

Lesson 1: The Red Sea

Central Point: Stand and see the Salvation of God

The people of Israel began their exodus from Rameses to Succoth that memorable night in the month of Abib, or April, about 1450 B.C. There were about 600,000 men on foot besides women and children- so around 2 million, Exodus 12:37. The length of time the Israelites had been in Egypt according to Exodus 12:40 was 430 years to the day.

- **Please Read: Exodus 12:31-36**
- The people of Israel received 430 years of back pay for all the years in slavery
- Proverbs 13:22, *"a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous."*
- **Please Read: Exodus 13:17-18**
- Clearly God had a specific plan when He led them out of Egypt
- Supernaturally guided them by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire at night

Exodus 13:21-22

By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

- God was not finished with Pharaoh, God lures him into a trap
- Pharaoh's army according to Josephus was 50,000 horsemen and 200,000 footmen
- **Please Read: Exodus 14:1-12**
- **Question:** "Why do you think it was such a challenge for the Israelites to trust God?"
- Remember that under the Old Covenant they were not born again- very sense oriented
- Explains why the majority of that generation never entered into the Promise Land
 - o The Lord through Ezekiel provided a glimpse of the New Covenant New Birth

Ezekiel 36:26-28, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws."

Yet like so many times that Moses would have to still the people, he tried to get their focus on God as their deliverer and have faith in Him!

- **Please Read: Exodus 14:13-15**
- I love God's response in vs 15- paraphrased, God was telling them put their big pants on
- Philippians 2:14, *"Do everything without complaining or arguing."*

- God provides a protective barrier between the children of Israel and the Egyptians
- It was an angel that protected Israel from Pharaoh's army at the Red Sea
- **Please Read: Exodus 14:19-20**
- **Question:** "What would possess Pharaoh to continue to pursue Israel any further?"
- This alone should have scared off Pharaoh, but his heart was so hard with pride

Perhaps Pharaoh was thinking, "Better to die in battle with God than to live in shame." It would have to be extreme hardness of heart and stubbornness on the part of man to fight God- especially under these circumstances.

- **Please Read: Exodus 14:21-22**
- Think about this for a moment, the actual sea floor was dry- not muddy at all
- Historians believe the place where Israel likely crossed, the wall of water was 75-100 ft.
- Additionally they believe the width of dry ground would have been around 12 miles
- In order for 2 million people and all their livestock to cross, it was not a narrow corridor

Exodus 15:8, "By the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up. The surging waters stood firm like a wall; the deep waters congealed in the heart of the sea."

This was a miracle of God, but no surprise some try to discount this and claim the red sea was only a few feet deep during the dry season- a greater miracle for Pharaoh's army to drown in!

- God had lured the Egyptians into a trap to finish them off once and for all
- **Please Read: Exodus 14:23-31**
- The Lord was fighting against Egypt because of the Abrahamic covenant
- This covenant bound God to His Word to defend Israel in spite of their unbelief

Hebrews 11:29, "By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned."

There is an important type here that took place when the people of Israel crossed the red sea. It was their rite of passage out of Egypt (type of the "world system, the place of bondage to sin") through the Red sea (type of "New birth, salvation and water baptism") on their way to their Promised Land (type of "Baptism in the Holy Spirit, glorious inheritance and promises of God in Christ").

1 Corinthians 10:1-2, "For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea."