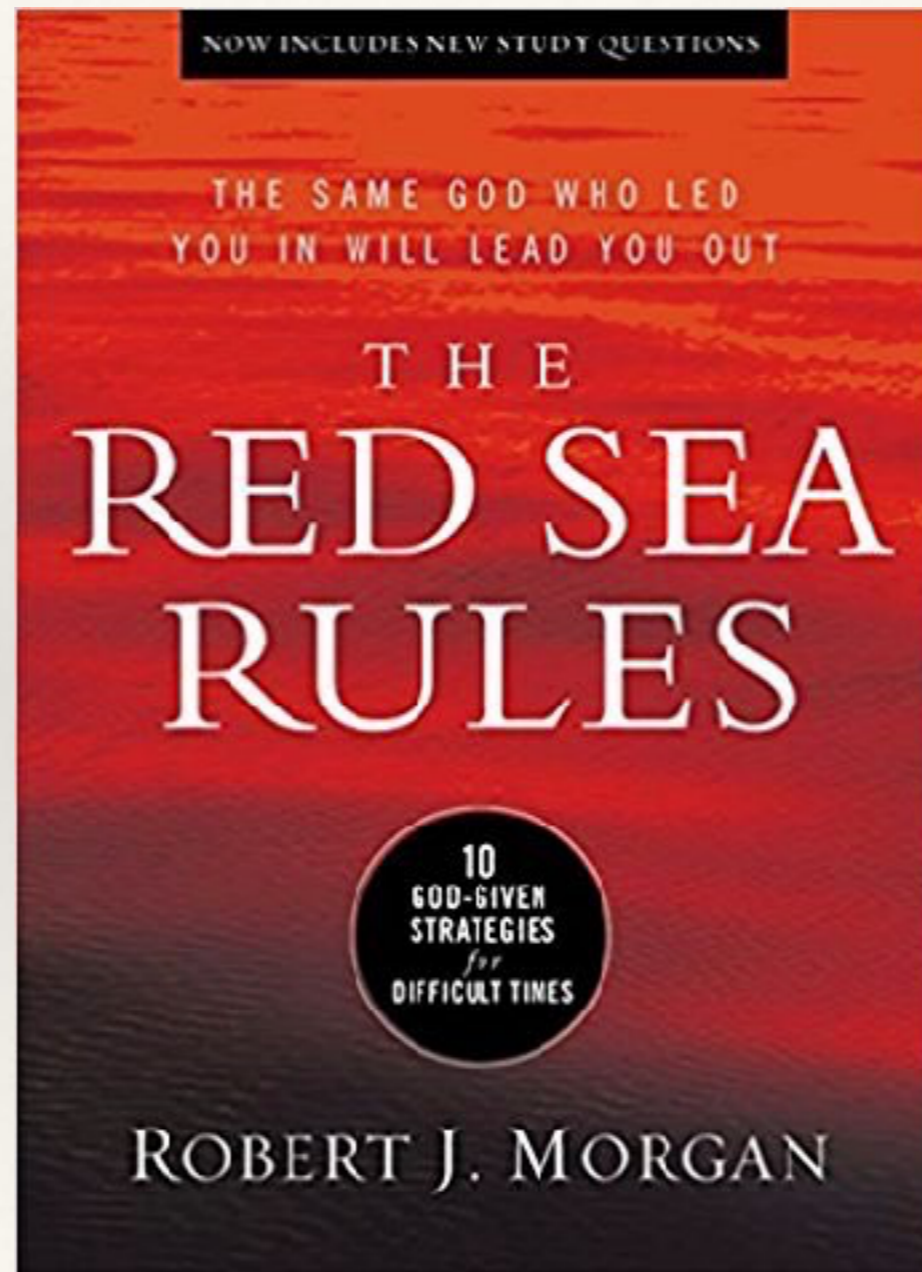


Red Sea Rules



Introduction

- Exodus 14 records the story of the waters being parted so the children of Israel could escape Pharaoh's army.
- Asap later records his thoughts in Psalm 77 - "You made a way through the sea and paths through the deep waters but your footprints were not seen."
- Robert Morgan found answers to his problems in this story as these ten rules for his life unfolded.



Introduction



Rule # 1

Realize that God means
you to be where you are.

Rule # 1

- It is easy to fall into a world of worry, especially when you find yourself in a cul-de-sac.
- John R. Rice - “Worry is putting question marks where God has put periods.”
- Bishop Fulton J. Sheen called worry “a form of atheism, for it betrays a lack of faith and trust in God.”
- God deliberately led the Israelites into a cul-de-sac between hostile hills and the edge of the sea.

Rule # 1

- “Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you” (1 Peter 4:12).
- “In the world you will have tribulation” (John 16:33).
- Then He added, “But be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”
- The first step toward “parted waters” is to frequently remind ourselves that the Lord put us there.

Rule # 1

- What if it's my fault?
- Our problems often result from sheer selfishness or stupidity. What then?
- Serious and sincere repentance routes us back into God's will. Confession is a shortcut from the wayward path back to the straight and narrow road of Christ.
- "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good" (Genesis 50:20).

Rule #2

Be more concerned for
God's glory than for your relief.

Rule #2

- We should be asking the right question.
- Our natural instinct is to ask: “How did I get into this mess, and how can I get out?” or “How quickly can I solve this problem?”
- These may be the wrong questions.
- Instead we might want to ask: “How can God be glorified in this situation?”

Rule #2

- Song: “In some way or other the Lord will provide. It might now be my way. It might not be thy way. And yet in His own way, the Lord will provide.”
- 1 Corinthians 10:13 - reminds us that “God is faithful” and that He “will also make the way of escape.”
- “Many are the afflictions of the righteous, wrote David in Psalm 34:19, “but the Lord delivers him out of them all.”

Rule #3

*Acknowledge your enemy,
but keep your eyes on the Lord.*

Rule #3

- Have you ever felt pursued? Oppressed? Sensed the devil nipping at your heels?
- “The people who know their God will be strong and will resist him” (Daniel 11:32).
- “Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you” (James 4:7-8).
- “Resist him, steadfast in the faith” (1 Peter 5:9).

Rule #3

- When Paul encountered people trying to hinder his ministry, he saw the hand of Satan (Acts 13:10).
- When he looked out over an unsafe audience, he blamed Satan for their lostness (Acts 26:18).
- When Paul encountered troublemakers in the church, he discerned the crafty hand of Satan (Romans 16:17-20).
- At one point, when they wanted to come to others he says Satan hindered us (1 Thessalonians 2:18).

Rule #4

Pray!

Rule #4

- Some situations offer one of two options: panic or pray.
- Cameron Thompson, *Master Secrets of Prayer* - “There comes a time, in spite of our soft, modern ways, when we must be desperate in prayer, when we must wrestle, when we must be outspoken, shameless and importunate. Many of the prayers recorded in Scripture are ‘cries,’ and the Hebrew and Greek words are very strong.”

Rule #4

- The Israelites' prayer was united, and it was also earnest. It wasn't a religious ritual.
- They were panicked, and their outburst of prayer was real and raw.
- "Jairus begged Him *earnestly* saying, 'My daughter lies at the point of death.'"
- "Elijah prayed *earnestly* that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months."

Rule #5

Stay calm and confident, and give
God time to work.

Rule #5

- One day when he was worried about something he found four words in his Bible: *leave room for God*.
- When someone harms us we shouldn't try to get even, but should leave room for God's wrath.
- Moses told the Israelites: "Fear not; stand still (firm, confident) and see the salvation of the lord which He will work for you today."

Rule #5

- The phrases “fear not” and “do not be afraid” occur 107 times in the Old Testament and 42 times in the New Testament.
- Maturity is the ability to keep one’s passions under control. We are to walk by faith and not by feelings.
- The Israelites had good reasons to be afraid, but they had even better reasons for remaining confident.

Rule #5

- “Do not be terrified. The Lord God, who goes before you. He will fight for you” (Deut. 1:29-31).
- “Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them, for the Lord your God. He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you” (Deut. 31:6).
- “If God is for us, who can be against us? . . . we are more than conquerors” (Romans 8:31,37).

Rule #6

When unsure, just take the next
logical step by faith.

Rule #6

- On the despairing shores of the Red Sea, the Israelites couldn't see what was in the distance (Canaan).
- Some commentators believe that the Red Sea did not open all at once but opened progressively.
- Commentator: "God never give guidance for two steps at a time. I must take one step, and then I get light for the next. This keeps the heart in abiding dependence upon God."

Rule #6

- Day by day: “The pillar of cloud led them day by day” (Nehemiah 9:19).
- “Day by day the Lord also pours out His steadfast love” (Psalm 42:8).
- “Your strength shall be renewed day by day like morning dew” (Psalm 110:3).
- “Blessed day by day be the Lord, who bears our burdens” (Psalm 68:20).

Rule #6

- Step by step - Dale Carnegie starts his book, *How to Stop Worrying and Start Living* by describing William Osler.
- “Our main business is not to see what lies dimly at a distance, but to do what lies clearly at hand.”
- “So don’t be anxious about tomorrow. God will take care of your tomorrow too. Live one day at a time” (Matthew 6:34, TLB).

Rule #6

- Moment by moment: hymn

Never a trial that He is not there.

Never a burden that He does not bear.

Never a sorrow that He does not share.

Moment by moment, we're under His care.

Rule #7

Envision God's
enveloping presence.

Rule #7

- “The Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them” (Exodus 14).
- Isaiah explained that “The Angel of Presence” saved the Israelites (Isaiah 63:9).
- Who is this angel? It is a theophany - an appearance of Jesus in the Old Testament, who manifests the Father’s presence (John 1:18).
- In other words, Jesus was there with the Israelites.

Rule #7

- Psalm 125:2 - “As the mountains surround Jerusalem, So the Lord surrounds His people. From this time forth and forever.”
- God surrounds His people with favor “as with a shield” (Psalm 5:12).
- God surrounds His people with “songs of deliverance” and mercy (Psalm 32:7, 10).

Rule #7

- Practice the presence of God:
 - Affirm His nearness in your heart (Psalm 139).
 - Visualize God's presence in your mind.
 - Access God's nearness through prayer (James 4:8).
 - Reflect His presence in your demeanor.

Rule #8

Trust God to deliver
in His own unique way.

Rule #8

- The parting of the Red Sea was one of God's greatest miracles and done in His own unique way.
- "The Lord your God walks in the midst of your camp, to deliver you" (Deut. 23:14).
- "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all (Psalm 34:19).
- "The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations" (2 Peter 2:9).

Rule #8

- Modern day miracles (Cuba-Bibles, mushrooms).
- His providential ways - God more often helps His people through providence rather than miracles.
- His mysterious ways - William Cowper: “God moves in mysterious ways His wonder to perform. He plants His footsteps on the sea, and rides upon the storm.”

Rule #9

*View your current crisis as a
faith builder for the future.*

Rule #9

- We don't always know why God allows problems, but we know He intends to use them to heighten our maturity and deepen our faith. Trials and troubles are dumbbells and treadmills for the soul.
- Faith has a cumulative quality to it.
- Warren Wiersbe: "A faith that can't be tested can't be trusted."

Rule #9

- Look what Jesus said about faith to various people:
 - “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel” (Matthew 8:10).
 - “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire” (Matthew 15:28).
 - “O you of little faith?” (Matthew 8:26).

Rule #9

- God intends to develop us spiritually. How?
 - Like a teacher - bestows truth then devises tests.
 - Like a coach - explains the rules, scrimmages.
- The Bible is full of promises. Thomas Watson: “Faith lives in a promise, as the fish live in the water.”
- J. I. Packer: Promises are the “God-given basis for all our life of faith” and they “strengthen one’s faith.”

Rule #10

Don't forget to
praise Him.

Rule # 10

- After the Red Sea miracle came praise. The first recorded song in Scripture is in Exodus 15.
- In the history of the Christian church, some of our greatest hymns have come in the darkest moments.
- In prayers, we need to develop a perspective of praise.
- Whether you are on the upper side or the underside of the storm, or the east bank or the west bank of the Red Sea, God will make a way.

NOW INCLUDES NEW STUDY QUESTIONS

THE SAME GOD WHO LED
YOU IN WILL LEAD YOU OUT

THE
RED SEA
RULES

10
GOD-GIVEN
STRATEGIES
for
DIFFICULT TIMES

ROBERT J. MORGAN

August 9 - 1:00 pm

