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The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles.

[Psalm 34:17](#) (NKJV)

Thought for today...

Deliver. What thought does that word bring to mind? Many dictionary definitions are offered for the word, some of which are: to bring to a destination, to redeem or save, to cause to be born.

In the book of Exodus, we read how after years of captivity, the Lord brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt. Finally free, ‘... God led them in a roundabout way through the wilderness toward the Red Sea...’ [Exodus 13:18](#) (New Living Translation).

Exodus 14 explains how the Lord spoke to Moses, instructing him to tell the people to turn back and camp in front of Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, opposite Baal Zephon by the sea. God’s instructions were specific and precise.



If, like me, you’ve seen one or two spy movies, you’ll know that operatives are trained not to sit with their back to a door, but rather, to place themselves in a position that both lends itself to surveillance, and enables them to make a quick exit if warranted. Why then would God instruct the Israelites to take up a vulnerable position by the sea?

Continuing to speak to Moses, God told him that Pharaoh would think that their odd choice of camp site was as a result of them being confused by the wilderness. God said that he would harden Pharaoh's heart, causing him to regret freeing the Israelites and so decide to pursue them.

Unaware of what was to take place, the children of Israel were marching out boldly, until they noticed the Egyptians approaching! In a state of panic, they quickly turned on Moses, blaming him for leading them to what was almost a certain death in the wilderness, when they could have remained as slaves in Egypt. In response Moses said: **“Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.”** [Exodus 14:13-14](#) (NIV). God instructed Moses to raise his staff, stretch his hand over the water and divide the sea so that the Israelites could walk through on dry ground. When they were safely through, and with the Egyptians in pursuit, God told Moses to again stretch his hand over the sea, this time causing the waters to flow back over the Egyptians, their horses and chariots, drowning them.



At times, it may seem as if our lives are at an impasse; note that it was the Lord who instructed the Israelites to camp in a seemingly unproductive and dangerous spot. He did so for the ultimate good of the Israelites and for His glory. With our cooperation, God will bring us to the destination that He has purposed. He will

cause whatever He has placed in us to be birthed — not aborted or miscarried. As He has promised in His word, He **will** redeem, He **will** save us.