

Lesson 16 - God makes a way
Moses and the Red Sea from Exodus 14-15
The Jesus Storybook Bible - pgs.92 - 99

Lesson

The Israelites are delivered from Egypt under Moses by passing through the Red Sea. Psalm 77:15 – 20 puts it this way: “With your mighty arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph. The waters saw you and writhed; the very depths were convulsed. . . . Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind, your lightning lit up the world. . . . Your path led through the sea, your way through the mighty waters, though your footprints were not seen. You led your people like a flock, by the hand of Moses and Aaron.”

The psalmist here meditates on the exodus, a very concrete demonstration of God’s saving love. God broke into history with miracles to “redeem” his people. The word “redeem” means to be “ransomed out of slavery.” So God literally redeemed his people when he brought them out of Egypt. He redeemed them as he led them with pillars of cloud and fire, and as he parted the Red Sea. And yet, despite these awesome displays of power, God’s concern was, according to the psalmist, to tenderly care for his people as a shepherd guides his flock.

The contrast is intentional. If God were powerful but not tender, we would be terrified. If God were tender but not powerful, we would feel the same. But the psalmist is saying, “If a God this powerful also loves me this tenderly, then what reason do I have to be afraid?” Whatever fears the psalmist may have about his present or future situation, he can look to the past and have his fears powerfully and tenderly calmed.

But we can look to an even more vivid display of God’s power and tenderness, even more than the ever present pillars of cloud and fire, the vast withdrawing of the sea. And as a result we can be even more certain that God will never remove his powerful, tender love from us. We can look to the death of Jesus Christ and see there a greater ransom from slavery, a deeper redemption. We see in Christ infinite power, and yet, as he bleeds for us, infinite tenderness.

Memory Verse

Exodus 6:7

God said, “I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God.”

***Lesson taken from *The Jesus Storybook Bible Curriculum*, written by Sally Lloyd-Jones and Sam Shammas.

If you do not have a copy of *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, we will have them for purchase in Cranmer Hall for \$10.