

Exodus 14: 21-31 "The Lord is Fighting for Israel"

"Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses." Ex.14:31

**"You are somebody, somebody on the Lord's side.
You are somebody, somebody on the Lord's side."**

1. Does the Lord take our side, or do we take sides with God?
Free Will and God's Will.
2. **Seeing God's Deliverance and learning to fear God and trust God's leaders.**
"So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses." 14:31b
 - a. God is Lord of God's creation: Sea and Wind. Dry Earth and Mud. Night and Day.
Compare the disciples seeing Christ-"Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" Mark 4:41
 - b. God sees and hears God's people. "I have observed the misery of my people...I have heard their cry...Indeed, I know their suffering." Ex. 3:7
 - c. They are out of Egypt but not out of trouble. Driven to the edge of the Red Sea, the enemy at your heels. Can't go forward, can't go back. Deliverance is a process.
 - d. Israel is delivered to serve the rest of the world.
3. **Seeing God's Judgment on others and learning to fear God and trust God's leaders.**
"Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians." 14: 31a
 - a. God hates *schadenfreude*, enjoying the misfortune of others.
"Do not rejoice when your enemies fall,
and do not let your heart be glad when they stumble,
Or else the LORD will see it and be displeased, and turn away his anger from them."
Proverbs 24: 17, 18
 - b. Survivors' Guilt. "I don't want to be saved unless everyone is saved."
Paul in Romans 9:3 "For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people..."
We are not the judge, nor can we atone for or take the place of anyone else.
 - c. Is this a natural disaster? --God uses the natural workings of Creation
Is this a miracle?-- God bends/overrides/reverses/supersedes/speeds up natural law
Is this an accident? --One of those combinations of things that happen in life
If God rules over all Creation, are natural disasters (or accidents) to be understood as God's judgment? Jesus says "No." Luke 13: 4,5 People killed when a tower collapsed in Jerusalem were no worse sinners than anyone else, all guilty.