

## SERMON: 13 September 2020 – Rev Alistair Cowper

### “THE GOD WHO FIGHTS FOR US”

#### (EXODUS 14:19-31)

- The angel of God (the presence of God who Moses knew as Yahweh, the ‘I am’; the same presence we know as ‘the Christ’) went before and behind (Exodus 14:19)
- The angel of God **placed** God-self between Israel and Egypt (Exodus 14:20)
- Moses stretched out his hand and Yahweh’s **power** was unleashed, dividing the waters (Exodus 14:21)
- Egypt **realised** Yahweh was fighting for Israel (Exodus 14:25)
- Israel was **delivered from evil** (Exodus 14:30)
- Israel **saw** the great work of Yahweh and **believed** in Yahweh and in Yahweh’s servant Moses (Exodus 14:31)

Think for a moment ...

What is your ‘Egypt’, your place of captivity?

Covid-19?

Something else?

What is the thing that’s ‘plaguing’ you?

The thing you long to be free from?

It might be ...

A bad habit

A difficult relationship with someone

A health issue

Unemployment

Can we embrace the same God experience as the people of Israel experienced in their Exodus from Egypt?

Can we know the all surrounding presence of God with is in our place of captivity and leading us up and out?

Can we know God placing God-self between us and our Egypt?

Can we use the power God is giving us to ‘stretch out our hand’, and do something to make a change and find a way through the sea that threatens to overwhelm us?

Can we foresee a time when we will join Miriam in singing joyfully yo the God who has ‘triumphed gloriously’ on our behalf?

Jesus has promised to be with us, to lead us, to guide us, through everything, even through death itself; to emerge through the waters and find a wide open place of complete freedom and promise.

We may feel powerless at our situation. We may not be able to change what is happening to us but we can change how we think of things and that will help change how we feel towards things.

Paul the apostle put it well when he said,  
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me  
(Philippians 4:13).

The song we just sang proclaims that Yahweh is the God who fights for me, the God who steps into our Egypt, who takes us by the hand and marches us out in freedom to the promised land, the God whose furious love rages on our behalf like a mighty torrent, like rushing water cascading over a precipice.

We can choose to believe that you and I are being strengthened and delivered by a power which we can neither see nor understand but which we're called to trust.

'Christ in me' is our hope.

'Christ in me' is our strength.

'Christ in me' is our power to keep going, to take the next breath and make the next step.

'Christ in me' is the presence of God which Israel described as God before me and behind me.

The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom then shall I fear?  
(Psalm 27:1).

I know who goes before me  
I know who goes behind  
The God of angel armies is always by my side  
The One who reigns forever  
He is a friend of mine  
The God of angel armies is always by my side  
(Chris Tomlin *Whom shall I fear?*)