

EXODUS 12:29-14:22

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Exodus chapter 12 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

In our last study, prior to the start of the tenth and last plague upon Pharaoh and the Egyptian people, God gave instructions to Moses on what they were to do to be saved from this judgment.

Each family was to take a lamb and slaughter the lamb, placing the blood on the lintel or the top of the door frame and also on the two doorposts. By doing this, by the shedding of the blood of the innocent, it was to protect the guilty as the angel of death came through the land of Egypt.

If there was no blood on the door, then the angel of death would kill the firstborn of each family and of the animals as well.

And this was to be a memorial for the children of Israel and this feast would be called – ***PASSOVER!***

Now that the instructions have been given, God is going to pour out upon the land this tenth and final plague so that Pharaoh will let the children of Israel go.

With that as our background, let's begin reading in Exodus chapter 12, beginning in verse 29, and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

EXODUS 12**VERSES 29-30**

Remember that God told Moses that Pharaoh's heart would be hard, and he would not let the children of Israel go free until he was forced to do so, not until his firstborn and in reality, the firstborn in all of Egypt who did not apply the blood of the lamb on their doorpost, died!

(Exodus 3:19-20, Exodus 4:21-23)

We see this spoken of here in Exodus 12:29. And the point that is being made is that no one was going to escape this judgment of God. It didn't matter if you were Pharaoh over the land or the lowest criminal in the dungeon. If you were the firstborn and you did not apply the blood of the lamb upon the door of your home, you were going to die! You see, God is not a respecter of persons!

Now that is going to take place.

Is there evidence for this judgment?

I believe so.

Pharaoh Neferhotep I, from the 13th dynasty, had a son by the name of Wahneferhotep.

What is significant here is his son never succeeded his father on the throne but the brother of Neferhotep I, Sobekhotep IV did.

What happened to the son of Neferhotep I, his firstborn?

He died in this judgment.

What happened to Neferhotep?

He drowned in the Red Sea as we will see as we move on in Exodus!

As the Lord said, there was a great cry arising out of Egypt with the death of the firstborn, all because Pharaoh refused to bow the knee to the Lord and let God's people go!

Remember in Exodus 5:2, Pharaoh asked, "**... 'Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go.'**"

Now he knows!

VERSES 31-36

At this point, Pharaoh knows that he is going to have to let the children of Israel go. In fact, Pharaoh is now commanding the children of Israel to get out of town and don't come back!

That is what we were told in Exodus 11:1 would take place, "**And the Lord said to Moses, 'I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will surely drive you out of here altogether.'**"

Also, Pharaoh wanted the blessings of God without knowing God and that doesn't work.

Yes, God does make the rain fall on the just and the unjust, but the Lord truly blesses His children, those who have given their life to Him and are walking by faith. Pharaoh was not doing that!

How can I be so sure that Pharaoh didn't come to know the Lord?

Because, as we will see, after he let them go, he is going to come after them to bring them back to Egypt.

And notice what the last part of Exodus 12:36 says, "**... Thus they plundered the Egyptians.**"

As I have said in our previous studies, I believe all these articles of silver, gold, clothing and the like are just payment for those 400 years of slavery that the Egyptians had them under.

Think about that one. They were slaves and yet, the people gave them all these things! God said that would happen in Exodus 3:21-22, and now we see it come to pass!

Now, do we have any evidence for these judgments that came upon Egypt? They are pretty devastating.

Just listen to this document and you will see that it sounds like the Biblical account of these judgments that many feel was written during this period of time.

This is what we are told,

Nay, but the heart is violent. Plague stalks through the land and blood is everywhere. . . . Nay, but the river is blood. Does a man drink from it? As a human he rejects it. He thirsts for water. . . . Nay, but gates, columns and walls are consumed with fire. . . . Nay but men are few. He that lays his brother in the ground is everywhere. . . . Nay but the son of the high-born man is no longer to be recognized. . . . The stranger people from outside are come into Egypt. . . . Nay, but corn has perished everywhere. People are stripped of clothing, perfume, and oil. Everyone says "there is no more." The storehouse is bare. . . . It has come to this. The king has been taken away by poor men. – Ipuwer Papyrus, Leiden Museum.

- John Ashton & David Down, Unwrapping the Pharaohs, p. 102

VERSES 37-39

As they gathered together at Succoth, there were some 600,000 men plus women, children.

That means that with the children of Israel alone, there could have anywhere from 2 to 3 million people in the Exodus!

Who else traveled with them?

We are told, “**A mixed multitude went up with them also . . .**” Exodus 12:38.

Now some include the mixed multitude with the 600,000 men, but I don’t think that is correct. Notice that they “**also**” came up with the children of Israel.

That tells me that the numbers who left Egypt could have been over 4 million people!

How do I know that large numbers of this mixed multitude left Egypt.

It is as Cole explains, “*The Hebrew says ‘swarm’, from the same root as that used in 8:21 to describe the plague of gadflies.*”

And, as we will see, this mixed multitude will be a stumbling block for the children of Israel.

I don’t believe that they were believers, but they saw the power of God and they just wanted to tag along. Or as Paul said in II Timothy 3:5, “**having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!**”

But they went with the children of Israel and after they left Egypt, they were the ones who started to complain and once that happens, everyone joins in, even the children of Israel! And it will start a series of murmuring and complaining in their wilderness travels!

So here is this large exodus from Egypt, is there evidence of a departure of slaves from Egypt? With this many leaving there must be something, and I believe there is.

We are told,

Dr. David’s book provided a revealing observation in chapter 8 entitled “Last years at Kahun.”

She wrote, “It is evident that the completion of the king’s pyramid was not the reason why Kahun’s inhabitants eventually deserted the town, abandoning their tools and other possessions in the shops and houses.”

She goes on to observe: “The quantity, range, and type of articles of everyday use which were left behind in the houses may suggest that the departure was sudden and unpremeditated.

Jewish people all over the world still celebrate the Passover service which commemorates the sudden departure of their forefathers from Egypt. This seems to be the only logical explanation for this strange archaeological evidence.

What a strange type of termination to national slavery. It seems most unlikely that slaves could suddenly pack up and leave en masse, yet this appears to be what happened.

The only feasible explanation seems to be in the Hebrew record which says that Pharaoh “called for Moses and Aaron by night and said, ‘Rise and go out from among my people, both you and the children of Israel, and go serve the LORD as you have said.’ . . . And the Egyptians urged the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste” (Exod. 12:31-33).

The Israelites needed no second bidding. . . .

- John Ashton & David Down, Unwrapping the Pharaohs, p. 100

VERSES 40-42

What is interesting here is that this Exodus from Egypt began and ended on very same calendar day as their 430th anniversary of Israel’s time down in Egypt! God made a promise to the children of Israel and here we see it come to pass!

Again, we read things like this, and we don’t think much of it. But God delivered His people out of their bondage in Egypt and He wants them to remember this deliverance! This was and is a big deal.

In fact, the phrase “**out of Egypt**” is spoken of some 57 times after this event. You see, God wanted people to remember His deliverance of Israel out from Egypt.

And the Lord wants us to remember our deliverance from our bondage of sin through the shed blood of the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world.

What is the remembrance for this?

For them it was Passover! For us, it is communion!

VERSES 43-49

Notice what the Lord is saying here.

No foreigner could partake of the Passover meal, no one outside the covenant. But, if you were a Gentile, you could become a proselyte to Judaism, be circumcised and thus, you would become one of God’s covenant people and you could observe Passover. (Exodus 12:48)

What is interesting here is that this Passover meal, under the Old Covenant, and the Lord’s Supper, under the New Covenant are the same in principle!

What do I mean by that?

If you are an unbeliever, you were not to partake in communion because it is limited to those who are the covenant people of God.

Also, don’t miss the point about the Passover lamb not having any of its bones broken because it points to the Lamb of God who has come to take away the sins of the world, it points to Jesus!

In Psalm 22:16-17 we are told, “**For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me.**”

And on your own, read over this Psalm because it describes Jesus as He hung on the cross of Calvary several hundred years before it took place!

Also, in Psalm 34:20 we are told, **“He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken.”**

And we see this fulfilled in Jesus, in John 19:31-36, **“Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, ‘Not one of His bones shall be broken.’”**

VERSES 50-51

After 430 years God birthed the nation of Israel! But keep in mind it was after the judgments of God that the nation was birthed. After they went through tribulation for 400 years as slaves.

Does that sound familiar?

It should!

The church has been in existence for almost 2,000 years now and there has been much tribulation that the church has faced during that time.

The next big event on God's prophetic time clock is the 7-year Tribulation Period where God will pour out His wrath on a Christ rejecting world, His judgment!

And it is out of this 7-year Tribulation Period that the Kingdom Age will be birthed, and Jesus Christ returns to this earth to set up His kingdom and rule and reign for 1,000 years!

As we close this chapter, think about this for a minute. The Lord delivered Israel out of Egypt in one night. But then it took forty years to deliver Egypt out of them.

EXODUS 13

VERSES 1-2

The firstborn was to be dedicated or consecrated to the Lord and I think the idea here was this.

For man, and we will see this as we move on in our study through the Bible, they were not to literally sacrifice the firstborn, but that firstborn was redeemed, dedicated to the Lord.

You see, God spared the firstborn of Israel through the blood of the lamb, they were redeemed. And now He is claiming the firstborn for Himself.

Once again we see this picture in our own lives as we are saved, redeemed through the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. He is our Passover!

And now we are under new management you might say. We belong to the Lord and He now claims ownership of our lives.

We see this played out for us as Paul wrote in I Corinthians 6:19-20, "**Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.**"

VERSES 3-7

The Feast of Passover, which began on the 14th of Nisan, speaks of salvation and deliverance.

Jesus is our Passover Lamb, and it is only through Him that we find salvation; it is only through Him that we have deliverance from the bondage of sin!

Then, on the 15th of Nisan and running for seven days was the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which speaks of our purity, our sanctification.

Keep in mind that leaven in the Scriptures speaks of sin and thus, unleavened bread speaks of purity.

Thus, as we come to Christ we need to walk in holiness.

Paul put it like this in I Corinthians 5:7-8, **“Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”**

After we have been delivered by the blood of the Lamb, shed upon the cross of Calvary for our sins, we are to walk in purity. And the reality is, it is only after we have been saved that we can! And once again this sanctification process begins the moment we get saved and it ends when we go to be with the Lord!

One more point that will be instituted later on, another Feast that God will add to these other two, Passover and Unleavened Bread, and that is the Feast of Firstfruits.

You see, on the Sunday following the Feast of Unleavened Bread is the Feast of Firstfruits as they would give to the Lord the firstfruits from their harvest.

For us today, Paul tells us in I Corinthians 15:23, **“But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming.”**

It speaks of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and because Christ rose from the grave we too will be raised in glory, a picture of the harvest to come!

VERSES 8-10

God wanted them to remember their deliverance from Egypt by His mighty hand and to pass this on to future generations.

Now here in Exodus 13:9 is something that is interesting to me.

It says, **“It shall be as a sign to you on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the Lord’s law may be in your mouth; for with a strong hand the Lord has brought you out of Egypt.”**

Because of what is said here, not what God meant, the Jews developed these phylacteries, or small boxes tied to the forehead or the hand by a leather strap and in these boxes were strips of parchment containing these four Scriptures: Exodus 13:1-10; Exodus 13:11-16; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; and Deuteronomy 11:13-21.

By doing this they believed, and the Orthodox Jew still believes they are obeying the Words of the Lord that are spoken of here.

In Matthew 23:5 Jesus rebukes the religious leaders of His day. He said, **“But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments.”**

In other words, the bigger the boxes the more spiritual they thought they were and that is not true.

Then what is being spoken of here in Exodus?

I believe the Lord is saying that your hands, the work that you do, should reflect the salvation that has come into your life and others should take notice.

Between your eyes I think speaks of them looking at people, remembering the salvation that God has brought to them so that they can share it with others.

And, of course, they didn't put a phylactery over their mouth, but the idea here is to speak forth the salvation that God has brought into your life.

How can we apply this to our lives today?

As Christians, it is not the Christian tee shirts we wear, or the Christian bumper stickers we have on our cars, or even the Bible we carry with us, which can all become phylacteries in our lives.

It truly is working with our hands, seeing others in need of Jesus and sharing our faith, just as the Lord instructed the children of Israel to do – ***PASS IT ON!***

VERSES 11-16

Here we have a few more details of what they were to do regarding the law of the firstborn when they entered the land.

The clean animals, the firstborn was to be given to the Lord.

Of the unclean animals, like the donkey, either its neck was broken or a substitute, a lamb would be sacrificed instead.

The donkey is a picture of unsaved man, of you and me. We are stubborn creatures, and we are defiled by sin.

And like the donkey, we are redeemed by the blood of the Lamb of God!

Now for the firstborn of the children of Israel, they were not to sacrifice them, but they were to redeem them.

How was this done?

Some feel it was by the sacrifice of a lamb as they see it spoken of here in Exodus 13:13.

Others feel that their firstborn sons were redeemed by money, five shekels according to Numbers 18:14-18. This seems to be the practice as we are told,

Originally God intended for all Jewish first-born sons to serve Him in the Temple.

They were inducted into service when God spared them from the Plague of the Firstborn in Egypt. However, after the Sin of the Golden Calf, the first-borns lost their status.

The Tribe of Levi did not participate in the Sin of the Golden Calf, and so they replaced the first-borns to work in the Holy Temple, with the sons of Aaron being the priestly class.

When a Jewish woman gives birth to her first-born son, the father is obligated to redeem the child from a kohen, a priest.

They perform a ceremony called the Pidyon Haben, the Redemption of the Son. The father “buys” his son from the priest to redeem him.

As it says in Numbers 18:16, “And their redemption-money—from a month old shalt thou redeem them—shall be, according to thy valuation, five shekels of silver, after the shekel of the sanctuary—the same is twenty gerahs.”

- <http://bit.ly/3HOD82y>

So that does seem to be the practice, the firstborn was redeemed with five shekels!

VERSES 17-18

We don't know how long Pharaoh waited before he decided to go after his slaves and bring them back to Egypt. I'm sure Pharaoh, along with his people were mourning their dead and burying them. Maybe he thought they would only go out on a three day journey and they are not returning, they are moving farther away.

It could have been three days or more before he decided to go and get them, we don't know for sure.

Now the quickest way into the Promise Land was the coastal route known as "*the way of Horus.*"

It would have only taken them some ten days to get into the Promise Land by taking this route, but there was a problem.

Along this route were Egyptian military outposts and they could not fight against them.

Besides these Egyptian military outposts this is where the Philistines lived, along the coast. And they would have come and destroyed the children of Israel.

So God sent them a longer way.

And here we see the Red Sea mentioned and many people feel this is the area north of the modern-day Gulf of Suez.

I tend to think this is wrong and when we get to chapter 14 of Exodus, I will show you why.

But for now, keep in mind that they went "**out of the land of Egypt.**" This area was still in the land of Egypt, so they could not have crossed in this area. In fact, here is a quote from "*Life in Ancient Egypt*" by Adolf Erman (28, 537).

This is what we are told,

The isthmus of Suez was of the greatest consequence also from a military point of view - it was doubtless fortified in very early times. Probably here stood the great fortress of T'aru, often spoken of as the starting-point for the expeditions into Syria. . .

The line of fortifications which was intended to keep back these Bedouins of the Delta, is met with as early as the Middle Empire, and is still standing. It consists of a wall strengthened by small towers. . . . this formed an obstruction which the slaves who tried to escape from Egypt, and Bedouins who wanted to pasture their cattle on the fields of the Delta, found difficult to pass.

At this time we also meet with a defensive work of another kind, namely a broad canal, which presumably connected the lakes of the isthmus together. At the point where a bridge crossed this canal were strong fortresses on both sides. . . . The great fortress which defended this bridge was the fortress of T'aru', which is so often mentioned as the starting point of the military expeditions.

- Adolf Erman, Life in Ancient Egypt, (28, 537)

So I don't believe the traditional sight is correct, it doesn't seem to fit the Biblical text.

And we will look at this a little closer as we move on in our study.

VERSE 19

In Genesis 50:25-26 we are told, **“Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, ‘God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here.’ So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.”**

Now, over 400 years later, his bones were brought out of Egypt and in Joshua 24:32 we are told, **“The bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel had brought up out of Egypt, they buried at Shechem, in the plot of ground which Jacob had bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for one hundred pieces of silver, and which had become an inheritance of the children of Joseph.”**

That is amazing to me. All those generations had passed by, and they still remembered to gather the bones of Joseph and bring these bones with them into the Promise Land!

Now here’s the thing. Joseph’s body was not buried but placed in a coffin above ground and for those 400 years or so they could see a silent witness of faith speaking from the grave to them.

What was this witness?

That God would one day bring them out of Egypt and when it came to pass, they took the bones of Joseph with them!

VERSES 20-22

Here they are, camped in Etham, which means, ***“with them”*** and that is what we see here.

What do I mean by that?

I mean this pillar of cloud by day and this pillar of fire by night, the Shekinah glory or the very presence of God!

You see, the Shekinah glory is with them, the Lord is leading them, guiding them, shielding them by a cloud by day and a fire lighting their path at night and keeping them warm.

And as you read this it would seem that the children of Israel did not rest much, they were on the move, even at night, which could explain the distance they traveled, as we shall see.

Why were they in such a hurry?

Maybe to put distance between them and Egypt but maybe to get to Mount Sinai, the mountain of God as Moses was instructed to do.

What I want you to also see is that He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people.

What that did was it gave Israel great assurance from this visible evidence of God's presence.

But even with this, there were many, many times that they seemed to doubt the Lord, rebel against Him, to see God as being distant and not part of their lives.

Now, before we are too harsh on them, we do that as well. We have seen God in our lives and yet, we doubt the Lord, we may even rebel against Him or see Him as being distant and not part of our lives.

He is for us, just as He is for the children of Israel.

EXODUS 14**VERSES 1-4**

Keep in mind that most of these place names have never been located and the reason they are even on maps is because of traditions that have been passed on. Many began in the fourth century A. D.

What we do know from the Scriptures is that they started their journey in Succoth, then they traveled not through the Red Sea yet, but they traveled through by the “**way of the wilderness of the Red Sea**” (Exodus 13:18), which is a large wilderness area and they headed toward the Gulf of Aqaba by Arabia and not the Gulf of Suez.

You see, if Moses had led the children of Israel across the Gulf of Suez, they would have still been in Egyptian-controlled territory.

But, in Saudi Arabia there is no evidence of Egyptian’s occupying this area and thus, the crossing seems to be in this area of the Gulf of Aqaba.

I don’t think we can say with 100% confidence the exact location of the crossing but as you will see as we move on, there seems to be very good evidence that points to this location.

And in either case, a miracle is about to take place!

What I want you to understand is that God is leading Moses and the children of Israel to a place that is a dead end and Pharaoh, filled with anger, is more than eager to go out and get them and pay them back for what they did to him and his people, or what God did to him and his people.

How did Pharaoh know where they were going?

I think he had people who were watching where the children of Israel were going and now, he has them. And, as we will see, he is going to gather his army together to go and get back his slaves!

But again, the Lord was actually leading the children of Israel into a trap which would be their first real test of faith after coming out of Egypt.

This was to begin their walk of faith. And like a muscle, faith needs to be exercised and that is what we will see. It will need to be tested, it will need to be stretched. That is how our faith, and their faith will grow!

VERSES 5-9

Pharaoh and his army of 600 of the best chariots, with 250,000 soldiers according to Josephus, were closing in on the children of Israel.

The Red Sea was in front of them, mountains on either side, Pi Hahiroth and Baal Zephon, and coming up from behind was Pharaoh and the Egyptian army!

Listen how this plays out in our life as Pharaoh is changing his mind about letting the children of Israel go. We are told,

There is an analogy in this to the spiritual life. We sometimes think that Satan will let us go easily, or we think that that once we leave his kingdom he forgets about us. Yet just like Pharaoh after Israel, Satan pursues us, attempting to keep us at least on the fringes of his domain and hoping to destroy us if he can.

- David Guzik

May we walk carefully, may we pay attention to what is happening around us, so we are not taken captive by the Devil!

Remember the warning that Peter gave to us, **“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”** I Peter 5:8-9.

The Amplified Bible puts this verse like this, **“Be well balanced (temperate, sober of mind), be vigilant and cautious at all times; for that enemy of yours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring [in fierce hunger], seeking someone to seize upon and devour. Withstand him; be firm in faith [against his onset - rooted, established, strong, immovable, and determined], knowing that the same (identical) sufferings are appointed to your brotherhood (the whole body of Christians) throughout the world.”**

A good warning that we should pay attention to!

Now the children of Israel are *“high-fiving”* each other, they are bold, proud, rejoicing in what God has done and then, as they look at the horizon they see the dust rising up and the Egyptian army getting closer and closer to them, what are they going to do?

Are they going to rest in the Lord as the Shekinah glory is before them?

Let’s read on and see.

VERSES 10-12

Were they in trouble?

Absolutely!

Thus, they cried out to the Lord, and that is good.

In Psalm 46:1-3 we are told of the Lord being our help in time of need. We read, **“God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though its waters roar and be troubled, Though the mountains shake with its swelling.”**

The problem here is when that didn't work for them in the time they wanted, they complained to Moses that they would have been better off in Egypt than to die in the wilderness.

Again, if they were by the Gulf of Suez, they would not be in the wilderness, but at the Gulf of Aqaba, they are!

And what we see here is how quickly they moved from victory to defeat and then to distortion, thinking it was better for them in Egypt!

Don't let the tribulations you face drive you back to the world because the world doesn't love you, Jesus does!

It is as Peter said after many left the Lord because it was too difficult for them, **“But Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’”** John 6:68-69. May we say the same.

For us as Christians, we need to toughen up. David told his son Solomon as he was to be the new King, **“I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man.”** I Kings 2:2.

Yes, it is a battle but the Lord does not leave us without the resources to fight this battle.

Paul tells us in Ephesians 6:11-13, **“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”**

Thus, don't fear; don't distort the picture, but look to the Lord to be the strength of your life and the one who will deliver you.

It is as Paul said in I Corinthians 10:11-13, **“Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”**

No matter what comes our way, we need to look to the Lord for He is our way of escape, we can rest in Him!

VERSES 13-14

Did Moses, at this point, know how God was going to deliver them?

Absolutely not, all he knew was that God was going to do it, that is faith!

And he wants the children of Israel to look to the Lord and to trust in the Lord as he was doing. He wanted to be an example to them to encourage them.

I like this because this is how the Lord works.

First, He tells them to **STOP**.

If you let things cause you to **DESPAIR**, it will cast you down, it will keep you from standing.

If you let things cause you to **FEAR**, it will cause you to retreat.

If you become **IMPATIENT**, it may cause you to jump into the Red Sea before it is parted.

But the Lord tells them through Moses to **STAND STILL** and He will reveal His plan to them!

What is interesting is that Moses tells the children of Israel, “**... ‘Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever.’**” Exodus 14:13.

I don’t think this is just speaking of the physical death that the Egyptians were soon to face but also the spiritual death as they will be cast into Hell and finally into the Lake of Fire for eternity, separated from God while the children of Israel would be with the Lord!

Keep in mind that Moses is before the Lord lamenting in what to do. The reason I say that is as we read on, that is what is happening.

VERSES 15-18

This is kind of funny but so very true in our own lives many times. Before the people Moses is a rock, a man of faith.

But as he gets alone with the Lord, “***Oh God, what are we going to do? We are in trouble here! The Egyptians are coming!***”

And the Lord tells Moses, “**Why do you cry to me?**”

In other words, stop crying and start moving!

Now some may say, *“What is he saying? Prayer is the most important thing you can do!”*

Prayer is important but keep in mind that there is a time to pray and a time to move.

I will give you this example.

You are in your house, and it is on fire. Do you call for a prayer meeting at that moment or do you run to get out of the house?

You, of course, run out of the house, it is on fire!

It was time for the children of Israel to move under the leadership of Moses!

God was not only going to increase the faith of the children of Israel, but it will be a powerful witness to those who don't know the Lord, showing that He alone is God!

The story of the Exodus, the deliverance through the Red Sea continued on to succeeding generations!

VERSES 19-20

This is what we might call God neutralizing the Egyptian army.

The pillar of cloud, the Lord stood between the Egyptian army and the children of Israel to protect His people. To the Egyptians, it was darkness. To the children of Israel, it was light!

I wonder how much we truly don't recognize the times God has delivered us from various situations.

And as much as the Egyptians were in the dark and could not move forward, the children of Israel were in the light.

How true that is for the unsaved who are in darkness and the saved who are walking in the light of God.

It is as Jesus said in John 3:19-21, **“And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”**

And in Psalm 119:105 we are told, **“Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.”**

May we walk in the light of God!

VERSES 21-22

Now many say they crossed by the Sea of Reeds, which is only a few inches deep and if the wind blew just right, it would push the water aside.

Folks, read the text!

It says there was a wall of water on either side, a few inches are not a wall unless you're an ant!

In Psalm 106:9 we are told, **“He rebuked the Red Sea also, and it dried up; So He led them through the depths, As through the wilderness.”**

In Psalm 66:6, **“He turned the sea into dry land; They went through the river on foot. There we will rejoice in Him.”**

In Psalm 74:13, **“You divided the sea by Your strength; You broke the heads of the sea serpents in the waters.”**

In Psalm 77:16-20 we are told, **“The waters saw You, O God; The waters saw You, they were afraid; The depths also trembled. The clouds poured out water; The skies sent out a sound; Your arrows also flashed about. The voice of Your thunder was in the whirlwind; The lightnings lit up the world; The earth trembled and shook. Your way was in the sea, Your path in the *great waters*, And Your footsteps were not known. You led Your people like a flock By the hand of Moses and Aaron.”**

In Exodus 15:19, **“For the horses of Pharaoh went with his chariots and his horsemen into the sea, and the Lord brought back the waters of the sea upon them. But the children of Israel went on dry land in the *midst* of the sea.”**

In Isaiah 43:16-17 we are told, **“Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea And a path through the *mighty waters*, Who brings forth the chariot and horse, The army and the power (They shall lie down together, they shall not rise; They are extinguished, they are quenched like a wick).”**

And in Isaiah 51:10 we are told, **“Are You not the One who dried up the sea, The waters of the *great deep*; That made the *depths* of the sea a road For the redeemed to cross over?”**

Deep means deep, great waters are not a few inches deep, I think you get the idea!

Not only was this wall great, but they walked on dry ground! God is good, not wet sand but dry land!

Now the journey from Succoth to Pi-Hahiroth on the western coast of the Gulf of Aqaba was about 200 miles, and according to Josephus,

Now when the Egyptians had overtaken the Hebrews, they prepared to fight them, and by their multitude they drove them into a narrow place; for the number that pursued after them was six hundred chariots, with fifty thousand horsemen, and two hundred thousand footmen, all armed.

They also seized on the passages by which they imagined the Hebrews might fly, shutting them up between inaccessible precipices and the sea; for there was on each side mountains that terminated at the sea, which were impassable by reason of their roughness, and obstructed their flight; wherefore they there pressed upon the Hebrews with their army, where the ridges of the mountains were closed with the sea; which army they placed at the gaps of the mountains, that so they might deprive them of any passage into the plain.

- Josephus

Also, there is a wide sandy beach on the Gulf of Aqaba at Nuweiba that is some 4.25 miles long by 2 miles wide and it was large enough for Israel to *“encamp by the sea.”*

At this site, the Nuweiba beach, there is a sandbar almost a mile wide at its summit and it slopes gently at six degrees until midway across the gulf, where it is 900 feet below sea, and then rises to the eastern (Midian) shore at the same kindly angle.

In fact, they say it meets handicap requirements in the way it is sloped!

God is good, the state would give approval on this one!

The distance from Nuweiba to Baal-zephon on the opposite coast is eleven miles.

Interestingly enough, in Isaiah 43:16-17 we are told, **“Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea And a path through the mighty waters, Who brings forth the chariot and horse, The army and the power (They shall lie down together, they shall not rise; They are extinguished, they are quenched like a wick).”**

And in Psalm 77:19-20 we are told, **“Your way was in the sea, Your path in the great waters, And Your footsteps were not known. You led Your people like a flock By the hand of Moses and Aaron.”**

His paths and His ways in the sea, I believe speak of this area the children of Israel traveled on, this sandbar!

So picture what is going on here. As these waters divided and rose up, the walls of water were some 1,000 feet high and the children of Israel walked through the Red Sea on dry land, while the Egyptians were still in the dark, all they could do is wait, hearing the thundering’s of God going on!

Also, back in 1978 a Phoenician style column was found in the water but all the inscriptions on it were eroded away.

But, in 1984 a second granite stone column was found on the opposite coastline, and it contained in archaic Hebrew writing the words Mizraim (Egypt); Solomon; Edom; Death; Pharaoh; Moses; and YAHWEH, possibly put there as a memorial by Solomon to the crossing of the Red Sea.

I am going to stop here because I don’t want to rush through this chapter here in Exodus.

What we will see next time, after the children of Israel crossed through the Red Sea on dry ground, that the Egyptians will come after them, but they are not going to do as well.

The lesson for us is this. No matter how bad things look. No matter if it seems like the enemy has you pinned in. God is our refuge, and He will see us through.

We are told,

The one thing that is certain in life is that change will be the constant.

We will have good moments and we will have difficult times.

In peaceful moments, it is easy to turn to our Lord, but in the turbulence it can be difficult.

A way to ease our suffering in those more difficult moments is to already have made a habit, a practiced skill of turning to the Lord, trusting God in both good and bad times.

Are you suffering through a time of trial right now?

Do you feel like there is no one to assist you in your current feelings of vulnerability?

Do you feel that the world and even those closest to you do not see you, hear you, or are generally not reliable?

Since God created us, He wants us to depend on Him and only Him. He gifted us His sacred Word.

God's ineffable [overwhelming] wisdom in His Word can be your anchor in the turbulent waters in whatever storm at sea you may be facing now.

- <http://bit.ly/3DxrM0m>

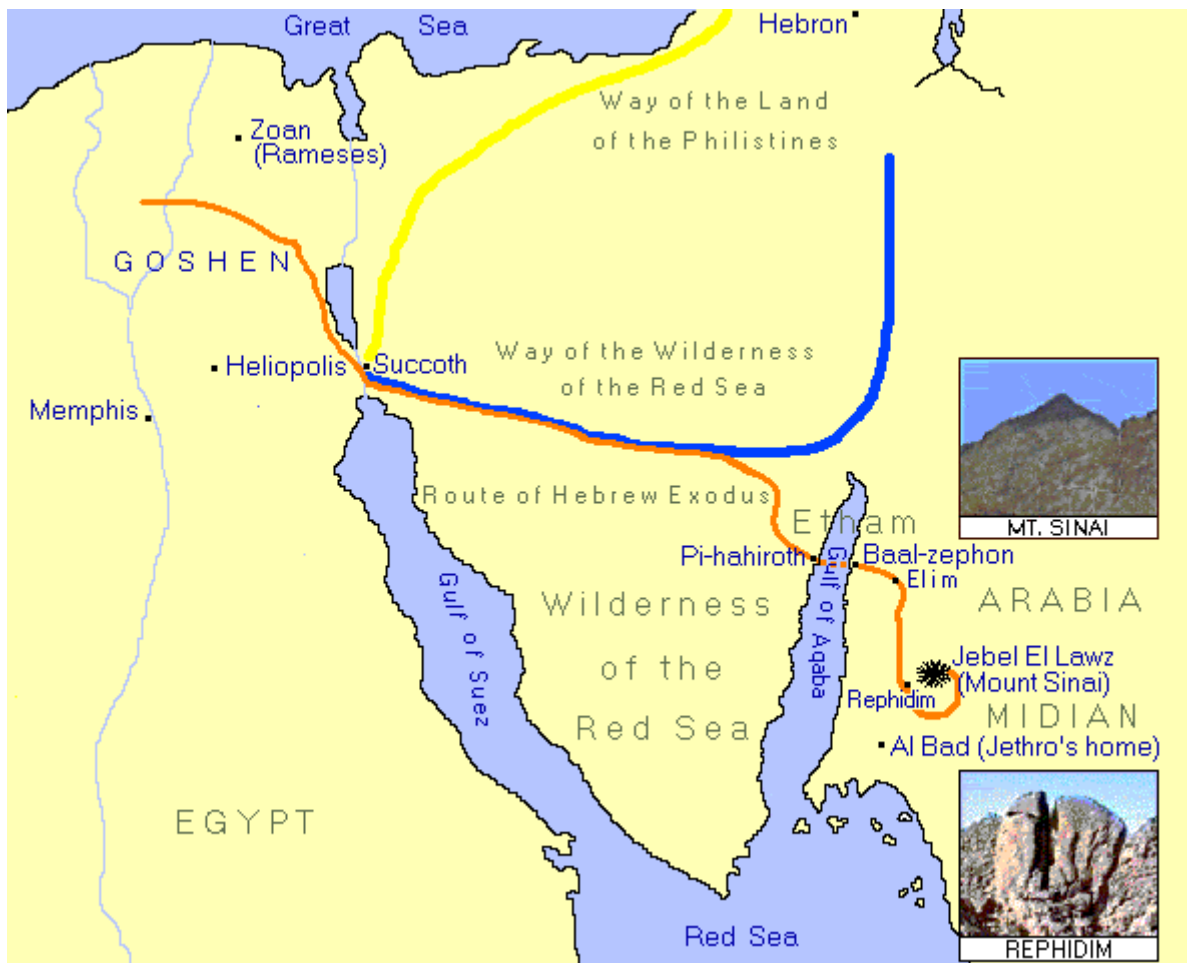
Let me share two Scriptures with you as I close.

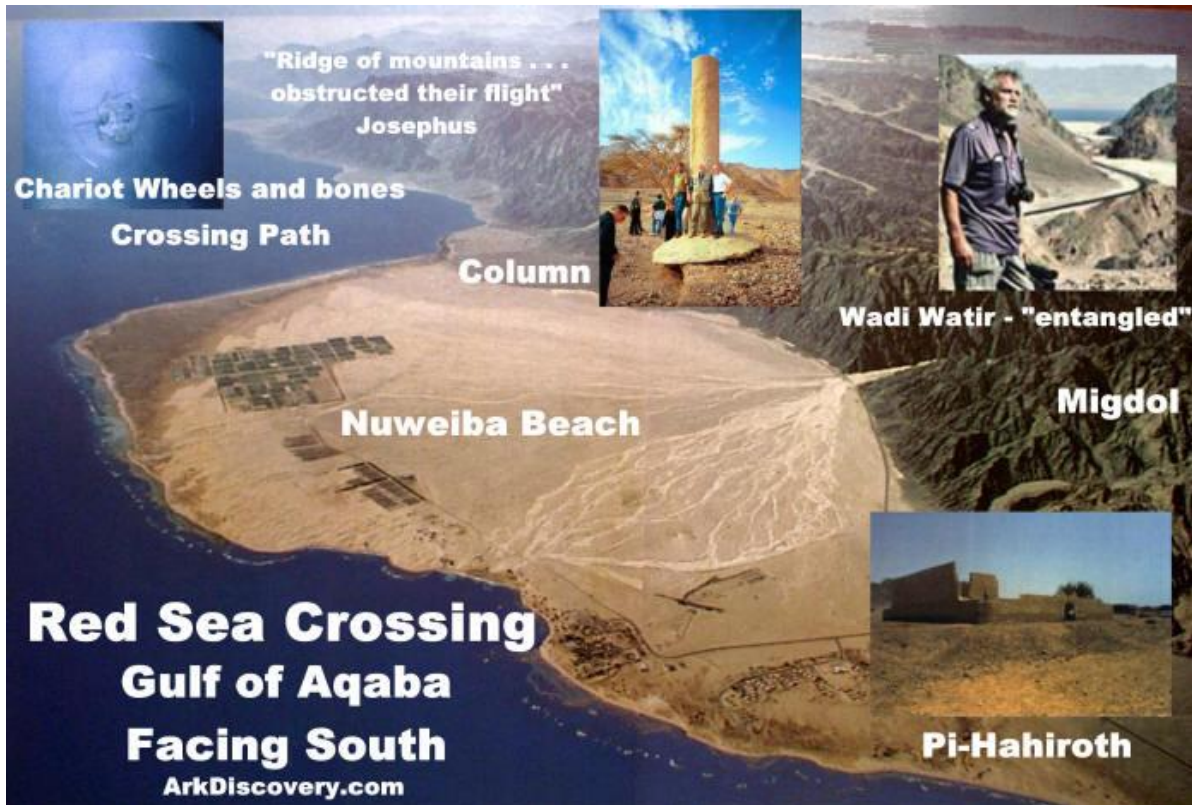
First of all, in Isaiah 41:10 we are told, **“Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”**

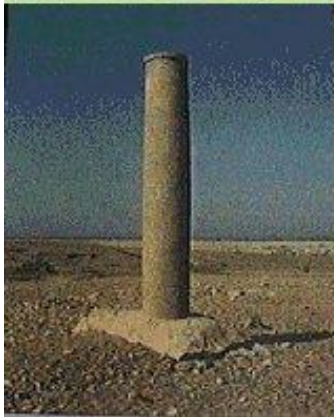
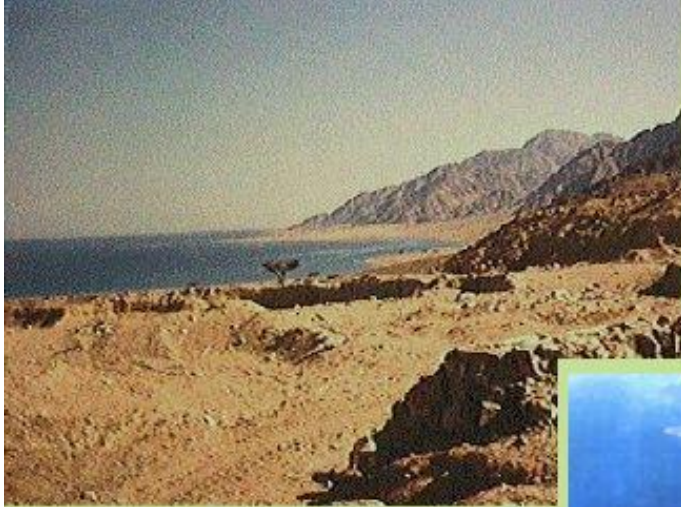
And in Proverbs 3:5-8 we are told, **“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones.”**

May we walk by faith, trusting the Lord no matter what may come our way!

The Red Sea Crossing







Nuweiba Beach
where Pharaoh's
army trapped the
Israelites before
God opened the
Red Sea.

**Ruined Egyptian
fortress.**

**Solomon erected
this column as a
Memorial**

