

Exodus 14:4

Then I will harden Pharaoh's heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD." And they did so.

If you have ever seen the old movie, "The Ten Commandments" or read the book of Exodus, or even sat in Sunday school as a kid, then you know the story about God parting the Red Sea, and God did so to deliver the children of Israel from the Egyptians. But have you ever thought about the fact that God told Moses ahead of time that the Egyptians would chase after the children of Israel after they left Egypt, and not only that, but God also told Moses that He (God) would deliver them when they did. That's exactly what we read in today's verse.

† ***Then I will harden Pharaoh's heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD." And they did so.***

So, God told Moses this would happen, and it did, and when it did, the children of Israel cried out to God.

† ***Exodus 14:10 And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD.***

And what was Moses' response to them? He kept silent and let the people shake in their sandals and question God. Well, not really, but for a moment they did question God.

† ***Exodus 14:11-12 Then they said to Moses, "Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians?' For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness."***

But even though the children of Israel were scared, Moses trusted in God and His word. So, what really happened is that Moses encouraged the people with God's word.

† ***Exodus 14:13-14 And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."***

And that's how we should be as Christians. The world (Egypt represent the world in the bible) seems to be overtaking our Christian values and snubbing their noses at God's laws. And people

are getting scared. Both Christians as well as non-Christians because this world has become so corrupt. Yet, we have the words of Eternal Life, we have the words of Hope and Encouragement to share with others, we have been given God's Word so that we can strengthen and encourage others with God's words, just as Moses did.

So, even though we are not a Moses who led over two million people out of Egypt, we can be like Moses and give encouragement to our brothers and sisters in the Lord, as well as to a lost world. All by sharing with them God's word, just as He spoke it to us through His word.

- † **Hebrews 10:25 (NLT2)** *And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.*
- † **Romans 1:12 (NLT2)** *When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours.*
- † **Proverbs 10:21 (NLT2)** *The words of the godly encourage many, but fools are destroyed by their lack of common sense.*
- † **1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NLT2)** *So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.*