**The Lord Will Fight for Us**

***10****When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the Lord.****11****They said to Moses, “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt?****12****Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: ‘Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.”****13****And Moses said to the people, “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.****14****The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.” (Exodus 14:10-14)*

 When we are standing in front of the Red Sea, it is the Lord who is going to fight for us. Greetings in the Lord to you all on this Vartanants Sunday, as we talk today about one of the most important principles of spiritual warfare. Of course, we know that the Vartanants commemoration is not about a historical national battle that took place, but rather about a spiritual one. Therefore, just as those at the battle commemorated by the Vartanants holiday, starting from General Vartan himself to the lowest ranking soldier prepared themselves spiritually before battle (by taking communion), today we will talk about a spiritual solution to our battles when we’re standing before our proverbial Red Seas. Very often, when we find ourselves facing life difficulties, we have what I call “Red Sea” moments. Suddenly, we may feel like Pharaoh is bearing down on us from behind, and that we have no where to flee or no gun with which to defend ourselves. Today’s message is connect with those types of situations. God alone has the solutions in those Red Sea moments. Therefore, my prayer is that our focus will be better trained to be on the Lord’s salvation and rescue in those moments because of this message. Again, I want to stress that the Lord is the one that will fight for us when we stand in front of a Red Sea (if we let Him, of course). Let’s go into more detail…

 We will see God’s solutions when we stay in faith and not complain out of fear in tough times. The Egyptians had realized that they had just lost all their servants when the Hebrews had left the area. Pharaoh regretted that he had released the Israelites, and went after them with 600 chariots plus. When he was close, we see that the Israelites suddenly came out of that state of faith and began to fear and complain against Moses (and his leading them out of Egypt). Suddenly, their past seemed much better to them than their present situation, even though it was not true that their past was good in any way. However, Moses remain in the right faith-stance. He calmed the people down, and told them to be quiet. They were not supposed to forget who God was and all the miracles that He had just done to free them. Rather, they need to stand firm in what they had believed about God (and his servant Moses).

Because of his personal relationship with God, Moses stayed firmly in faith in front of the Red Sea. He believed God’s previously given promise about rescue from the Egyptians, and he said the following to the people, which has not really been translated the best way in the text. He said, “*Because you saw the Egyptians now, you will never see them again.*” In other words, because the Israelites saw the Egyptians once again, God’s promise of rescuing them from the Egyptians once and for all by capturing and punishing them in the Red Sea was going to happen. Moses fully understood that what Pharaoh was doing was a last prideful but weak deed that God was going to crush with His power.

When Moses was saying, “*the Lord will fight for you,”* it is like when someone seems to always be strong in faith, to talk in faith, but suddenly finds themselves in front of some bad news. Perhaps someone died, or they received a bad diagnosis from the doctor. Are all those faith-expressions genuine, or had they been just external, people-pleasing expressions? If that person would remain in faith even during the crisis, even if they had to go through the fire like the three young men in the Book of Daniel, then they would be allowing God to fight for them, and for them to simply walk through the path that the Lord would open up through that Red Sea.

In our own lives, there are difficulties that arise that may tempt us to say that the past was much better when we were a slave and we served Pharaoh. That Pharaoh could be your worldly life before coming to Christ, or that bad relationship you left, that addiction you were freed from, or that fear that you no longer entertained. God through this passage is encouraging us to remain firm when we’re in front of that Red Sea facing us. We must not say unnecessary things such as vain complaints or words filled with doubt or expressions filled with unbelief. Sometimes, our best faith expression is to be calm as God opens the way for us in the Red Sea moment. That path seem strange or even illogical. However, if we are trusting the Lord in the matter, then we are called to follow His solution, and not ours.

We will see God’s solutions when we stay in faith and not complain out of fear in tough times. Before every Red Sea, let us allow God to open the way for us, and let us close our mouths and remain calmly in faith through those experiences.

The Lord bless you all. Amen.