

# THE RED SEA CROSSING



Exodus 14 & 15

Moses grew up as a prince of Egypt. I have no doubt that he was familiar with the path the column of cloud and fire led them. If he questioned the path in which they traveled, he never let the people know. The Lord told Moses to "Speak to the children of Israel, so that they turn and camp there by the sea." God told Moses to do this so that Pharaoh would think that the children of Israel were lost, confused by the land. God said, "I will harden Pharaoh's heart once again so that he will pursue you. I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army. The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord." Moses and the children of Israel did as God requested.

Pharaoh was told that the Hebrew people had fled, and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the Hebrew people. They said, "Why have we let Israel go instead of serving us?" Pharaoh had his chariot made ready and he took his army with him. He took six hundred choice chariots, all the chariots of Egypt, with captains over every one of them. The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh once again and he pursued the children of Israel. The children of Israel had gone out from Egypt with boldness. The more the Egyptians thought about it, the angrier they became. The Egyptians pursued the children of Israel with all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, his horsemen and his army. Pharaoh overtook them while they were camping by the sea.



Israelites camped by The Red Sea



Pharaoh decides to chase the Israelites



When Pharaoh came near, the children of Israel saw the soldiers marching towards them. The children of Israel became very afraid, and they cried out to the Lord. They turned to Moses and said, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you dealt with us like this, bringing us here, out of Egypt? We told you in Egypt, to leave us alone so that we might serve the Egyptians. It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in this wilderness."

Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. The Egyptians whom you see today, you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you will hold your peace."

The Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward towards the sea. Lift up your rod and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. The children of Israel will go on dry ground through the middle of the sea. I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians and they will follow them. I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen. The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I have gained honor for Myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."

The Angel of God, that is the pillar of cloud and fire, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them. It came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. It was a cloud and darkness to the Egyptians, and it gave light by night to the children of Israel. The two groups did not come near each other all that night.

Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and the Lord caused the sea to divide with a strong east wind all that night. The sea floor became dry land where the waters were divided. The children of Israel went into the middle of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. The Egyptians went after them into the middle of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.



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In the morning, the Lord looked down upon the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud. He hardened the hearts of the army of the Egyptians. He caused trouble for the Egyptians by taking off their chariot wheels, so that they had a hard time driving them. The Egyptians said, "Let us go from the face of Israel. The Lord fights for them and against us."



When the children of Israel were safely on the other side of the sea, the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may come back upon the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen." Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, as God said. The sea returned to its full depth while the Egyptians were chasing the children of Israel. So the Lord defeated the Egyptians in the middle of the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not one of them remained.

The Lord saved Israel from the Egyptians that day. The children of Israel saw the Egyptians dead bodies wash up on the seashore. The children of Israel saw the great work the Lord had done, so they feared and believed the Lord and His servant Moses.

Shortly after Moses and the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, they spent the whole night singing praises to the Lord. They sang of how the Lord used the sea to defeat the Egyptian horses and riders. They sang of how the Lord was their strength and salvation. They promised to exalt God to every nation.

The children of Israel knew all of the people that lived anywhere near Egypt would hear what had happened and be afraid. Especially the inhabitants of Philistia, the chiefs of Edom, the mighty men of Moab and all of the people of Canaan. They knew everyone would let them pass without causing them any problem. They sang, "The Lord shall reign forever and ever."

Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took the tambourine in her hand and all the women went out after her with tambourine and with dances. And Miriam sang, "Sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider, He has thrown into the sea!"



Miriam leading the women in praise and worship after crossing the Red Sea.



. The Lord told Moses to cast the tree into the water. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet.

The next day, Moses brought the children of Israel from the Red Sea. They went out into the Wilderness of Shur. They travelled three days in the wilderness without finding water. When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water because it was bitter. The people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" Moses cried out to the Lord and the Lord showed him a tree. The Lord told Moses to cast the tree into the water. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet.

The Lord made a statute there and He made an ordinance for the people. God tested the people there. He said, "If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you."

Then the children of Israel traveled to Elim, where there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees so, they camped there by the waters.