

October 1st, 2023

The LORD Will Fight for You

Exodus 14:1-14

Christ in the fire cloud

Last time we were together, a Theophany—a Divine appearance—arrived on the scene in the wilderness: Christ in the fire cloud. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 10:4 that Israel was not alone in the wilderness but that Christ Himself accompanied them. Just as Christ promises the Christian today that He is with us always, even until the end of the age (Matthew 28:20), so His spiritual presence was with Israel, leading her, guiding her, protecting her all the way to the Promised Land.

Out of the frying pan into the fire

Children, boys and girls I wonder if you've ever heard the phrase "out of the frying pan into the fire." It means to go from a bad situation (the frying pan) into a worse situation (the fire). When Israel was in Egypt it was a *bad situation*. But now at the Red Sea they are in a *worse situation*. Pharaoh has them cornered there is no where to go. His whole army is with him. It's clear that he means to take them back as slaves and kill anyone who resists. This is the most desperate situation of the whole book. But the most 'troubling' thing is that the LORD led them into this trap. Dear congregation, this is the difficulty in believing in a sovereign God who "does all that he pleases" (Psalm 115:3). If we deny God's sovereignty, we can blame all the difficulties we face in life on the devil or some other cause. We can say things like 'God didn't want that to happen, it was out of his control.' But with a sovereign God we can never say that. Nothing is out

of control of the God who “does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth” (Daniel 4:35). God led Israel into this trial. Dear congregation, God does the same with us. Our trials are by His sovereign design. He doesn’t do this haphazardly. He doesn’t do this because He doesn’t care about us. He does it because He has a purpose underneath it that far is more wonderful than the heart of man could ever imagine.

★ A Secret Fight

★ A Strategic Fight

★ A Solitary Fight

I. A Secret Fight

A broken GPS?

When Israel left Egypt they traveled from Rameses to Succoth, from Succoth to Etham which was on the edge of the wilderness (Exodus 13:20). Now we see a surprising turn of events. Look at v.1-2 “Then the LORD said to Moses, ² “Tell the people of Israel *to turn back* and encamp in front of Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, in front of Baal-zephon; you shall encamp facing it, by the sea.”” Yahweh has them turn around and head back towards Egypt. They were going East towards the Promised Land and now the LORD directs their steps West back toward Pharaoh, back toward the house of slavery. The fire cloud which functioned as their GPS was going the wrong way. Why in the world would Yahweh tell Moses to go back towards the dragon of Egypt?

Setting the bait

Look at v.3. The LORD told Moses the reason. “For Pharaoh will say of the people of Israel, ‘They are wandering in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.’” Israel’s whereabouts would be reported to Pharaoh. Migdol, one of places Israel would camp next to, was a fortified Egyptian city. Their officials would report back to Pharaoh this surprising turn of events. And God was aiming at was this precise reaction from Pharaoh: *Israel is wandering in the land, they are perplexed, they are confused*. God purposely made Israel appear weak and stupid. He was setting a trap. As Calvin says here: “God...set a bait to catch the tyrant, just as fish are hooked.”¹

The last hardening

v.4 “And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will pursue them...” Stop. 19 times in Exodus, Pharaoh’s heart is hardened. Here in ch.14, we see it mentioned 3 times, here in v.4, v.8 and v.17. Recall that Biblically, there are three types of hardening² **1) Natural hardness** which all sinners possess at birth due to Adam’s fall (Ezekiel 11:19). **2) Voluntary hardness** which is when sinners choose to reject God’s Word (Psalm 95:7-8). **3) Judicial hardness** when God hardens the sinner’s heart so they further disobey Him bringing judgment on himself. The hardening here is judicial hardening and it is the last time that God hardens Pharaoh’s heart for it results in his destruction.

¹ John Calvin, *Calvin’s Commentaries Vol. II*, (Grand Rapids, MI.: BakerBooks, 2009), pg. 240

² Thomas Manton, *The Works of Thomas Manton Vol. XVII*, (Carlisle, PA.: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2020), pg. 196

Elenctic Use: Compatibalism

Here's the rub, how can Pharaoh be judged if God is the One hardening his heart? The simplest answer is from Puritan Thomas Manton, he says "Man hardens [his own heart], and then God [further] hardens [his heart]"³ as a just Judge by punishing him for his sin. But we know there is more to it than that. God isn't reactive. He ordains all things that ever take place.⁴ He is 100% sovereign over the will of man and yet man still chooses according to his own desire. Theologians have called this **compatibalism**. It's the idea that God determines and man determines, but not in the same way.⁵ The Westminster Confession of Faith (3.1) puts it like this:

"God, from all eternity, did, by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely, and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass...the liberty... of second causes [is not] taken away..."

Children, boys and girls you can understand very easily what secondary causes are. If you were to make macaroni and cheese, there are several 'causes' that helped make that meal. One cause would be the spoon to stir up all the ingredients. The spoon is an instrumental cause—it is the instrument that helps bring about that macaroni deliciousness. But the spoon isn't the same type of cause as you—the cook. You are the efficient cause—the main agent in making

³ Manton, pg. 221

⁴ Including Pharaoh's natural hard heart due to the fall, and Pharaoh's voluntary hard heart due to his own sin.

⁵ In compatibalism, we do not say that God's causing and man's causing are equal causes. God and man is not equal. God is creator. Man is creature. God's will is the first cause, man's will is the second cause. God's will is determinative. Man's will is dependent.

that meal. Both you and the spoon are acting, but in different ways. So it is with God and man. God is the *ultimate Causer* of all things, man is a *secondary cause*.

Higher than the Heavens

God caused Pharaoh to do everything God wanted *yet* Pharaoh mysteriously still did exactly what he wanted to do.⁶ If you want proof of this, look at v.5 “When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the mind of Pharaoh and his servants was changed toward the people, and they said, “*What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?*”” God sovereignly caused Pharaoh to choose to let Israel go (cf. 3:20–21; 11:2; 12:36) *and yet* Pharaoh claims it as his own choice: ‘what is this *we* have done?’⁷ Now if you are baffled by that—good—so am I. This whole exercise simply proves Job 11:7–9 “Can you solve the mysteries of God?...Such knowledge is higher than the heavens...deeper than the [Sheol]...It is broader than the earth and wider than the sea.”⁸

For my glory

Back to our narrative. Why did the LORD bait Pharaoh and then harden his heart to pursue Israel? Halfway through v.4, so that “I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, and the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD.” Glory is the word כָּבֹד *kābād*. Its a verb, it means to be made *heavy* to be made

⁶ We see an example of this in our salvation. The Holy Spirit takes out the heart of stone giving the sinner a heart of flesh, writes God’s law upon his heart, and at that moment the sinner, being previously acted upon by God the Holy Spirit, freely chooses to believe and love the Lord. God determined that the sinner would be His, and the sinner freely chose God as His portion.

⁷ God determined that when they saw these events—Israel turning back towards Egypt—that they would change their minds *and yet* they acted according to their own desires. No violence was offering to their wills. Yet God planned and determined this would be the exact course they would take.

⁸ NLT

weighty to be *honored*. So get this: God had Israel turn backwards towards danger; and then He hardened Pharaoh's heart so that he would pursue them for one reason: so all would see and feel the infinite weightiness of God's worth.

1st Principle: The supremacy of the glory of God

That brings us to our **first principle**: *The LORD's secret behind our salvation is to make His own glory known by all peoples*. God was not satisfied with *merely* saving Israel. If Israel is His chief concern and not His own glory, then God is an idolater.

Isaiah 48:11 "For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? *My glory I will not give to another.*"

Ezekiel 36:22 "Thus says the LORD God: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, *but for the sake of my holy name.*" Whenever God says that He does something "for the sake of His Name" it's the same thing as saying "for My own glory."

Psalms 106:8 "*Yet he saved them for his name's sake*, that he might make known his mighty power."

And this same theme resounds in the NT. Why did God send Jesus Christ to save us *ultimately*? Why did He forgive our sins *ultimately*? 1 John 2:12 "I am writing to you, little children, because *your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.*"

Informatory Use

Dear congregation, this is the difference between man-centered religion and God-centered religion.

- Man-centered religion is concerned mainly with man, how to be helpful to man, practical to man.
- God-centered religion is concerned with God, how to publish His Name to the nations, so that all peoples would glory, honor and praise Him.
- Man-centered religion is concerned with making man feel better, to raise man's self esteem.
- God-centered religion is concerned with teaching men to fear God, to please God, to order one's life around God and His Law Word.
- Man-centered religion is the fast tract to legalism, liberalism, compromise and joyless despair.
- God-centered religion is what gives men the power to sacrificially love their wives, raise their children in covenant nurture, serve the saints of God, defy tyrants, and be burned at the stake.

Experimental Use

Dear congregation, God leading Israel backwards is the most important lesson we can learn in this book. Our salvation isn't about us. It's about God. God sent Jesus Christ in the world to put Himself on display. This life is not about you. It's not about me. And God turns us backwards often times in our path so that we would remember that. Do you feel like you are going backwards? Are you wondering what God is doing in your life? He is doing whatever it takes to get the glory. And loved ones, that is what your heart needs more than anything else. You will never be satisfied in this age or the one to

come unless God is supremely honored. He hardwired into your heart. Your happiness depends upon the glory of God. “Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. ²⁶My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever” (Psalm 73:25-26). That’s our **first principle**: *The LORD’s secret behind our salvation is to make His own glory known by all peoples.*

II. A Strategic Fight

A castle, a demon and the sea

The end of v.4 tells us that Israel did what the LORD said, they turned back. They encamped in front of Pi-hahiroth (v.3) which means “mouth of the mountains.”⁹ This mouth was their entrance and it was the only exit. On their left and right flanks were Migdol, that Egyptian fortress city, *and* the impassible Red Sea. Behind them was a place called Baal-zephon. It was an Egyptian town which was regarded as the abode of Typhon—the evil demon of the Egyptians.¹⁰ At this point we don’t know what Israel was thinking, the text doesn’t tell us. We don’t know if Moses told Israel God’s plan from v.4. But we do know what Pharaoh is thinking. Halfway through v.3 he says to himself ‘They are wandering in the land; *the wilderness has shut them in.*’ Israel was surrounded by a castle, a demon and the sea, and there was only one exit.

⁹ Calvin, pg. 2239

¹⁰ “The idol at Baalzephon was the only one that remained unharmed when God sent the tenth plague upon Egypt, which not only brought death to men and animals, but also destroyed the idols. When Pharaoh overtook Israel at the sea, near Baal-zephon (Ex. xiv. 9), he said, “This idol is indeed mighty, and the God of Israel is powerless over him.” But God intentionally spared Baal-zephon in order to strengthen the infatuation of the wicked Pharaoh (Mek., Beshallah, 2; Bo, 13).” Source: www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/2257-baal-zephon Accessed September 30, 2023

‘What have we done?!’

In v.5 we find Pharaoh and his court assembled after the report had been brought to them. Halfway through the verse 5 we read “What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from *serving us?*” Israel had been their free labor ticket for 200 years. One author says here “Their replacement had to come from the ranks of native Egyptians. This would have greatly altered Egyptian life and weakened the place of Pharaoh.”¹¹ So Pharaoh and Egypt wanted Israel back. But the utter blindness of lost man seen here. Remember it wasn’t Egypt that voluntarily let Israel go. God struck them ten times. When their firstborn died they were so terrified of the Living God that they drove Israel out of the land. God extorted them with the fear of death. But all that is forgotten. Calvin says here “this is the stupidity of the wicked, that they only dread God’s present hand, and immediately forget all that they have seen...”¹²

The seed of the serpent

v.6 “So he made ready his chariot and took his army with him.” Pharaoh personally would accompany his army to meet Israel. He would either enslave them again or kill them. Lest we forget our Biblical Theology, this is the story of the Bible: the Seed of the Serpent is at enmity with the Seed of the Woman (Genesis 3:15). The Serpent beguiled Eve. Cain killed Abel. The Nephilim corrupted all but Noah’s family. Esau planned to murder Jacob. Saul, Goliath,

¹¹ Rousas John Rushdoony, *Commentaries on the Pentateuch: Exodus*, (Vallecito, CA.: Ross House Books, 2004), pg. 186

¹² But such is the pride by which the reprobate must be blinded, that they may be driven onwards to their own destruction, which they are persuaded that there is nothing difficult to them, and fight against God.” Calvin, pg. 241

Absalom all sought David's life. Apostate Jerusalem and Pagan Rome murdered Jesus. All the Bible is a footnote to Genesis 3:15. This is simply another iteration of the same.

Advanced war tech

v.7 He "...took six hundred chosen chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them." This was the advanced war technology of the day. 600 of the most advanced killing machines in ancient world, with trained swordsmen and archers riding them, plus all their older tech. Even though Israel had a great multitude, it was filled with woman and children. Pharaoh could mow them down like grass.

The trap is sprung

v.8-9 "And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the people of Israel while the people of Israel were going out defiantly. 9 The Egyptians pursued them, all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and his horsemen and his army, and overtook them encamped at the sea, by Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon." Now the trap is sprung. Israel is surrounded. They have a demon city on one side of them, a fortified city on the other, the Red Sea at their backs, and the most power army on earth in front to them. They had no where to go. All hope was lost. The dragon had them. And God planned it all. He commanded Moses to bring them here, *and* He hardened Pharaoh's heart so that he would pursue them. It was the LORD who orchestrated Israel's most desperate hour.

2nd Principle: the LORD always stacks the deck against Himself

That brings us to our **second principle**: *The LORD's strategy behind our salvation is to make His winning seem impossible.* God always stacks the deck against Himself. Children, boys and girls, to stack the deck is an expression that means to manipulate a deck of cards so that you always win. But God stacks the deck not for Himself, but for the enemy. He ordains circumstances so that the enemy is in a most favorable position, so that it looks impossible for God to win. This happens all over the Scripture.

Proof #1: Gideon's 300 men

God told Gideon his army of 22,000 was too big to fight the Midianites, so twice he forced him to dismiss soldiers. In the end, he was left with 300 men—not the brightest either—they were the ones who carelessly lapped water like dogs making their rear flank vulnerable to attack (Judges 7:1-8). God made it humanly impossible for Gideon to defeat the Midianites.

Proof #2: Lazarus's resurrection

Jesus didn't wait 4 minutes, or 4 hours, but 4 days until after Lazarus was dead—when his body started to stink with putrefaction. Everyone, included Martha and Mary believed there was zero hope of reviving Lazarus (John 11:1-37). God made it humanly impossible for Lazarus to be made alive again.

Proof #3: Elijah's altar

Elijah understood that God stacked the deck against Himself. He commanded the altar to have water poured on top the sacrifice three times so that even the trench surrounding the altar was filled with water (1 Kings 18:30-38). There was no way that a fire could be lit. He made it humanly impossible for the fire from Heaven to do it's work.

Experimental Use

Dear congregation, this is God's strategy. Do you recognize it? Are you in a hopeless circumstance? Are you in a predicament with no possible solution?

If you have not come to saving faith in Christ Jesus, you definitely are. There is no possible solution to your sin problem except Christ alone. The Scripture says "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12) Your sins can be forgiven today, if you trust in Jesus Christ. "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9)

But for those of you already belong to Christ, you will still continue to find yourself in seemingly hopeless circumstances. This is precisely where Israel found herself. And she was exactly where God wanted her to be. You are exactly where God wants you to be whenever you are in a trial with no solution, with despair on every side. It is not an accident. It is Divine design. And right here, you ask, "But why? Why does God do it like this? Why does He make my trials so severe?"

Consolatory Use

Five years ago, my oldest son Josiah almost died in the hospital. He had a internal staff infection and was septic. He was in the hospital for 10 days. He was in so much pain, and asked me in a moment of despair with tears in his eyes "Dad...why is this happening to me?"¹³ Many of you are in moments like that

¹³ cf. sermon on February 11th, 2018 "The Person Of Jesus: His 'I AM' Statements (John 20:30-31)

right now. If not, just wait. I don't think any of us escape that question "God why is this happening to me?" That trial shaped Josiah's heart. He found himself in a predicament that he couldn't solve. And God taught him things in *his heart* that he wouldn't have learned otherwise. What did God teach him?

The all-sufficiency of His Savior.¹⁴ The Savior really is enough.

Beloved when it seems impossible for deliverance to come, know God is at work. Impossibility is His main strategy. It is His fingerprints. He wants to teach you something that you can't learn from good times. He wants to teach you that He is sufficient—that "God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19). He wants to teach you that "God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it" (1 Corinthians 10:13). He wants to teach you that He "is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20). That's our **second principle**: *The LORD's strategy behind our salvation is to make His winning seem impossible.*

III.A Solitary Fight

Israel's rebellion

How did Israel respond to these impossible odds? Look at v.10 "When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the

¹⁴ Source: <https://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/sdg/pink/Gleanings%20In%20Exodus%20-%20Arthur%20W.%20Pink.pdf> pg. 194-195, Accessed September 30, 2023.

Egyptians were marching after them, and *they feared greatly*.¹⁵ Stop. They were waking not by faith, but by sight. They forgot everything God did in that one moment. They didn't remember the 10 plagues. They didn't remember the covenant promises. They didn't remember Joseph's bones. They didn't remember what Moses had told them. End of v.10 "And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD." The substance of this cry is seen in what they say to Moses.¹⁶

Accusing the LORD¹⁷

Look at v.11 "They said to Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt?" Clearly there were enough graves in Egypt to bury all Israel—the Egyptians were digging them as they left. This was accusation. They were calling Moses a fool of a man who has led them to their death. This was rebellion. Psalm 106:7 says "Our fathers...did not remember the abundance of your steadfast love, *but rebelled by the sea*, at the Red Sea." And they piled on more.

The psychology of slavery

Look at v.12 "Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." One author called this *the psychology of slavery*. Israel didn't just suffer physical slavery, she had been psychologically

¹⁵ Fear is an inescapable concept, not whether we will fear, but who will we fear. Will we fear the Lord or will we fear man? Carnal terror always come when we 'judge the world by feeble sense.' God tells us "do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. But the LORD of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread" (Isaiah 8:12-13)

¹⁶ Rushdoony, pg. 186

¹⁷ Clearly their accusation against Moses was an accusation against the LORD since it was He who rescued them out of Egypt, not Moses.

enslaved. The irony is that Israel hated her slavery (the physical part) but loved her slavery (the psychological part) at the same time. It is insane. It's like the woman who is getting beat up by her abusive boyfriend when another man steps into protect her, only the woman turns and attacks him. She hates getting beat, but protects her abuser. Israel preferred Pharaoh. Though her physical slavery was miserable (Exodus 2:23), she preferred life in Egypt to a life of faith in Yahweh.

The three commands

Shockingly, Moses ignores this wicked rebellion. Look how he responds. v.13 “And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again.”” Three commands. 1) “*Fear not*”—don’t be afraid. 2) “*Stand firm*”—stand quiet and passive. 3) “*See the salvation of the LORD*”—watch what God will do. Note: Moses calls this *salvation*. The death of Pharaoh and his army¹⁸ is a necessary part of their salvation. Being delivered out of Egypt by the Passover Lamb was the **first part** of their salvation (their atonement), the death of Pharaoh (the destruction of their enemies) was the **second part**. Both must be present otherwise there is no salvation.¹⁹

LORD of the solas

And then Moses says these words “The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.” The critical idea here is not that God *fights*, but that He does it *alone* without the help of Israel. God is the only one in this story who

¹⁸ “For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again.”

¹⁹ Otherwise the offices of Christ—Prophet, Priest, and King—are severed from each other. See Shorter Catechism Q.24-26

wants and works for Israel's salvation. Pharaoh wants them back as slaves or dead. Israel wants Pharaoh over Yahweh. God alone wants and is working for Israel's salvation.

3rd Principle: Salvation is Sola Gratia

That brings us to our **third principle**: *The LORD alone works our salvation, man is no help at all.*

Informatory Use

It's Reformation Month. Martin Luther wrote a book "The Bondage of the Will" and said in that book that the principle controversy between Rome and the Reformers is the issue of the will of man *and* the grace of God. Luther contended that man's will is in bondage to sin and it cannot, indeed it will not ever come to saving faith in Jesus Christ. We are just like the Israelites, our slavery to sin is *psychological*: we both love and hate our sin. We are the woman getting beat by her drunk boyfriend, and whenever the LORD steps in to protect us, we turn on Him and attack Him. We are those who say to the LORD "Leave me alone that I may serve the Egyptians." Man does not want God.²⁰ God did not send His Son into a world where mankind open embraced Him.

- John 1:11 "He came to his own, and his own people *did not receive him*."
- John 3:31-32 "He who comes from heaven is above all...yet *no one receives his testimony*."

²⁰ Just like Israel, we were hostile to God's plan to save us. Romans 8:7 "For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot." Just like Israel we loved our slavery to sin. John 3:19 "And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil."

- Luke 19:14 “But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘*We do not want this man to reign over us.*’”
- Acts 7:51 “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, *you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you.*”

Dear congregation, we are Israel by the Red Sea. We didn’t fight for our salvation. We fought to stay in our slavery.

Celebratory Use

But what did God do? He fought *for us*. “The LORD will fight *for you*...” While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.²¹ While we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son.²² The LORD fought *for us*. That “for us” bit is the language of substitution. The battle between David and Goliath was a battle of substitutes. David fought *for Israel, on Israel’s behalf, in Israel’s stead*, while Goliath fought *for the Philistines*. Here Israel had to fight Egypt. But Lord took her place and fought *for her*. Dearest congregation. The Lord Jesus already fought *for you*.

- You belonged to Satan, *but Jesus fought for you* by canceling the record of debt that stood against you, by nailing it to the cross.²³

²¹ Romans 5:8

²² Romans 5:10

²³ Colossians 2:14

- You belonged sin, you hated God, *but Jesus fought for you* by washing you with regeneration and the renewal of the Holy Spirit.
- You belonged to death, *but Jesus fought for you* and when He was raised from the dead on the third day, you rose with Him.

What did you do to save your self? Nothing. What did you contribute? Every form of resistance. You came into the Kingdom kicking and screaming. The LORD fought for you.

Hortatory Use

So then what is our charge? What do we do with this? v.13 “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD...” end of v.14 “...you have only to be silent.” This is actually a most difficult charge when you are trapped up against the Red Sea and with no human solution. How can you be still and know that God is God when you are in the most desperate situation of your life? Children, boys and girls, it would be a bit like me putting an apple on your head and having you stand at the back of the sanctuary and saying “be still while I shoot that apple with my gun.” Would you be still? To be still when all looks hopeless is only possible when you remember *the LORD has already fought for you*. He already defeated Satan for you. He already defeated your sin. He already conquered death by His resurrection. Fear not, stand firm, see the salvation of the LORD. Yes there are more trials coming, but Christ will overcome those impossible odds as well for His glory and your joy. Jesus Christ really is the all-sufficient God. “The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.”