As far as we are concerned, Satan is defeated, never to enslave us again.

Isaiah wrote, *"Incline your ear, and come unto Me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you"*. *Isaiah 55v3.*