

The Red Sea Rules: 10 God-Given Strategies for Difficult Times

1A. A PATTERN IN SCRIPTURE

- 1B. I [the Lord] will even *make a way* in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. (Isa. 43:19 KJV)
- 2B. When you pray, keep alert and be thankful. Be sure to pray that God will *make a way* (Col. 4:2-3 CEV)
- 3B. The LORD will utterly ... *make a way* to cross on foot. (Isa. 11:15 NRSV)
- 4B. You can trust God. He will not let you be tested more than you can stand. But when you are tested, He will also *make a way* out so that you can bear it. (1Cor. 10:13 BECK)
- 5B. The light of Christ best shines through us as He empowers us in the face of life's most difficult, distressing and discouraging times. In Robert J. Morgan's *The Red Sea Rules*, we find strategies to navigate successfully these perilous periods. We'd like to suggest that there are key factors, which if maintained, will help us not only to survive, but shine through the darkness. The first of these is perspective.
- 6B. "The reality of the Red Sea, in a word, is this: God will always make a way for His tired, yet trusting, children, even if He must split the sea to do it."

2A. PERSPECTIVE

- 1B. RED SEA RULE 1: Realize that God means for you to be where you are. (Exodus 14:1-2)
- 2B. In the story of the Red Sea, the Israelites followed the pillar of cloud and fire as carefully as possible, thrilled with their new freedom, full of excitement about the future. Yet as they followed Him, God deliberately led them into a cul-de-sac between hostile hills, to the edge of a sea too deep to be forded and too wide to be crossed. (p. 6)
- 3B. The unmistakable implication of Exodus 14:1-2 is that the Lord took responsibility for leading them into peril. (p.6)
- 4B. The Lord occasionally does the same with us, testing our faith, leading us into hardship, teaching us wisdom, showing us His

- ways. (p. 6)
- 5B. So, take a deep breath and recall this deeper secret of the Christian life: when you are in a difficult place, realize that the Lord either placed you there or allowed you to be there, for reasons perhaps known for now only to Himself. (p.6)
- 6B. The same God who led you _____ will lead you _____.
- 7B. Identify some of the men and women in Scripture who, through no fault of their own, found themselves beset with soul-disabling difficulties while trying to follow God:
- 8B. Let me say I am here,
- 1C. By God's appointment,
2C. In His keeping,
3C. Under His training,
4C. For His time.
- 9B. We can sometimes end up in a tough situation because of our own folly or sin. When this happens, serious and sincere repentance routes us back into God's will. Confession is like a shortcut from the wayward path back to the straight and narrow road of Christ. (p. 14)
- 10B. God's forgiveness allows self-forgiveness (Gen. 45:5; 50:19-20). God will use it all for good (also Romans 8:28).
- 11B. After genuine confession and repentance, we can start wherever we are with Red Sea Rule #1: Remember that God, in His overruling providence, has allowed you to be where you are at this moment.
- 12B. "When God fixes our position for us, we may rest assured that it is a wise and salutary one; and even when we foolishly and willfully choose a position for ourselves, He most graciously overrules our folly, and causes the influences of our self-chosen circumstances to work for our spiritual benefit." (Quote from a commentary on Exodus 14 (p. 16)).

Study Questions

1. Red Seas come in all shapes and sizes. What's the Red Sea you're focusing on for this journey?
2. Why is life so hard? Why do problems persist? Why do we encounter these Red Seas?

3. Be honest—how have you been initially reacting to your own Red Sea experience, whatever it is?
4. How can embracing Rule #1 affect your response?