**God Saves You (Exodus 14:10-14)**

 Our salvation comes from God as long as we trust in Him and not in our own abilities. Greetings to you all, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as we continue our spiritual journey for the year by going through the Bible. Today we will be addressing a major event in the book of Exodus, the crossing of the Red Sea, as our topic of meditation and preaching. This event was so important in the mind of Israelites that centuries afterwards, we still find its remembrance in the Psalms, even signs that it was celebrated as if it had just happened. The people of God would not forget that unimaginable and supernatural event… However, this event is also important for us as well, today, because we also are faced with similar situations as human beings. Therefore, today we are going to talk about God’s salvation in light of the Red Sea event. Our salvation comes from God as long as we trust in Him and not in our own abilities. Let us, therefore, go on to our examination of salvation for today…

 If you want salvation, do not fear, but rather expect the Salvation of God. Today’s topic is Salvation, despite the fact it has a different understanding in this context than the usual. As poetic as Biblical Hebrew is, just as Arabic is, for example, it has also been a window into the mind of the Israelite, (which, is not always so ethereally minded). In other words, when we speak about Salvation, for the Hebrew mind, the concept does not occur theoretically as a general reality, in a philosophical sense. Rather, salvation was understood as emancipation from a person or a specific situation. Knowing this, we see that the Israelites’ salvation from Egypt was (really) from slavery, primarily. Oh, that that salvation had been an internal, spiritual salvation as well! But alas, as we just read before, it was not. The people of God found themselves in front of a great temptation. Their faith was being tried at that difficult moment. They were trying to logically solve their problem by saying that it was better for them to have a tangible, reliable place to live than to get on the road towards an uncertain future… They wanted to go back to their old life. They wanted their comfort, though it was a cursed comfort. And it is here that God had something to say to them; something, however, that also pertains to us (today).

 Once, a famous TV personality entered a church and had a powerful spiritual experience. This man was a known atheist, and he had a very big circle of influence. He said the following, which reminds us of the fears of the Israelites (as they stood in front of the Red Sea with Pharaoh bearing down on them from behind). “My whole being was irradiated with a heavenly joy, much more powerful than anything I had ever experienced before that moment.” “But,” said the unbeliever, he felt that the “gloom of grace” presented a problem for him: if he allowed himself to be affected by the experience, he knew that he would have to change. Perhaps, he feared, his family would think he’d lost his mind. Perhaps, he feared, the joy would be fleeting. Therefore, he reasoned, “I was too deeply entrenched within the world to change my path.” That man remained without any trust in God, and died without salvation from his sins.

 But today, for you and I, if we are enjoying the salvation of Jesus Christ, what truth can we glean from the above discussion? Dearly beloved, we face large and small Red Seas every day. Are we going to trust in God, and are we going to walk towards freedom? Or are we going to return to slavery, to forced labor, to sin, to fear, or to bondage? Today, let each of us ask himself of herself: What is my Red Sea? What thing, which person, or what situation is Pharaoh in my life today or in this season? For God is calling us today not to fear Pharaoh and to go forwards through every Red Sea, lake, or swamp that we encounter. Perhaps your Red Sea is sickness, or financial difficulties, or family-relational issues. God is telling you, “Do not fear, wait, be at peace, stand your ground, and watch the Lord’s salvation take place, that He will accomplish for you today. For you will never see today’s Egyptians again. For the Lord Himself will war for you.”

 Therefore, today, let us not listen to that voice that entices us back to Egypt, towards the land of slavery and bondage. Let us decide today to move forwards with our Lord, who brings us through even seemingly impossible situations or inextricable messes. If you want salvation, do not fear, but rather expect God’s salvation to show up. Our Salvation comes from God as long as we trust in Him and not in our own abilities. May God increase our grace to trust Him, so that as we walk with Him, we do not look back, but rather by going through our Red Sea, enter into our land of freedom (in Christ).