

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

- 1A. PERSPECTIVE:
  - 1B. GOD'S PLAN: Realize that God means for you to be where you are. (RULE #1)
  - 2B. GOD'S PURPOSE: "Be more concerned for God's glory than for your relief." (RULE #2)
- 2A. Read Exodus 14:10-12. When the Israelites saw Pharaoh and his army pursuing them in the wilderness, they reacted. What was natural about their reaction? What three (3) questions did they raise? Who was the subject of their greatest concern? How did God view their reaction (Ps. 106:7-8)?
- 3A. Sometimes we can't find the answers to our dilemmas because we're asking the wrong questions. (p. 20)
- 4A. What are some of the instinctive questions that we ask when we find ourselves in difficult situations? (p. 21)
- 5A. There is a better approach, one that results in an entirely new way of looking at difficulties. Ask, "How can God be glorified in this situation?"
  - 1B. So, what does it mean for God to get "glory" in our circumstance?
  - 2B. Read verses Exodus 14:3-4. What two benefits did God say would result from the Israelites dilemma?
    - 1C. I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army.
    - 2C. The Egyptians may know that I am the Lord. (p.21)
  - 3B. God deliberately orchestrated the Exodus events as an occasion for demonstrating the power He wields over both His armies and the elements. (p. 21)
  - 4B. You, too, can view your problems as an occasion for God to work wonders. (p. 22)
  - 5B. J. Hudson Taylor wrote, "I know He tries me only to increase my faith, and that is all in love. Well, if He is glorified, I am content." (p. 23)

6B. Brother Lawrence writes, "The sorest afflictions never appear intolerable, except when we see them in the wrong light." (p. 27)

7B. Psalm 136

6A. Notice how Jesus adjusts His disciples' perspective by disclosing God's purposes in the following portions of scripture:

1B. John 9:3 – "This man was born blind so that the **power** of God could be displayed in his life."

2B. John 11: – "This sickness is not unto death, but **unto the glory of God**, that the Son of God may be **glorified** through it."

7A. Jesus revealed His perspective on His own difficulties in John 12:27-28.

John 12:27-28 – "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say?" He cried. "Father, save Me from this hour? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, **glorify Your name.**" The Father responded, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.

8A. God doesn't waste suffering. Our job amid the difficulty is to learn our Lord's simple but submissive prayer: "What shall I say? Save me from this hour? No, Father, glorify Your name." That is, after all, what our lives are about.

1B. Psalm 115:1 – "Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but to Your name give glory.

2B. God gains glory when:

1C. His enemies are defeated;

2C. His children are delivered;

3C. His name is exalted;

4C. His exploits are remembered; and

5C. His praises are sounded. (p. 24)

9A. "God sometimes raises difficulties in the way of His people that He may have the glory of subduing them, and helping His people over them."  
Matthew Henry

10A. Psalm 50:15 – "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."