

Where's Your Chair?

Exodus 14 21-31



He divided the sea and let them pass through;
he made the waters stand still in a heap.
Psalm 78:13

Praising:

If thou but suffer God to guide thee
and hope in him through all thy ways,
he'll give thee strength whate'er betide thee,
and bear thee through the evil days;
who trusts in God's unchanging love
builds on the rock that nought can move.

Reading:

Exodus 14: 21-31
The waters part and close for the Israelites

Moses raising his hand is the signal for the second major miracle in the Lord's deliverance of Israel. During a storm, the shallow waters are driven back by

a strong east wind and this makes it possible for the Israelites to cross on foot. By the time the Egyptian chariots arrive and get mired in the mud, the storm has abated and the waters return to engulf the would-be attackers. The drama is heightened by the description of the waters standing up like walls and the corpses being washed up. If it hadn't dawned on them during the Passover, the Egyptians see clearly that the Lord is actively and decisively taking Israel's side against them. Having been so quick to doubt and question God when it felt 'cornered', Israel now recognises where its first love and loyalty should lie.

Listening:

Praying:

We name before you Lord those who attack and assault us

- grant us patience to respond to enmity with love and to aggression with gentleness
- grant us understanding to see the reasons for people's antagonism and resentment
- grant us forgiveness to let go of old hurts and injuries and refuse to be defined by them

Father: I don't ask for vindication, nor for the destruction of my enemies, but I do ask for a sense that in the victory of Christ, your Spirit will come through to deliver and rescue me. Amen

Doing:

Friday, 12 August 2016