

WEEK 5 | *EXODUS 13:17-15:21*

THE ONE WHO SEEKS GLORY

God has redeemed his people at the first passover. Now he's leading Israel in a glorious victory procession to freedom in their promised land, with a pillar of cloud before them in the daytime, and a pillar of fire at night. But he tells the Israelites to delay for a while near the sea.

KNOWING GOD FROM EXODUS

Read Exodus 13:17-14:4.

1. When you look at God's motive in delaying Israel, is He just an egotist? Why or why not?
2. As the Egyptians catch up to them in their chariots, what's the response of the Israelites? (Where have you seen this attitude before, and what was the result?)
3. Read 14:13-18. What lessons do the Israelites need to learn? (Notice the similarity between 14:4 and 14:18.)
4. There's a huge nation-defining miracle in 14:21-28. How does it demonstrate the truth of verses 13-14?
5. Moses and Miriam celebrate by leading the Israelites in song in chapter 15. What's the main point of the song?
6. In 14:4 God said he was planning to gain **'glory'** for himself in what he was about to do. Remember, the original word for 'glory' literally means **'weightiness.'** What does the song highlight for anyone who would take God **lightly**?

KNOWING GOD IN JESUS

In Exodus, the Israelites and the nations learn **not to take God lightly** as they see his **glory** demonstrated in his powerful judgment on the Egyptian Army. Turning to John's gospel, we'll see his glory demonstrated in another way.

7. **Read John 1:14 and John 12:20-33.** What 'hour' is Jesus referring to, and where's the 'glory' in it?

8. God's motive in Exodus was to make 'the nations' pay attention to his glory (and stop treating him like a lightweight.) How does **John 12:32** pick up on this theme? (How has it worked out in the last 2000 years or so? And today?)

FEEL THE WEIGHT

It seems Jesus has got the idea of glory completely upside down. The thought that going to a humiliating death could somehow be glorious, and that his 'lifting up on a cross' would send a message to 'all people' must have seemed crazy. But in the resurrection, and the expansion of the gospel all over the world, God proved him right!

9. How much of your time is spent trying to make yourself seem impressive, rather than humbly serving and trusting God for the outcome? (Do you really believe there's glory in sacrifice?)

10. How does your understanding of the Cross demonstrate again the truth of Exodus 14:13-14? What's left to do as our part of winning salvation?

"The Lord will fight for you; you need only be still."

Exodus 14:14