

Crossing the *Red Sea of Life*

➤ Intro:

- story of Israel: Joseph, slavery, governor, Israel moved to Egypt and saved from famine, enslaved, Moses born and rose to prominence preparing him to become Israel's leader, plagues and Passover (salvation), Exodus with cloud and fire guiding and protecting, crossing the Red Sea (SR)

➤ Everyone has a *Red Sea to cross!*

- Red Sea:

- symbolic of any difficulty, trial - trust in God rather than ourselves for deliverance

- Red Sea for people today:

- **illus.: Paul — 2 Cor. 11:24-28**

- **illus. Allan and family:** looking for another congregation to work with, let God direct, trust Him that we'd find a congregation where our coming was good for them and good for us - new schools, community, friends

- **illus.:** illness, relationships (boyfriend, girlfriend, marriage), choosing a career, patiently enduring trials and persecutions, provision of daily necessities (food, clothing, shelter, \$), fear, loneliness, uncertainty, etc.

- What is the *Red Sea* you are crossing today?

- What are the things you are trusting God for, in your life.

➤ Sometimes, we must suffer for years before (during) crossing the *Red Sea*.

- **illus.:** Israel, suffered harsh and cruel slavery for many years before crossing the Red Sea

- **Ja. 5:11** Job, endurance, outcome, Lord merciful and compassionate

- **story:** Job, very wealthy, God allowed Satan to tempt with trials, children and servants and possessions destroyed, **Job 1:20-22**, boils, **Job 2:7-10**, three friends try to convince trials a result of sin, Job sins when becomes proud and arrogant toward God, repents, God's mercy and compassion, **Job 42:10**

- **application: sometimes trials last for years**, whole lifetime

- **integrity, godliness:** endure patiently, long suffering, persevere

- **1 John 5:4**, victory that overcomes the world, **faith (next point)**

➤ We can't cross the *Red Sea of Life* without God's help! — **faith - believe God, obey word, God works**

- **Heb. 11:29** Israel, faith, passed dry land, cf. Egyptians drowned — **diff. = faith, obedience**

- **Israel: obeyed** God's word by faith, Moses stretched out hand w/staff, water divided, crossed on dry land

- **paint pict. fear, trapped** between Egyptians and Red Sea, doom, death

- **paint pict. angel** of the Lord and pillar of cloud darkened Egyptians so not pursue, yet provided light for the Israelites at night

- **paint pict. Egyptian army** held back by God while they crossed, millions

- **Egypt: disobeyed** God's word, not let Israel go, try to stop them, enslave them again

- **paint pict. Egyptians destroyed in Sea — Ex. 14:23-28**

- **Heb. 11:30-31** two examples crossing the *Red Sea of Life* — **faith, believe God, obey word, God works**

- **Israel's defeat of Jericho:** God's "nonsense" plan, military absurd, march around city once on 6 days and 7 times on last day, God's army brought down the walls — **pict. show where walked around**

- **Rahab's salvation:** God's "nonsense" plan, remain in house located on wall, even after wall falls, scarlet chord hung out a particular window, came out from among the sinful to live with God's people, ancestor of Christ — **pict. position of walls**

- **illus.: our salvation from sin (a Red Sea)**, believe, immersed in water to be saved — rf. Naaman

➤ - **application: key to success** to crossing the *Red Sea of Life* — believe, obey - God will perform His work

1 Th. 2:13 word of God performs its work in those who believe

➤ **God always has a purpose for setting a Red Sea before you that must be crossed**

- **illus.:**

- **Israel**, prove to themselves and the nations that Jehovah was the Lord
- **Revelation**, prove that Jesus is Lord of lords and King of kings
- **today**, we don't necessarily see why God has us cross a *Red Sea* - may not know for generations
 - e.g., Depression, resulted in many coming to Christ

- **crossing the *Red Sea of Life* always builds character and produces hope**

- **Rom. 5:3-5a; Ja. 1:2-4**

- **illus.:**

- **Moses and Israel** singing song of praise and thanksgiving after crossing the Red Sea, prove that Jehovah is God over all who must be praised and worshiped

- **Revelation: saints who had crossed the *Red Sea of Death* (persecution)**, sing new song - praise, worship, thanks for salvation

- **us, today:** What do we prove when we endure trials?

- **Susan Colvin's fight against cancer** attached, *Red Sea of Cancer*

- **application: know that you are crossing the *Red Sea of Life* for a purpose**, though may not know why

- **know you'll be** stronger, better person, stronger Christian, better able to serve God and help others

- **2 Cor. 12:10** Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

➤ **Summary / Inv.**

- What Red Sea are you crossing, today?
- Are you trusting God, His word?
- If you are, you will successfully cross, to the glory of God! — become better person and stronger Christian
- **Inv.:** cross your biggest Red Sea - sin, be saved

[8/15 Update on Susan Colvin](#)

Posted by: "Melody Biddle" mama2levi@gmail.com [mama2levi](#)

Wed Aug 16, 2006 6:27 am (PST)

Susan's first day at home was good. She slept much better, although she still has coughing fits and night sweats from the cancer.

She spent most of the day in the family room, and she did get some walking in to the kitchen. She even made bread with the bread machine and cleaned out some of the things in the refrigerator that had been there...well you know.

Her appetite remains good. We have an appt. tomorrow a.m. to check on the numbers to see how she is doing with blood counts, etc. Her port is scheduled for next Tuesday. That is required in order to get the second chemotherapy boost a week from this coming Thursday.

Her spirits remain good. We are all determined to trust in God and believe in His power. You know there is probably a reason the Israelites didn't just have to puddle jump in order to get into the promised land. Anyone could have denied the power of God in that. Now parting the Red Sea...that's a different story!

Kevin Colvin

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