

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)
- 3B. GOD'S PREROGATIVE: "Trust God to deliver in His own unique way." (Rule #8)

2A. God's Miraculous Ways

- 1B. Read Exodus 14:21-22.
- 2B. All of us can agree that God is a deliver and that He has miraculously delivered His own people in the past.
- 3B. "But does He still? Does He deliver from financial woes? Marital problems? Emotional confusion? Harm and danger? Self-destructive habits? Disease?" (p. 93)

3A. To meet the challenge, we must—

- 1B. Have God's perspective on deliverance (p. 93), realizing that God's ways are beyond our understanding.

- 1C. Isaiah 55:8-9
- 2C. Isaiah 40:13-14
- 3C. Romans 11:33

- 2B. View God's deliverance not by emotional reflex, human standards, or even common sense—but by biblical truth. (p. 94)

4A. "God doesn't have standardized, same-size-fits-all solutions to our various problems.

- 1B. He treats every situation as singular and special.

2B. He designs a unique, tailor-made deliverance to every trial and trouble.” (p. 94)

5A. God’s Providential Ways

1B. Miracles still occur; but they are not God’s standard operating procedure. (p. 98)

2B. Throughout the Bible, God intervenes in the lives of His people in “ordinary, **providential ways** rather than in overly supernatural ones.” (p. 98)

1C. God’s providence defined:

“God’s providence refers to His **wise** and **personal acts**, whereby He creates and controls circumstances in order to direct history according to His predetermined plan, *all for His glory and the benefit of His elect*. People live in the flow of history, and are moved by the circumstances God controls.” (<https://thinkingonscripture.com/2014/09/15/the-providence-of-god/>; article by Dr. Steven Cook)

2C. Biblically, the term “providence” literally means “foresight,” but is generally used to denote God's preserving and governing all things by means of second causes (Psalms 18:35 ; 63:8 ; Acts 17:28 ; Colossians 1:17 ; Hebrews 1:3).

3C. “...the mature Christian pays special attention to the accidents, misfortunes, and coincidences that befall them. For in reality, there are no such things. Only the ordering of a God who watches over His prayerful, trusting children, and whose unseen hand is guiding, guarding, arranging, and rearranging circumstances.” (p. 98-99)

4C. “In the unfolding of [God’s] providence, burdens become blessings, tears lead to triumph, and the redemptive grace of God overcomes the undercurrents of life in the experiences of His children.” (p. 101) (See Romans 8:28)

6A. God's Mysterious Ways

- 1B. "When God does not deliver **overtly** (through a miracle) or **covertly** (by providence), He will deliver **mysteriously** with a deeper level of intervention than we can discern; in the end it will be better for us, though for a time we may be perplexed." (p. 103)
- 2B. 2 Tim. 4:18 – Like Paul, we can be confident in God to deliver us.
- 3B. John 13:7, 1 Corinthians 13:11-12 - We will not necessarily understand and may struggle with God's way of delivering. There will come a time when we will see clearly the wisdom and grace of God's way.