

# ISRAEL'S FAITH (PART I): A DELIVERING FAITH HEBREWS 11:29

## ***Introduction***

This verse deals with Israel crossing the Red Sea, a phenomenal miracle controlled entirely by God. But it took great faith for Israel to cross the Sea with two towering walls of water on both sides. This is a living example of strong faith in God, a delivering faith, the kind of faith that assures God's delivering power acting in our behalf.

- I. A faith that obeyed God against insurmountable forces (v. 29).
- II. A faith that delivered and brought protection (v. 29).

## **I. *Hebrews 11:29 A Trusting, Obedient Faith***

Israel's faith was a faith that obeyed God against insurmountable forces. The forces confronting Israel were threefold:

- => the pursuing army of the Egyptians.
- => the Red Sea in front and the mountain ranges on both sides.
- => their own murmuring and unbelief.

The people were ever so frightened. They were hemmed in with no way to escape, and an enraged king and people were in hot pursuit. There was no chance that the Egyptian army would have taken any live prisoners because Egypt had lost all their firstborn sons to the death-angel. Israel was doomed and the people knew it. The odds were insurmountable unless God stepped in and delivered them.

Moses, God's leader, was aroused to believe God. He stepped forward and shouted to the people:

*Exo 14:13-14 Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."*

The salvation of the Lord was being proclaimed, and that message stirred faith in the hearts of the people. In obedience to God's command, Moses lifted up his rod and moved it across the face of the waters. When he did, a strong east wind began to blow over the face of the water. It blew so forcefully that the waters divided. Imagine the scene: two towering walls of water with a stretch of dry land running down between them. But the people's salvation was on the other side. If they could reach there, they were safe. They had been grumbling, yes; but the message of God's servant, Moses, had stirred them to believe God. Now they were beholding the power of God to remove the insurmountable

---

odds. He had actually rolled the sea back and made a road of *dry land* for them to march across to safety. They believed God, and they began to march forth — marching in the faith of God who had promised that He would lead them to the promised land.

**Thought 1.** What a clear picture of salvation for people today! No matter the odds, God will overcome the odds and save us if we will only believe and begin to march forth following Christ, even as God commands.

**Mat 21:21** *Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done.*

**1 Cor 10:13** *No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.*

**2 Cor 1:10** *He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us.*

**2 Tim 4:18** *The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

**Heb 2:14-15** *Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil - and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*

**2 Pet 2:9** *If this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.*

**Psa 28:7** *The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song.*

**Psa 40:17** *Yet I am poor and needy; may the Lord think of me. You are my help and my deliverer; O my God, do not delay.*

## **II. Hebrews 11:29 Faith that Delivers**

Israel's faith was a faith that delivered and brought protection. The people believed God; therefore, they were delivered despite the insurmountable odds against them. But not only this: they were protected through the whole experience. Their enemies pursued them. It was night when Israel crossed the sea and when the Egyptian army reached the shore (Exo. 14:21). The Egyptians were spiritually blind to God's working and were hardened in their sin. After all, the children of Israel were not an army, but a defenceless body of people fleeing the might and power of the greatest army in the world. The Egyptians saw no reason to rush behind the people of Israel and slaughter them. Therefore, the army

acted blindly, rashly and unthoughtfully. They went right in after Israel. But God protected those who believed and trusted Him. The east wind died down and the two walls of water closed in and covered the pursuing enemy, drowning every one of them. God's people were protected — completely protected by the hand of God.

**Thought 1.** God performed the miracle of salvation and deliverance for the people, but it was because of their faith. God's messenger proclaimed the salvation of God and the people believed and God worked in their behalf. He saved and protected them from their enemy - an enemy that had appeared insurmountable. God always provides a way of deliverance for those who believe.

**Mat 21:21** *Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done."*

**John 3:16** *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

**Acts 2:21** *'And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'*

**Rom 10:13** *For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

**Eph 2:8-9** *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast.*

**Psa 37:39** *The salvation of the righteous comes from the LORD; he is their stronghold in time of trouble.*

**Isa 12:2** *"Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation."*

**Isa 25:9** *In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."*

**Zep 3:17** *"The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing." ■*